

The Armour of God

△ John 13:1-17; Isaiah 52:7

Peace

Remembrance Sunday

At 5:45 am, 11 Nov 1918, Germany and Allied Forces signed an armistice agreement

End of world war I

11am and 11 Nov 1918 - the treaty came into effect

And world war 1 was ended

This is what we remember yesterday and today

It was the end of the first world war, but was it peace?

Please also remember that Armistice only is an agreement to stop fighting

For peace negotiations to take place afterwards

Second WW

And in a sense the underlying issues for the WW1 were not resolved.

And becoming one of the reasons that WW 2 was started

Cold war

Cold War

From which we seamlessly entered the Cold War

And although that also finished, tensions between the West, Russian and China continue to happen

Add to that the ongoing issues in the Middle East... are we really at peace?

Or is what we experience a continuation of skirmishes, troubles and wars

Peace in the Bible

Hebrew Shalom

"Shalom comes from the root verb Shalam, meaning to be complete, perfect and full"

"Thus Shalom is much more than the absence of war and conflict; it is the wholeness that the entire human race seeks."

[^] The Spirit-Filled Life Bible, p1334

Opposite of Peace/Shalom?

We were thinking about the opposite of peace, but there is not one word

war, conflict, hostility, animosity, disagreement, feud, opposition, rivalry, strife, tension, abomination, antagonism

spite, tension, abomination, antagonism, aversion, bloodshed, confrontation, disaccord, enmity, execration, fighting, hatred, hostilities, malevolence, repulsion, revulsion, scorn, abhorrence, animus, antipathy, bad blood, battle, combat, detestation, disgust, factionalism, frost, grievance, hate, rancour, rankling, repugnance, strife, warfare, anathema, contention, divided loyalties, engagement, loathing, skirmish, venom, armed conflict,

Maybe the opposite is life as we know it today?

We all long for peace

to be complete, perfect and full

And we are all searching for peace

Where would we find it?

We also experience peace in short bursts

On a walk

reading a book

Spending time with family and friends

But often it is a short time

Where can we find real peace?

In the Bible we see real peace in the Garden of Eden

Where humanity had a perfect relationship with God

That is where we find peace: in our relationship with God



The Armour of God

△ John 13:1-17; Isaiah 52:7

Armour of God

△ Eph 6:15

As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

Show walking boots

Comfortable?

Not when I am sitting on the sofa!

I'll wear them when I go out walking

Gospel of Peace

Good news of Peace

Jesus is the prince of Peace

△ Isa 9:6

Prince of completeness, wholeness, health, safety, fulness, rest.

This sounds lovely, but how do we get this?

It is easier said than done

All of us come from a place of absence of peace

After a war is finished, soldiers are often still affected by all they have seen

and experienced

Likewise we are also affected by the evil that has happened in our lives

And in order to experience real peace we need to be healed of these experiences

And make right relationships that have been affected

This can take a long time

In Alice's book she refers to the story of Joseph, how he was sold in slavery by his brothers

And it took him almost a lifetime for him to be in a more blessed situation

Out of which he could make peace and restore his relationships with his brothers and his father.

But he could do this as he had a relationship with God

And he put his faith and trust in God

Peace in relationship with Jesus

Peace comes from us being a relationship with Jesus

It is that relationship that heals us from our afflictions

Sin - as due to evil happening to us or being tempted by evil we sin

being tempted by evil we sin

Jesus forgives us as he has paid the price on the cross for us

Hurts, pain, distress - our lives are not easy to us.

Jesus is the great healer

If we have never sought, we seek thee now;

Thine eyes burn through the dark, our only stars;

We must have sight of thorn-pricks on thy brow

We must have thee, O Jesus of the scars.

The heavens frighten us, they are too calm

In all the universe we have no place

Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm?

Lord Jesus, by thy scars, we claim thy grace

^ Edward Shilito - Free Church Ministers in England during WWI

God is not distant or detached from pain and suffering

Jesus has compassion on those who suffer

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

^ Matt 9:35

and he suffers with them

In fact that is what the word 'com-passion' literally means:

"with-suffering"

△ Jill Weber, Lectio 365 Sat 11 Nov

The readiness

Out of shalom / peace and a relationship with Jesus comes readiness

We do not put peace on our shoes

We do not even out the gospel of peace on as shoes

We put the **readiness** to proclaim the gospel of peace

The footwashing

Jesus washes his disciples feet

At first sight this is a lesson to take on menial tasks for each other

But also to let Jesus minister to each other

Of course Peter would not let Jesus wash his feet

But Jesus then said: If you do not let me do this, you have no share with me

Jesus cleansed the disciples feet to make them ready

This is in the context of the evening before the crucifixion!

Personal testimony

of feet hand hands tingling

Peter did not need to be fully

Feet did not need to be fully washed - only his feet

As they get dirty in the course of the day

Isa 52:7

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good
news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!

This is what Jesus prepared the disciples for

This is what we prepare ourselves for, when as part of the Armour of God, we put on as shoes: the readiness to proclaim the Gospel of Peace

We do not put on the armour for ourselves, for our protection, etc.

But not when we are sitting on the sofa

It would be a mighty discomfort

No the armour is only comfortable, when we are doing the work that Jesus calls us to do:

To proclaim the gospel of

Peace

It is only then that we will be under attack of the enemy

When we are wanting, willing and ready to do God's work

This is why we put on the armour

This is why we put on readiness on our shoes

To proclaim the gospel of Peace

Amen
