

Peace Like A River

by David McWilliams

*Oh, that you had heeded My commandments!
Then your peace would have been like a river,
And your righteousness like the waves of the sea (Isaiah 48:18).*

Jehovah is speaking to the nation of Israel through the prophet Isaiah. They had not heeded His commandments. As a consequence, instead of experiencing peace, they faced destruction.

*Great peace have those who love Your law,
And nothing causes them to stumble (Psalm 119:165).*

Israel did not love God's law. Therefore, they knew no peace. They were not at peace among themselves nor with other nations. More importantly, they were not at peace with God. The nation stumbled and fell accordingly. To the remnant who would prove themselves faithful to the Lord, a future peace was promised. *Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river... (Isaiah 66:12).*

The same principle still holds true today. When we disregard God's law and fail to heed His commandments, we destroy the peace He desires to have with us. However, that peace can be restored through obedience to Jesus Christ. *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... (Romans 5:1).* Peace with God can be reestablished as a result of Jesus' death on the cross, *"who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification" (Romans 4:25).* The self-sacrifice of Jesus is the culmination of Isaiah's prophecies regarding peace.

*But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).*

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