

**Peace! Shalom!**

Jewish believers always greeted each other with the word “shalom” which means peace and they wanted to say - *may the peace of God be with you*. And the prophet Isaiah in chapter 9 calls the awaited Messiah amongst other titles “the Prince of peace”!

The apostles greeted the churches in the New Testament with the words, “grace and peace be with you!” They were thinking of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that brought the “shalom” - the peace-of-God and peace-with-God into our lives.

Divine peace describes the very way that God exists. It describes the heart and character of God. It is all about the eternal love, grace and unity within the Holy Trinity since before time began. God in perfect joy takes pleasure in peace within Godself. This is the peace he wanted to share with us when humanity was created. And we, as sinners, chose enmity with God instead of peace, when we in disobedience thought we could do without God, and be our own gods who do as we please.

The price we pay for our obstinacy is that we became God’s enemies.

Yet, when our relationship with God is restored, he removes the warring madness and makes us peacemakers and peace- beneficiaries again!

God came to us in a most special way when Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace, was born to be with us always. God comes through his Spirit into our lives to restore peace with him and each other. Christ comes again one day to perfect eternal peace as we share eternity with him.

An angel came to speak to Joseph to explain the pregnancy of his fiancé, Mary. In this context we read in Mathew 1: 22 and 23: “*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’)*”.

The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world came to us as Immanuel to grant us his peace with God and with each other!