

## WordBytes

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### Shalom – A Wonderful Promise That Means Much More than Peace

(Isaiah 53:5)

Isaiah 53:5 tells us that Jesus was chastised for our “shalom”, which means much more than “peace”. A revelation of its full meaning opens the door to receiving all the blessings Jesus provided for us through the cruel scourging He suffered as part of His sacrificial sufferings.

#### Much More Than Peace

Isaiah 53:5 in the NKJV tells us that the “stripes” that Jesus received on His body when He was chastised (scourged) provide healing:

*“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.”*

So why does it also say that His chastisement was for our peace? The answer lies in the full meaning of the Hebrew word “shalom”, which is translated as peace in the NKJV, KJV and some other Bible versions. Strong’s Concordance, reference number 7965, defines “shalom” as

*“welfare, i.e. health, prosperity, peace”.*

which shows that Jesus’ chastisement provides health and prosperity as well as peace for the God’s people. Unfortunately, the decision of the translators to include only peace has hidden the other wonderful blessings which Jesus suffered to provide for us.

Thankfully, some Bible versions have adopted a more representative translation of “shalom”. For example, Isaiah 53:5 in the Jewish Publication Society of America Version (JPS), 1917, uses “welfare”:

*“But he was wounded because of our transgressions, he was crushed because of our iniquities: The chastisement of our welfare was upon him, And with his stripes we were healed.”*

while the New American Standard (NASB) and Amplified Versions use “wellbeing”, which has a similar meaning.

#### Pray for the Shalom of Babylon

An example where “welfare” or “wellbeing” is a better translation of “shalom” is Jeremiah 29:7, when the prophet told the Israelites to pray for Babylon, the city of their 70 year-long captivity:

*“And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.”*

Clearly the prayer was intended to petition God for Babylon to be prosperous and free from diseases as well as at peace from war for the sake of the God’s people during their captivity – a wise example for us to follow today by praying for the “shalom” of the “Babylon” we dwell in!

#### Shalom is an Everlasting Covenant

Isaiah 54:10 follows on from 53:5, and declares that “shalom” is an everlasting covenant for God’s people, which will never be removed:

*“For the mountains shall depart, And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace (shalom) be removed,” Says the Lord, who has mercy on you.”*

so it still applies to us His people today!



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and verse 13 reveals that it includes the “shalom” of our children:

*“All your children shall be taught by the Lord, And great shall be the peace (shalom) of your children.”*

The application of this everlasting covenant to believers today is further confirmed by Isaiah 9:6 which proclaims that one of the titles of Jesus, our King, is the Prince of “Shalom”.

*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

The promise of “shalom” is reflected in the Apostle John’s letter to Gaius in 3 John 1:2. The NKJ Bible reads:

*“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”*

While in the KJV Bible it reads:

*“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”*

This tells us that John, who as a Jew would be very familiar with the full meaning of “shalom”, greatly desired Gaius to experience prosperity and health as well as spiritual growth.

We would do well to follow his example and pray for our family and fellow believers to receive the blessings Jesus freely provided for us when He was chastised for our “shalom”.

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JO-AL Bible Teaching & Publications is based in Melbourne, Australia, and was founded by Alan and Joan Taylor in 2009. Alan and Joan have experience in pastoring and pioneering churches, and in travelling teaching, worship and music ministry. At the same time they have established a successful secular technical consulting company.