

Peace Treaty
Isaiah 54:9-17

December 18, 2011

A. Introduction

1. the war going on
2. the peace treaty offered ^A

B. God's Peace Treaty Is Trustworthy. 54:9-10

1. God's solemn promise
2. more solid than mountains

C. God's Peace Treaty Leads to Heaven 54:11-12

1. His compassion on a troubled people
2. The coming Jerusalem ^B
3. It is eternal ^C

D. God's Peace Treaty Is Righteous 54:13-14

1. this world's treaties
2. designed for our benefit ^D

E. God's Peace Treaty Will Protect. 54:15-17

1. alliances of nations
2. allied to God – the ultimate protection

F. Conclusion ^E

^A Isaiah 42:1, 5-7; 7:14; Luke 2:14; Ephesians 2:14

^B Revelation 21:1-7, 10-11, 18-22, 27

^C 2 Corinthians 5:1

^D Matthew 11:29

^E Romans 5:1

A. Introduction

1. there is a war going on
 - a. this is probably news to no one
 - b. in the past two thousand years there have been very few periods when armed conflict was absent
 - c. the Great War covered a period of 4 years
 - d. the Second World War, a period of 7 years
 - e. the Hundred Years War, or more accurately, Wars, covered the period from 1337 to 1453
 - f. but the war of which I am speaking dates back to the dawn of time and it is still furiously going on
 - g. in it a group of rebels has revolted against their rightful ruler
 - h. that Ruler made a beautiful garden for them to inhabit and there was only one simple rule for them to obey; but they disobeyed it
 - i. and their children, and their children's children have rebelled ever since. We are part of that rebellion.
2. but that ruler has offered a peace treaty
 - a. look again at these words in Isaiah 54:10, 'And my covenant of peace will not be shaken'; that word, 'covenant,' means 'treaty'
 - b. in other words, what God, the ruler, is saying is this: 'My Peace Treaty is firm'
 - c. Jesus Christ, is God's Peace Treaty
 - d. He is the Christ – Messiah – promised some chapter back in Isaiah 42:1, 5-7, '1 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations." ... 5 Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it, 6 "I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.'"
 - e. Christ was to be appointed as a 'covenant to the people'; a Treaty with rebellious people
 - f. God honoured that promise 2,000 years ago when He sent that Peace Treaty into the world in the shape

of the baby Jesus born of the virgin, Mary

- g. 'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)
- h. Immanuel – God with us – Himself came as a Peace Treaty in the form of the baby Jesus, born in a stable in Bethlehem
- i. small wonder then that at that birth there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' (Luke 2:14 AV)
- j. Jesus the boy who lingered behind in the temple, amazing all with his understanding, is God's Peace Treaty
- k. Jesus, despised and rejected by men, hanging on the cross, is God's Peace Treaty
- l. we sang it a few moments ago, 'For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall' (Ephesians 2:14)
- m. let us look this morning at four simple facts about that Peace Treaty from this passage in Isaiah 54:
 - (A) it is trustworthy
 - (B) it is eternal
 - (C) it is just
 - (D) it protects

B. God's Peace Treaty is Trustworthy. 54:9-10

1. God Has Solemnly promised it

- a. verse 9: 'for this is like the days of Noah to me'
 - (A) at that time God committed Himself solemnly by an oath that He would never punish the world by a flood
 - (B) and he set a seal on that promise by the rainbow
 - (C) that promise has been kept
- b. verse 10 reminds us that 'the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake'
 - (A) it is seldom that one drives through the mountains of western Canada that there isn't some detour around fallen rock; sometimes closing the road for several days or even requiring that a new road be built; the mountains, a symbol of solidity, are not so solid after all

(B) but God's lovingkindness will not be removed; His Peace Treaty, will not budge or even quiver

2. Because God's Peace Treaty is founded on God Himself, come to earth as the Son, it can be trusted

C. God's Peace Treaty Leads to Heaven 54:11-12

1. verse 10 concludes with a statement that the Lord has compassion on His people

a. verse 11 expresses that tender compassion as He sees those who have entered His covenant of peace, His Peace Treaty in Christ

b. using the city of Jerusalem as illustrative of the affliction, the storms, the discomfort they experience in this world

2. and with verse 12 gives a promise of better things to come

a. using a picture of a reconstructed Jerusalem – a refashioned people of God – in terms of beautiful and precious jewels

b. Revelation 21 takes up this picture and enlarges upon it; let us turn there for a moment or two –

(A) ¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶ Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. ⁷ He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. ...

(B) ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. ...

(C) ¹⁸ The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; ²⁰ the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. ²² I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ...

(D) ²⁷ and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

3. 'For we know,' says Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:1, 'that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.'

- a. many a peace treaty between men has come and gone; and wars still go on
- b. but God's Peace Treaty is eternal for those who will accept Jesus Christ

D. God's Peace Treaty Is Righteous. 54:13-14

- 1. many of the peace treaties of this world are unfair and unjust
 - a. imposed by the stronger nation upon the weaker
 - b. and instead of guaranteeing a peace under which people can live and thrive
 - c. they carry harsh terms of surrender, submission and privation

- 2. but God's Peace Treaty is designed for the good of those who will enter into it
 - a. verse 13 tells us that the Ruler, the Lord himself will make disciples of them; they will learn of the Lord – 'Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,' says Jesus, 'for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' (Matthew 11:29) ... what gracious words from the Ruler!
 - b. His promise is that the Shalom; the well-being, the peace of your sons will be great; not only is the conflict with God over, but all the benefits of His kindness are showered upon us, verse 14: 'In righteousness you will be established; You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; And from

- a. accepting by faith the finished work of Christ on the cross
 - b. whereby He took on Himself the punishment due to us for our sin, our rebellion against God
2. Jesus is the reason for the season; and this is the reason Jesus came to earth
- a. 'Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ'
(Romans 5:1)
 - b. there is, then, peace in this turbulent world; peace to those who accept God's Peace Treaty sent to earth in Jesus Christ.

1. © 2011 by Garth Hutchinson, Faith Fellowship Baptist Church of Aurora (Ontario): may be distributed or quoted freely, only let this be done to the glory “of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

Except as noted otherwise, quotations are from the New American Standard version, used by permission. Various other English versions of the Holy Bible may be used in this sermon. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in *(braces)*. Versions are identified as:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
ERV	The Revised Version of 1885
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers

Some of my favourite commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

BM – Biblical Museum, Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870

EBC – The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, Michigan

Volume 6, Isaiah, by Geoffrey W. Grogan, Principal, Bible Training Institute, Glasgow, Scotland;

EJY – The Book of Isaiah by Edward J. Young; © 1965; Wm. B. Eerdmans

K&D – Commentary on the Old Testament, by Keil & Delitzsch; Volume 7, Isaiah, by Franz Delitzsch

Kerux – The sermon and illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick to be found at the web-site, www.holwick.com.