

Jewish Spiritual Life

PEACE THROUGH THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

GodandJews.org

Peace from God - The Principles for Personal Peace

By George Gruen

Our world is filled with lonely people. The genius of men and women to construct great cities, transportation facilities, household appliances and devices and equipment for ease and luxury, the ability to even walk on the moon, has not been able to bring real peace to the hearts and lives of people. The pleasures afforded in our affluent society bring only momentary escape from fear, loneliness and despair. People seek for identity, reality, something to live for, something to make life worth living. I have heard that people who try to commit suicide do so because they have one or more of the following needs, needs that must be met and they know not where to find the answer. The three causes are loneliness, helplessness and hopelessness. I would like to share with you the answer to loneliness, the answer to helplessness, the answer to hopelessness. The answer is found in the almighty, eternal God and His word to us as found in the Jewish Holy Scriptures.

There are definite laws that govern the universe and nature. So there are principles which govern our relationship to God. Do you know these principles for personal peace? I would consider at least four.

Principle 1 - The Plan of the God of Israel for our lives.

The first principle gives the plan of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In the Jewish Scriptures book of Jeremiah, Chapter 31, verse 3 we read, "Yea, I [God] have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." The Bible tells us that God is love and that He loves you and me. He has expressed this love to us in the plan that He has for our lives. The definition of love in the Bible is that the one who loves gives everything for the benefit of the one who is loved. God has this love for your life if you will seek Him for it and walk in the plan that He has for you. In Psalm 16, verse 11 we read, "Thou wilt show me the path of life." God is willing to show this path to you so you can find a right relationship with Him. Psalm 16:11 continues: "in thy [God's] presence (is) fullness of joy; at thy right hand (there are) pleasures for evermore." You can find joy today from Almighty God as you trust Him and walk in His will for your life. Many people do not have joy for a few hours, or a few days, much less fullness of joy and that for ever and ever. God offers us peace, joy and pleasure. Would you like to have this experience in your life?

There are many people today who are looking for direction in life. Perhaps you are also. Perhaps you're a young person, a teenager and you've endeavored to find an escape from this life of confusion and perplexity and fear. Perhaps you've taken drugs or done other things to try to escape and get away from the reality of living in these days. My friend, you can find a real place of joy, peace and identity and have something to live for! But it can only come from the God of Israel.

Principle 2 - My sin has separated me from God and His peace.

In the Jewish Holy Scriptures, God's Word to us, we read in the book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 7, verse 20: "For (there is) not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." God says that all people have sinned. Every man, woman and young person has sinned in the sight of Almighty God. In the opinion of people, perhaps our lives appear to be quite good. But we are concerned with our relationship with God, for it is only from God that we can find true peace. We must accept God's view of us concerning the matter of sin. What is sin? Sin is any falling short of keeping the entire law of God, or going beyond the limits that He has set for us in all matters, actions, activities, morality, etc.

Sin separates us from God. In the Word of God given to the Jewish prophet, Isaiah, chapter 59, verses 1 and 2 we read, "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid (his) face from you, that he will not hear." Not only does sin separate us from God today but it will separate us from God forever. In Psalm 9 and verse 17, we read these words of God penned for us by King David of Israel: "The wicked [sinners] shall be turned into hell, (and) all the nations that forget God." There is an eternal hell - a place of suffering, a place of darkness, a place that is the exact opposite of Heaven. God wants to save us from this terrible, eternal suffering. God wants us to know Him personally today and live with Him in Heaven forever. You can escape the torment of a life of loneliness, sinfulness and fear today, and then escape an eternal hell. You can spend eternity with the living, loving God along with multitudes of other people who are now in Heaven - those who have trusted God's plan of forgiveness of sin. How wonderful it is going to be to live in Heaven someday! The Bible says that God's Heaven is a place where there will be no more sin, no more death, no more tears, no more pain and no more sorrow! I look forward to it! If you do not have the assurance that you are going to spend eternity with God in Heaven, you can have that assurance today!

