



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – January 25, 2024

The Lord be with you.

How would you like to hear a good song today? I'll spare you my singing. But I really have a beautiful song for you. You know how the Bible it's it's filled with songs. Well, this this song is one of my favorites. It's, it's a song that is found at the beginning of the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 26 where Isaiah is putting on his prophets glasses and Isaiah is telling about a song that the people of God, the redeemed of the Lord that they're gonna sing after Messiah's coming.

So you see Isaiah, well, he's actually talking about now. He's, he's talking about the time that you and I live in as Messiah Jesus has come. And in the first few verses of this song, Isaiah uses the imagery. He uses the symbolism of a great city whose gates are open wide for all sinners to enter and where all people are welcomed and they're kept safe by God. I mean, it's really a beautiful song.

Now, listen to it in Isaiah 26 verse three where, where it says and I'm gonna read it in the King James version because that's the one I first learned it in where it says, thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusts in thee perfect peace.

How do you like the sound of that perfect peace? But in the original Hebrew text, it, it doesn't say perfect peace whether it says peace. Peace because the Hebrew repeats it for emphasis in, in order to express the very perfection of the peace, peace, peace. It is the total enjoyment of peace. Thou will keep Him in peace, peace.

Now, you know, when the Bible talks about peace with the Bible's idea of peace, it has little to do with what our poor world today thinks of when it talks about peace. I mean, our poor culture has a very puny idea of what peace really is.

The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom and it's a big far encompassing word people in Israel today still greet one another with the words Shalom. Shalom for Shalom has the idea of wholeness, completeness, well being fullness. Shalom is the sense of perfect security that there is nothing lacking that where there is Shalom, there is no fear because Shalom is, is a sense of uninterrupted rest and calm for the people of God. And I, I do wonder if this is maybe what the Apostle Paul has in mind when in a Roman prison cell, he writes in Philippians four verse six



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and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Well, just think of how many times our Lord Jesus Christ after his cross and resurrection, that Jesus first words to people were peace, be with you. You see peace is God's portion for his people. Thou wilt keep him in peace. Peace, perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

Now, this is important that the Hebrew word that's translated here as mind. It, it's not what we here in the West think of when we think of mind, whether the Hebrew word translated mind, it comes from a word meaning to create, to fashion, to form. It is used as a potter forming a pot. Why it's used in the Book of Genesis of God forming Adam out of the dust of the ground. So, so the Hebrew word, it, it has the idea of that place where your thoughts are formed created fashioned. So it's not surprising that if you check out a Hebrew concordance, you will find that in some other Old Testament passages that this Hebrew word is actually translated as imagination.

In fact, that is how the young literal translation of the Bible renders it in this verse imagination. It is where our ideas and thoughts are formed and shaped. Now, if your imagination is anything like mine, your imagination can run wild. I mean, I can watch the evening news and see all that's going on in the world and, and, and my imagination starts awfully. But what if, what if in our imagination, that place where our thoughts and ideas are formed? What if in our imagination we are stayed on? We are glued to God then that is peace, peace, perfect peace.

What if in our imagination today, we imagined ourselves, as God says, more than conquerors, let your imagination play with that for a while. Or what if in your imagination, you started imagining yourself as God says, as God is able to do far above and beyond all that we would ask. Or imagine the Apostle Paul says, I mean, that has huge possibilities for us today. No wonder the song sings thou wilt keep Him in peace, peace, perfect peace.

Whose imagination is stayed on thee because He trust in thee, the Hebrew word translated, trust that it has the idea of to lean upon to, to cast your weight upon someone for support, for rest. So in the midst of everything that's going on in the world, today, God asks us to trust to glue our imaginations to Him and all the promises that God has for us for He will keep us in peace peace that will keep Him. Keep her in perfect peace. Whose mind is stayed on the because they trust in you and the Lord bless you and keep you the Lord, make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord, lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace.

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