<u>Peace</u>

Shalom! Salam in Arabic or Shlama in Aramaic

Of course everyone here knows that Shalom means peace in Hebrew and it can be used either as a greeting or a goodbye.

The definition of peace is: "A state of mutual harmony, a state of comfort"

The word picture for peace is "Peace comes when we destroy the authority that causes chaos." What's the authority that causes chaos? The spirit of the adversary or in other words Satan. How do we do this? Jacob 4:7 "Then submit to Yahweh, resist the Devil and he will flee from you" because 1 Corinthians 14:33 "For YHWH is not an Elohim of confusion, but of peace, as in all the congregations of the saints".

What's also really interesting is by the word picture you can actually get a double meaning out of this. The word picture for the Hebrew letter "Lamed" not only means "authority" but it can also mean "The tongue". Now if we replace it with the word tongue we get, "Peace comes when we destroy the tongue that causes chaos". Romans 3:13-14 states "Their throat is a tomb being opened; they used deceit with their tongues; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness". How many times can you think of where you said something (or lack of something) that you just felt so bad afterwards. Of course a lot of it comes from your perception but you lost sleep over it regardless because you were too busy reliving the past in your brain. You didn't have peace in your spirit until either you reconciled, apologizing for your harsh words or added to the words that you wished you said when the time was prominent. Our words have the capability from building up brethren in the body of messiah to burning down and shattering relationships with others. Jacob 1:19 says "Therefore, my beloved brothers, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath", we need to be careful with our tongues because "Death and life are in the hand of the tongue, and those who love it shall eat its fruit" Proverbs 18:21.

A question I want you to think about is, "what is peace to you?" One thing I heard awhile back that has stuck with me ever since was "Happiness is being satisfied with what you already have". If your one of those people that are always wanting more, you'll never be happy and at peace because it's an addiction. Once you get something there's always something out there that's better and it's a never ending cycle. Romans 8:6 says "To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace". When you're happy with what the father has blessed you with and everyday counting those blessings, your spirit will be at peace, with happiness all around you. Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and by petition with thanksgivings, let your requests be made known to YAHWEH; and the peace of YAHWEH which surpasses all understanding will keep your hearts and your minds through Messiah Yahshua".

Throughout the scriptures I came across 3 elements of peace: The physical peace, the spiritual peace, and the symbolical peace.

First physical peace! Physical peace is having all of your surroundings in harmony with you whether that be enemies, your health, neighbors, family, financial, etc. It's a state of comfort and completeness. Romans 14:17 says "For the kingdom of YAHWEH is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit". YHWH's kingdom is a real physical kingdom that will be set up when all things are fulfilled, with true physical peace on the earth.

One example of someone having physical peace from scripture is Solomon. 1Kings 4:24 "For he had the rule over all on this side of the River, from Tiphsah even to Azzah, over all the kings on

this side of the River. And he had peace on all sides from around him". Throughout his whole reign as king, 40 years, his kingdom had peace from the other kingdoms around him. Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways please YHWH, he makes even his enemies to at peace with him" because of the righteousness of his father David and Solomon's at the beginning when this promise was made, this scripture was fulfilled. He also had spiritual peace in YHWH but because of him turning away towards other Elohims he lost that spiritual peace in the end and also the physical peace for his son after him.

Another Example from scripture is Adam and Eve. Before eating of the tree of knowledge, they had complete peace by being in the total comfort of YHWH and being setup in YHWH's physical and spiritual peace on earth, The Garden of Eden. But the second they ate that fruit their eyes were opened and they lost that comfort. They knew they did wrong by going against YHWH and were afraid of him because of their shame, their nakedness. Because of this YHWH drove them out of his peace, out of the Garden of Eden and never again could they have that same peace back. They now had to pursue it and seek YHWH for the rest of their lives. One thing that's interesting about them that's different from everyone else (except for Yahshua of course since he pre existed) is, they started out in "YHWH's physical peace on earth" but because of their sin they lost that. Everyone else on the earth has the opposite and now has to pursue YHWH's physical peace of the soon coming kingdom, because of their sin. So by the peace in YHWH through the Holy Spirit we still have to endure until the end when his kingdom is setup on the earth.

