

Wonder of ...Peace

Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13

Trying **harder** does not bring the kingdom of God.

Striving **cannot** bring the peace of God we seek.

Surrender and **acceptance** brings the Peace of God.

O God, help us to nurture empty spaces in our lives so that we may be filled with your grace and peace. (Henri Nouwen's Advent Devotions—*Living in Hope*, 6)

1. Wonder of ... Peace comes in a Person, The **Branch**.

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
—Isaiah 11:1

A. The Branch is a **prophetic** name for Jesus.

And he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene." —Matthew 2:23

נֶצֶר netser = "branch"

נְצִרְתָּ Nazareth. = feminine form of noun.

B. Old Testament uses of Branch.

- Jeremiah 23:5-6, Good Shepherd who reigns wisely and protects.
- Jeremiah 33:15-16, Righteous judge and king bringing justice and peace.
- Zechariah 3: 8-10, Perfect stone removes sin in a single day.
- Zechariah 6:11-13, Priest and King builds the temple.

2. Wonder of...Peace includes **Justice**.

But with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. —Isaiah 11:4

- Peace—justice for the **poor**.
- Peace—I don't have to get even.
- Peace—God will right every **wrong**.

A. Peace **amid** dangers—wolf, leopard, lion, bear, and cobra still present.

The wolf will live with the lamb,...the young child put his hand into the viper's nest...the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. —Isaiah 11:6-9

B. Peace comes from **knowing** the Lord.

For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. —Isaiah 11:9b

3. Wonder of ... Peace **Returns** Home.

In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. —Isaiah 11:11

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. —Isaiah 11:10

Through Surrender and acceptance we find God's Peace.

Yes, I have sinned, but I have a Savior.

Yes, I live among troubles, but I have a Protector.

Yes, I have wandered far from home, but I have a Shepherd.

Memory Verse:

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