

## Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 2, 2020

The Lord be with you.

How would you like to hear a good song?

I will spare you my singing but I've got a really beautiful song for you.

You know how the Bible is filled with songs? Well, just one is one of my favorites, it's a song that is found in the opening verses of Isaiah, chapter 26, where Isaiah is putting on his prophets, glasses, and he's telling us about a song that the people of God, the redeemed of the Lord will sing after Messiah coming.

Isaiah is talking about now, he's talking about the time at which you and I live. And in the first few verses I say is using the imagery, the symbolism of a great city, whose gates are open wide to sinners and where all people are welcomed and kept safe by God. It is a beautiful song I listen to it in Isaiah 26, 3, and I'll read it from the King James version, where I first learned that that will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusts in the perfect piece. How do you like to sound of that? But in Hebrew, it is not actually perfect peace, it is peace, peace as a Hebrew repeater emphasis in order to express the perfection of the peace, the total enjoyment of peace. "Thou will keep him in peace. Peace.

Now I, you know, when the Bible talks about peace at it really has nothing to do with what the world today thinks of as piece.

In fact, our poor culture has a very puny dried up idea of peace, the Hebrew word for peace is alone and it's a big, far encompassing word. People in Israel still greet one another today with shalom shalom. Shalom has the idea of wholeness, completeness, fullness, well-being, shalom is a sense of perfect security, there is nothing lacking where there is shalom that there is no fear because shalom is a sense of uninterrupted rest and calm for God's people.

And I do wonder if this is what the apostle Paul divers is what the Apostle Paul has in mind when from a prison he writes in Philippians 4, 6, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Think of how many times our Lord Jesus Christ after his resurrection, that his first words to people were peace be with you, please hear this peace is God's portion for his people, "Thou will keep him in peace, peace whose mind is stayed on on the...

Now, this is important and that the Hebrew word translated here as mind is not what we in the West think of as mind.

The Hebrew were translated mind comes from a word meaning to create, to fashion, to form, it is used as a potter forming a pot.

It is us in Genesis of God forming Adam out of the dust of the ground.

## Water From Rock

So the Hebrew word has the idea of that place where thoughts and ideas are formed, where they are fashioned where they are created.

So it is not surprising if you check out a Hebrew concordance it is not surprising to find that in some other Old Testament passages, this word is translated as imagination. And in fact, that is how Young's literal translation of the bible, renders it in this first imagination. It is where our ideas and thoughts are formed and shaped. Now, if your imagination is anything like mine, it can run wild I can watch the evening news, I can learn about the tumbling stock market or the lack of supplies, and my imagination goes AWOL, zing.

But what if, what if in our imagination, where thoughts and ideas are formed, what if in our imagination it is glued to God, it is stayed on God, then that is peace, peace a perfect piece.

What if in our imaginations, today, what if we start seeing ourselves as more than conquerors through Him who loves us your imagination play with that for a little while or what if in our imagination, we see God as the Apostle Paul says that he is able to do far above and beyond what we would even ask or imagine.

Well, this has huge possibilities for us.

No wonder the song sings that will keep Him in peace, peace, whose imagination is, stayed on thee, because he trusts set in thee the word trust translated is trust. It has the idea to lean upon to cast ones, weight upon someone for support, for strength for rest.

I love how Brennan Manning in his book, Raggamuffin Gospel he tells about a two-story house, it catches on fire and the family with father and mother, and several children, they're racing out of the house and the youngest becomes terrified he tears away from mom, he runs back upstairs and suddenly he's standing in the smoke-filled window crying and screaming his father is outside on the front line, shouted to him. Jump on just jump I'll catch you. And the boy cries but... "But daddy I can't see you and the father yells. I know that's all right because I can see you, God sees you, he sees me where we are, and all of this coronavirus pandemic he sees us and he asked us to trust in Him to glue our imaginations to him and all the promises that He has for us, and He will keep us in peace, peace. Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee because He trusts in you.

The Lord bless you and keep you the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord looked up the light of His countenance upon you and yes... Give you peace.

I'm Tim Smith. A fellow traveler on the pilgrim way.

Thanks for listening. Until next time.

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