



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- July 11, 2023

The Lord be with you.

How much would you pay for peace of mind? You have an idea of what you would pay for food, for housing, for health care, what you would pay for gasoline to fill up your car? But how much would you pay for peace of mind?

Peace of mind. When you go to bed at night or when you first wake up in the morning, people tell me that they would pay quite a lot for peace of mind. And by looks of the billions of dollars that we're spending on alcohol, drugs, escapist entertainment. Well, it looks to me like we would spend an arm and a leg for some semblance of peace of mind.

Well, the good news of the gospel is that God is offering peace of mind for free. That's right. Peace of mind for free.

We see this in the old Testament. Prophet Isaiah chapter 26 where putting on the prophet's glasses. Isaiah is looking into the future to the coming of Messiah Jesus and in beautiful poetic symbolic language. He is describing Messiah Jesus as being like a mighty city with high secure walls and gates that are flung wide open for any sinner to enter in. I mean, it's, it's a beautiful picture and, and then in Isaiah 26 verse three, he continues picturing all who come to Jesus. It says those of steadfast mind you keep in peace in peace because they trust in you notice here God's promise of peace of mind for all who put their trust in Jesus. He says those of steadfast mind you keep in peace in peace because they trust in you.

Now, I'm looking at this verse right now in the Hebrew text and I see that the word peace shalom that it's actually repeated in order to emphasize the certainty, the completeness of the peace of mind that we find by putting our trust in Jesus. It says those of steadfast mind you keep in peace, peace.

I like how the King James version translates this doubled piece. It translate it as perfect piece. God keeps in perfect peace. Those who trust in Him. I think that this might be what the Apostle Paul is thinking about in Philippians chapter four verse six, when Paul writes and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. No, I would call that peace of mind and notice that the peace of mind that God guarding you in peace. Noticed that it is free of charge for any who put their trust in the Lord. He says, those of steadfast mind. You keep in peace in peace because they trust in you.



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Now, the Hebrew word translated here as trust. Well, it's an important word in the Hebrew scriptures. The word translated trust is the word but talk, that's bat ach. And, bat ach the idea of leaning on something or leaning on someone for support. And I think this helps us understand that trusting in God, putting our trusting in him is leaning on Him for total support of our lives. It, it's saying Lord I'm, I'm facing a problem that's bigger than I am bigger than I know what to do, bigger than I have strength to handle. And I'm going to lean on you for support. And when we lean on God, he gives to us peace, peace, perfect peace. What the Apostle Paul calls peace, which surpasses all understanding, guards our hearts and minds.

But there's more here in Isaiah 26 verse three as it says, those of steadfast mind you keep in peace in peace because they trust in you. He says those of steadfast mind. God keeps in peace. And here again, the Hebrew words are painting a word picture steadfast mind. Well, it has the idea of a mind that is fixed to, that is glued to, that is stuck on God's love for you and me. And, and that is peace of mind. That is peace of mind that is guarded that is kept by God in the midst of life's ups and downs as we are glued to his love for us.

You know, I can be so easily blown about by the wind of events thrown about by the latest bad news. But, but the steadfast mind, the mind that is glued to God that is leaning on God as peace, peace, perfect peace. I began today by asking how much you would pay for. Peace of mind. Well, here it is, perfect peace of mind free for the taking as today, we lean the total weight of our lives onto God and it's free for the taking.

I'm reminded right now of a song that I learned as a boy goes like this:

What a fellowship

What a joy divine leaning on the everlasting arms

What a blessedness

What a peace of mind leaning on the everlasting arms

So today I wanna finish with a prayer for you. A prayer that is taken right from the words of Holy Scripture Numbers chapter six verses 24 through 26. "The Lord bless you and keep you the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.