Perhaps you believe that if you do the best you can in this life, God will accept you into Heaven when you die. God warns us through the writings of the Jewish prophet Ezekiel in chapter 33 and verses 12 and 13, "Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness [or the good deeds] of a righteous [or good] person shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression...neither shall the righteous be able to live for his (righteousness) in the day that he sinneth. When I shall say to the righteous, (that) he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness [good deeds], and commit iniquity, all his righteousness shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity [sin] that he hath committed, he shall die for it." We cannot get rid of our own sin by our own effort. God must forgive us of our sins according to the instructions He has given in His Holy Scriptures.

Principle 3 - God has provided the way to be forgiven of sin.

How is this separation between God and men and women overcome? How can we actually be forgiven of sin today? In the days of Moses and the Jewish prophets, forgiveness of sin came through the shedding of the specified animal's blood on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The Jewish high priest went into the Holy of Holies in the Jewish Tabernacle or Temple with the animal's blood and put it upon the altar. The instructions God gave for this are found in the books of Moses. When our Jewish people obeyed God, atonement was made for the sins of the people. In the book of Moses, Leviticus, Chapter 5, there were daily sacrifices offered for the sins of Israelites. When a person sinned, he brought the specified sacrifice to the Jewish priest, confessed his sin to God, the animal's blood was shed and atonement was made. The person's sin was forgiven by God and the sinner was cleansed.

But this cannot be done today, for there is no Jewish Temple, nor is there a Jewish priesthood serving God according to the Law of God through Moses. How are we to be forgiven of sin today? In His Jewish Holy Scriptures, God foretold of His sending the Messiah to earth to die for our sins and provide the atonement for all people for all time. In the Jewish prophet, Jeremiah, chapter 31 and verses 31 and 32, we read: "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day (that) I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt." In the old covenant then, the atonement was through the blood sacrifice of the animal. When a sin burdened life came to God and confessed his sin, and the Jewish priest offered the sacrifice, he came away cleansed and had a joyful, peaceful life knowing that he was right with God.

Today, in the new covenant, when we sin, we come to God, confess our sin to Him and accept the Messiah as our sin-bearer. The Messiah provided the atonement for us when He died on the tree as the Lamb of God. We read in the writings of the Jewish man, John, chapter 1 and verse 29: "The next day John seeth Jesus [Yeshua] coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." When we accept Messiah Jesus as our sin-bearer, our sacrifice, God cleanses us of all sin. We know and experience the cleansed, joyful life. What great peace there is in knowing all is right with the God of Israel!

Can we really know who is the Messiah? For a clear Jewish Holy Scripture's prophecy of Messiah's coming to earth to provide the atonement for us, read in your Bible the 53rd chapter of Isaiah, the great Jewish prophet of God. There are many other prophecies which you will find in our articles, 'Who Is A Jew?', 'Yom Kippur - The Atonement Today', and 'Yeshua In The Tenach'.

What must I do then, what must you do to obtain God's forgiveness and peace?

Principle 4 - Accept God's plan for forgiveness of sin through Messiah Jesus.

(1) Confess your sins to God, not to man. The Holy Scripture says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us (our) sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." the Word of God in I John, chapter 1, verse 9.

(2) Accept Messiah Jesus as your sin-bearer, the One who took the punishment due us for your sins against the God of Israel. "But as many as received him [Messiah Jesus], to them gave He power to become the sons [and daughters] of God, (even) to them that believe on His Name." - John 1:12 "To him [Messiah Jesus] give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission [forgiveness] of sins." - Acts chapter 10, verse 43.

Talk to God, confess your sins to Him and accept Messiah Jesus as your Jewish sin-bearer. You will know genuine peace such as you have never known before! The God of Israel will then work in your life daily to lead you in His ways and peace for this life and for all eternity in Heaven. Shalom.