On the contrary the opposite of physical peace is physical chaos. Revelations 6:4 "And another horse went out, red. And it was given to the one sitting on it to take peace from the earth, and that they should slay one another. And a great sword was given to Him". YHWH has the authority to give peace and to take peace away.

Second the spiritual peace! Spiritual peace is being in YHWH's will and not just believing but knowing that he was, he is and he is to come. Knowing that through him and the belief in Yahshua he will give you guidance, protection, and rest in your soul. Psalms 119:165 "Great peace is to those who love Your Torah, and there is no stumbling block to them" and also Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of Messiah rule in your hearts, for that goal you are called in one body, and be thankful to Messiah". Of course yes there are two factors that play into having spiritual peace, the fear of YHWH, Proverbs 19:23 "The fear of YAHWEH tends to life, and he shall rest satisfied, he shall not be visited with evil" and the right perception 2 Corinthians 10:5 "bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Messiah". Belief in YHWH is perfect peace and you need both of these to obtain it!

Some examples of people in scripture having spiritual peace are <u>Noah.</u> – Just his name alone meaning rest is being at peace. Whenever you sleep at night your body and mind are at peace, unless you have a nightmare of course. Noah walked with YHWH and to be walking with someone means that you put your trust in them and have peace with them. Just think about the peace that Noah had in YHWH when here he is spending 100 years building a gigantic boat, for a soon coming flood, when not a single drop of rain had fallen to the while he was building the ark. Imagine all the persecution he must have went through from everyone else on the earth. But Noah knowing the promises of YHWH and being totally in his will he didn't let it affect him and never lost his focus. Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the purposes which I am planning for you, says YAHWEH; purposes of peace, and not for evil; to give you a future and a hope". So Noah had the fear of YHWH and total spiritual peace in him. By the end of the flood he had physical peace as well.

Also another example, <u>**Job**</u> – <u>Verse 16:16-17</u> "My face is reddened from weeping; and the shadow of death is on my eyelids, though no violence is in my hand, and my prayer is pure". What a righteous man Job was through all of his troubles and trials he went through, he never

lost his focus. Though trial was all around him YHWH gave him peace in his soul because he knew he was in YHWH's will and his life was in YHWH's hands. Even at the end of Job's iniquity, when he saw YHWH in the whirlwind he stated in chapter 42:5-6 "I have heard of You by hearing of the ear, but now my eye has seen You; Therefore, I despise myself, and I have repented on dust and ashes" after everything he went through he still repented for his flesh being wicked and he even prayed for his friends that were trying to put the spirit of the adversary in his thoughts. Job and his righteousness is someone we can all learn from.

Yahshua – <u>Isaiah 9:6</u> - For unto us a Child is born; to us a Son is given; and the government is on His shoulder; and His name is called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty El, The Prince of Peace, (Shar- Shalom)The one who Fathered Everlasting life. Something I found very interesting about this scripture is if we look at <u>Genesis 14:18</u>- And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; and he *was* the priest of the most High El (*El Elyone*). If we look at the Hebrew spelling of shalom, Shin-Lamed-Mem it's actually the same exact spelling for Salem just different vowel points. **Now let me read the verse again:** This right here is another scripture that proves Melchizedek was Yahshua.

Another thing I saw that was very interesting about Peace was in Luke 3:21-22 when Yahshua was being baptized by John it states "And it happened, in the baptizing of all the people, Yahshua also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened; and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the likeness of the form of a dove. And there was a voice out of Heaven, saying, You are My Son, the Beloved, in whom I am pleased". The symbolic meaning of a dove stands for peace but in this scripture it was like the peace from heaven was descending onto the earth through the Holy Spirit and resting on Yahshua's shoulders. And through the belief in Yahshua the sons of man could finally have peace in there's spirits until his kingdom on earth is established. He was peace in the flesh and in the spirit, and he truly is the prince of peace.

