

# EASTER PEACE 4 U

## INTRODUCTION

**Peace be to you!**

PEACE – that's man's deepest need; peace of heart, mind and soul and peace between nations. True inner peace means a contented mind at rest even in the midst of trouble and turmoil.

But how? That's the question!

May the words of Easter Peace 4 U help to give you the answer to this most searching question!

Hear the words of the LORD!

*My Presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.* Exodus 33: 14

*Jesus said: Come to Me, and I will give you rest.* Matthew 11: 28

*Peace I leave with you; My peace I now give to you.* John 14: 27a

Yes, it is a gift.



The words of Jesus and the words of Scripture are true.

*Your Word is truth.* John 17: 17

Hear the words of St. Paul, the first great Christian missionary:

*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed.*

2 Corinthians 4: 8, 9

One of Jesus' many names is **Prince of Peace**.

Another is the gentle sounding word Shiloh, the root in Hebrew meaning **REST**.

# EASTER PEACE 4 U

**HEAR** the words of John the Baptist about the Lord Jesus Christ.

**'LOOK!** *The Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!'*

John 1:29

For the next three years, Jesus preached the good news of the Kingdom of God - the Gospel of Peace. He befriended the poor and the outcasts of society, miraculously fed the hungry, raised the dead, healed the sick, the lame and the blind, even lepers!

Never before in those days had lepers ever been healed.

Jesus fulfilled the prophetic words of Isaiah in the Old Testament,

*The Spirit of the Lord has anointed Me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor and afflicted. He has sent Me to bind up and heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison and the eyes to those who are bound.*

Isaiah 61: 1

## **The Messianic Age had come!**

Never had the Temple priests been called upon to carry out the regulations for cleansing lepers according to the Law of Moses.

This was a sign of the divinity of Jesus, because the Jews believed only God could cure leprosy. The priests, elders, scribes and Pharisees were envious of Jesus. They secretly aimed to get rid of Him but the Jewish people heard Him gladly and many believed He was the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah.

## **PASSOVER WEEK**

### **THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM** (Palm Sunday)

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem mounted on a donkey, an animal symbolic of peace and humility, the people rejoiced waving palm branches.

They spread their cloaks before Him in homage



*Hosanna to the Son of David!*

*Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*Hosanna in the highest*

Matthew 21: 9

On entering the Temple, Jesus began to overturn the tables of the moneychangers and of those who sold doves and charged them with these words:

*'My house shall be called a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers.'*  
Matthew 21: 13

Jesus, the greatest of all the prophets, knowing the jealousy of the priests, foretold His death to the disciples several times. Jesus even foretold His death by crucifixion.

*'You know that the Passover is in two days and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.'*  
Matthew 26: 2

The disciples did not understand.  
Moreover, the Lord foretold **His Resurrection!**



*'The Son of Man will be turned over to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and turn Him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him and spit on Him, and whip Him and put Him to death; but after three days He will rise again.'*

Mark 10: 33,34

In the Upper Room where Jesus was to celebrate the Feast of the Passover with His disciples, He took a towel, poured water into a bowl and began to wash their feet. Not one of His disciples had offered to do this, the usual work of the lowest household servant or slave in those days. In performing this menial task, Jesus, showed His great love, grace and humility.



*'Do you understand what I have done to you?'*

*'You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right in doing so, for that is what I am.'*

*If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you this as an example, so that you should do what I have done to you.'*

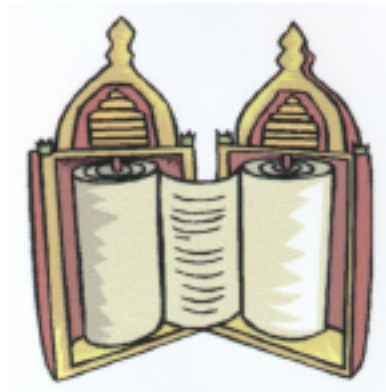
*'If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.'*

John 13: 12b-15, 17

Jesus came to serve and not to be served - a reminder of the words written in the ancient book of Leviticus.

*You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*

Leviticus 19: 18



These same words, called the **Royal Law**, are repeated in the Letter of James in the New Testament.

### **THE ROYAL LAW**

*If indeed you fulfil the Royal Law in accordance with the Scripture, you shall love your neighbour as you love yourself, you do well.*

James 2: 8

## THE BETRAYAL

Jesus always knew He had an hour to fulfil and a bitter cup to drink. Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, approached the chief priests with these words:

*'What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?'*

Matthew 26: 15

Judas betrayed Jesus, the Prince of Peace, for 30 pieces of silver – the price of a slave!

