

The Kingdom of God Is Peaceful

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The New Testament describes God's kingdom as one kingdom that consists of God, the angels, and the saints of every age, living in accordance with God's character. It also describes God's kingdom as ruling over other kingdoms without them being included in His kingdom. God's kingdom does not contain unholiness or unrighteousness, which would include the world, the kingdom of Satan, and sinners. In fact, whenever any of these come into contact with God's kingdom, there is conflict (John 7:7; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:8).

Currently, in the age of grace, God offers man the plan of salvation as the means of resolving this conflict with Him and His kingdom. Unrighteous sinners are invited to repent, escape condemnation, and become members of God's kingdom, but most refuse, loving darkness more than light (John 3:18-20). Eventually, after this age, Christ and His kingdom will come, as promised, and rule the nations (*ethnos*) as Israel's Messiah for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4). Once that period is over, God will settle all remaining conflicts by conquering Satan, his followers, and all other sin and rebellion that still exists. God will destroy this present earth (2 Peter 3:10) and create a new heaven and earth, which will be holy, acceptable, and joined to His eternal kingdom (Revelation 21:1-5).

God's kingdom is a kingdom of peace, which means everything it contains is in harmony with God's character and will. There is no internal conflict in God's heavenly kingdom. *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost* (Romans 14:17).

Peace is an attribute of God's kingdom, so we should always pursue it. Hebrews 12:14 says, *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.* This does not mean being a wimp or a pushover, but honest, merciful, and loving, which is in keeping with God's character and His kingdom.

Romans 8:6 says, *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace*, which means that our carnal nature, along with the unsaved world, may have times of temporary calmness, but that is not peace. In order to have peace, you must have righteousness. Isaiah 57:21 says, *"There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."*

Peace and righteousness work together in God's kingdom (James 3:18). Therefore, living in peace requires us to purge unrighteousness from our thoughts, actions, and relationships. Though we will experience conflicts and difficulties in this world, unlike the world, God's peace is available to us (John 14:27). *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:7).