Romans 5:1- Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with YAHWEH through our Master Yahshua Messiah,

Now let's look at the **opposite side**, not having peace in your spirit. How many people out there in this world have you met that don't know YHWH and just aren't happy with life. They feel like they're missing something in their lives and don't have rest in their souls. Then the wicked ones because of their emptiness try to cut you down because of the peace in YHWH that you have. YHWH clearly states in Isaiah 57:21 "There is no peace to the wicked". How true is this in life? Even the ones that fell away from YHWH and his ways, down the line just seem like an empty shell. Of course another thing that I mentioned before that plays a factor, is having the right perception about daily situations in life. If you have the wrong perception, you'll never have peace in your spirit. Also if you don't have the fear of YHWH, then everything you do is in vain and you'll end up off the straight and narrow path.

An example from scripture is **Saul** – In the beginning he was a Yah fearing man that had total peace, knowing that he was put into his position by Yahweh. But because of Saul's disobeying twice and going against Elohim's judicial order he lost that peace in his soul. And he knew it too, that's why he tried to pursue the peace of YHWH again but never found out. He had the spirit of the adversary and the only way he could have some kind of rest in his soul was when David would play the harp for him. Lamentations 3:17 "And you cast off my soul from peace; I have forgotten goodness. Sadly till the day Saul died he never could have peace again.

Another example, **Judas Iscariot**- He walked with Peace on earth, with Yahshua and was one of his handpicked disciples. He had a chance to continue and pursue that peace but in the end Satan came in and took that peace away in his spirit. Resulting in him betraying Yahshua, leaving an empty hole in his soul and no rest from the adversary. He knew that what he did was wrong and even got rid of the blood money. But it was too much for him to bare and through

the guilt he would never have peace again. So in the end he decided to hang himself because of it.

When need to be careful with the decisions that we make in life because they can either give you peace or take it away. Proverbs 3:1-2 "My son, do not forget my Torah, but let your heart guard and keep my commandments, for they shall add length of days and long life and peace to you. Also 2 Peter 3:14 "Because of this, beloved, looking for these things, be diligent, spotless, and without blemish, that you may be found by Him in peace.

Now lastly that I want get into quickly is the symbolical peace in scripture.

A covenant of peace that Yahweh made with all of creation, can anyone think of it? **The Rainbow!** Not only does all seven colors of the rainbow again tell the whole story of the redemption of man. But this was a promise, a covenant with all of creation to never again destroy the earth with water. He promised peace on earth from the heavens until it was time to setup his kingdom. When we look outside and see the sea of Galilee, it's pretty much exactly the same way it was in Yahshua's day but the rainbow is something that goes back even further and it still looks the same as the day Yahweh made covenant. Just think about a terrible storm that you've experienced in your life. Everything's in chaos outside and you hear the loud thunder that just shakes your soul. There's no peace! But when the rain stops and the storm passes, there's peace outside once again. You look out the window and see the sun with the rainbow. It just gives you rest in your soul and brings a smile to your face. Every person, young or old, every time remembers the story of Noah and how Yahweh made a covenant promise with creation. How awesome is our El!

Also one other thing that I mentioned before is the Dove, which symbolizes peace and also the olive branch. What's interesting about these two is you see both of them together in the flood story. Noah sent out the dove three times to see if the waters receded off the earth and on the second time she returned with a newly plucked olive leaf in her mouth symbolizing that peace once again has be restored to the earth. The scriptures is written so perfectly that there's no way that the human brain can interpret it all. But by the grace of YHWH he reveals more and more, little by little to us every day through our daily studies.

In the end Hebrews 12:14 states "Eagerly pursue peace and holiness with all, without which no one will see Yahweh" and Romans 14:19 "So then let us pursue the things of peace, and the things for building up one another". Peace, along with all the other fruits of the spirit, is something that we have to continue to **pursue** and seek every day of our life until Yahweh's Kingdom of peace is setup on earth. In addition to this, part of the armor of YHWH Ephesians 6:15 are "defend your feet with the preparation of the good news of peace", still our number one job is baring fruit for the kingdom. So in the words of Yahshua "Peace to you" and like it says in the scriptures, let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem until the kingdom comes".

Psalms 29:11 - YAHWEH will give strength to His people; YAHWEH will bless His people with peace. How much do we believe in this today? Halleluyah!