## THE LAST SUPPER and THE NEW COVENANT



On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, during the Passover Meal in the Upper Room, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them, saying:

*'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'*

Luke 22: 19

It was during this meal, called the Last Supper, that Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him. The disciples cried out!

***'Is it I?'***

***'Is it I?'***

Mark 14: 19

After Judas departed into the night, Jesus took the cup of red wine, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying,

*'Drink of it, all of you;  
For this is My blood of the new covenant  
(God's new agreement) which is poured out  
for many for the forgiveness of sins.'*

Matthew 26: 27,28



Yes, Jesus broke the bread but also broke this outstanding news to His disciples, filled with amazement and consternation, for the blood of the New Covenant would be His own – His sinless sacrifice for them!

## THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

After supper was over, Jesus and His eleven disciples crossed the Kidron valley to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mt. of Olives to pray there.



While Jesus prayed, His disciples, overcome with sleep could not watch and pray with Him even for one hour. *'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but as You will.'*

Matthew 26: 39

The suffering and agony of Jesus had begun. When He found them sleeping the third time it was too late.

Judas, accompanied by soldiers to arrest Jesus, was on his way to betray the Lord by the sign of a kiss! And so Jesus suffered for us for our salvation and peace. During His trial before the chief priests and elders, even His disciple, Peter, denied the Lord three times - as Jesus had foretold:

*'Before a cock crows twice you will deny Me three times.'* Mark 14: 30

The Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, as he washed his hands in front of the people, said:

*'I am innocent of this man's blood.'*

All the people answered, *'Let His blood be on us and on our children!'*

Matthew 27: 24b, 25

Truly, for believers, the only way to be saved!



So Jesus was arrested like a criminal, unfairly tried, deserted and denied by His disciples, mocked, scourged and finally cruelly nailed to a cross of wood and -



### CRUCIFIED

**C**rucify! Crucify! Hear the mob cry,

**R**elease Barabbas! Let Jesus die.

**U**plift on a cross of anguish and pain,

**C**rown of thorns, scourging and cruel disdain.

**I**nnocence paying redemption's full price,

**F**orgiveness for sin through faith in His blood;

**I**niquities cancelled by love's sacrifice.

**E**ternal life given to all who believe,

**D**ied to bring new life to all who receive.

By the cross in three languages was the inscription –

### ***JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS***

John 19: 19 A.V.

In all this, Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, suffered silently for our Redemption, paying the penalty for our forgiveness.

And the only crown He wore was the

### **Crown of Thorns!**



While Jesus hung and suffered on Calvary's tree to take away the SIN of all mankind there was **darkness** over the land.

Although planned in eternity, how could the Heavenly Father behold the suffering of His beloved Son? Our holy God cannot look upon SIN. *The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Revelation 13: 8



### **THE DEATH OF JESUS**

Only the pain of separation from His Father, when the SIN of the whole world were laid upon Him, caused Jesus to cry out with a loud voice:



*'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' -that is, 'My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?'*

Matthew 27: 46

When Jesus completed on the Cross the work He came to do, He again cried out in a loud voice with the words:

*'It is finished!'*

*And He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.*

John 19:30

At that moment the thick curtain of the temple, separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place, was torn in two from top to bottom.

What fear and consternation for the ministering priests offering the Passover lambs! The priests could see, for the first time ever, into the Holy of Holies, also called the Most Holy Place, although in Herod's temple - no Ark was there!! In His merciful act of redemption, Jesus had opened wide the Gates of Heaven for all who trust in Him. Believers, indwelt by the presence of His Holy Spirit, are now God's temple to His glory, praise and worship in the beauty of holiness.

Jesus Christ is the only One who has died and given His sinless life as a sacrifice for His followers. **There is salvation in no one else.**  
**There is no other name by which we must be saved.** Acts 4: 12

### THE RESURRECTION

It was on a Roman cross, outside Jerusalem's city wall, that Jesus died to take away our sins. His Body was then placed in a borrowed tomb in a nearby garden.

Three days later, before it was light on that very first Easter morning, the women carrying sweet-smelling spices to the place, because they loved Jesus so; found that the great stone sealing the tomb wondrously rolled away - with an angel sitting on it!

#### **The Message of the Angel**

*'Do not be alarmed, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, Who was crucified.*

*HE IS NOT HERE,*



**HE IS RISEN!**

*as He said He would.*

*Come see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell the disciples, He has risen from the dead.*

*So they left the tomb hastily. And as they went, Jesus met them. And they went up to Him and clasped His feet and worshipped Him.'*

Matthew 28: 5 - 9

In all History there is no moment in time like this - no news so awesome in magnitude and stupendous in joy! **Jesus was alive!**



## **RESURRECTION**

**R**edeemer is the name of Jesus,  
**E**ternal life to us He gave.  
**S**atan - He conquered on the cross,  
**U**plifted - Christ rose from the grave.  
**R**aised from death to new life for ever,  
**R**ejoice! Rejoice! Wipe tears away;  
**E**verlasting jubilation,  
**C**hrist is risen on Easter Day!  
**T**hanksgiving, worship and our praises,  
**I**mmortal Saviour now we sing:  
**O** Lamb of God we exalt You,  
**N**ame above all - Redeemer King!



Yes! What gasps of joyous astonishment as the impact of this tremendous fact dawned on them in the garden that first Easter morning! Jesus was alive! Mary had seen Him! There was irrepressible JOY at seeing Jesus ALIVE.

The tears of Mary Magdalene turned to tears of joy on hearing Jesus call her name -

*'Mary!'*

John 20: 16

## **EASTER GARDEN**

**E**arth's gladdest day rejoices in its dawn,  
**A**ngels announcing, 'He's alive! He is risen!'  
**S**in's seal on the tombstone is broken for ever,  
**T**elling the Good News, 'You are forgiven!'  
**E**ach one invited to come and to say:  
**R**abboni! - like Mary in the garden that day!



By the end of that first Easter Day, Peter and the other disciples, except for Thomas, had seen the LORD.

**THIS IS THE GOSPEL OF PEACE!**

**The GOOD NEWS of ETERNAL LIFE** was a reality!

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

John 3:16

When we believe and receive the Lord Jesus Christ into our lives, the Heavenly Father forgives our sins and accepts us in the name of His beloved Son; giving us His righteousness and the gift of eternal life.

*Through faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans 5: 1b

*God made peace by the blood of His cross.*

Colossians 1: 20b

Through the unmerited favour, the undeserved grace of God, we are **acquitted**. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation.

It is all of His Grace.

Yes, the precious blood Jesus shed means we receive His peace for we are made righteous in God's sight – and no longer guilty!

Without justice and righteousness there is no peace.

What a reason to be filled with joy and ever thankful!

*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9: 15

We are also given the gracious gift of His Holy Spirit.

He is the Spirit of Truth, called the Comforter, to guide your life with His power and strength. Empowered by His presence, we can show the grace and compassion of Jesus – and love even our enemies!

*You will guard and keep in perfect **peace** those whose mind is stayed on You.*

Isaiah 26: 3

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ did not only have a great impact on His Followers, but also on the World.

The Resurrection turned that blackest Passover Friday into Good Friday and divided History into B.C. and A.D.

The Mosaic Law of the Old Covenant means:

**Do this and you will live.**

The New Covenant means: **I will do it for you.**

We did not choose Jesus. He chose us!

The New Covenant or agreement was between God, the Father, and Jesus; so cannot fail. When we believe and receive Christ,

(born again – God calling us by His Spirit) we are joined to that New Testament agreement. Our God is indeed a gracious God.

Meditate on the love of Jesus, the great love He has for you and His perfect peace. This Sabbath rest of His Easter Peace 4 U is the gift Jesus bequeathed to His followers – not large estates, property or worldly possessions.

*The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.*

Luke 6: 5

### PEACE

Presence of God giving peace to the heart,  
Every day trusting the Lord – whatever He brings;  
Absence of personal struggle and strife,  
Contentment of mind stayed on the Lord for all things,  
Ever trusting in Christ day by day in one's life.

*He cares for you.*

1 Peter 5: 7

Are **YOU** going to believe in **HIM**, trust HIM for everything and receive His peace? In other words – repenting by confession of your sins and receiving Jesus into your life with thanksgiving.

Here's a prayer you can say in your heart now, if you really mean to follow the Lord Jesus for the rest of your life.

*Heavenly Father God,*

*I am sorry for all the wrong things I have done and said.*

*Forgive me Father, and thank You, Lord Jesus, for dying on the Cross and shedding Your blood to save me by taking away my sins.*

*Please come into my life with Your Holy Spirit, giving me Your peace.*



*In Jesus' name. Amen.*

*As many as receive Him, He gave the right to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in His name.*

John 1: 12

## **BELIEVER'S BLESSING**

The blessing of God, the Father, be upon you,

The gracious blessing of His only Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord, the Anointed One,  
Worshipped and adored.

And the blessing of the Holy Spirit be unto you -  
Called, forgiven and sanctified;  
His grace and mercy, peace and love be multiplied.

*To those who are called, dearly loved by God the Father and kept  
by Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be multiplied.*

Jude 1, 2

**The Lord Jesus Christ living in you is - Easter Peace 4 U**



**Shalom! The Grace and Peace of the Lord be with you.**

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