

## What is Peace?

- Always with these Fruit of the Spirit incredibly helpful to know what we are talking about!
- *Definition slide*
  - 1. The absence of war or other hostilities.
  - 2. An agreement or a treaty to end hostilities.
  - 3. Freedom from quarrels and disagreement; harmonious relations: roommates living in peace with each other.
  - 4. Public security and order: was arrested for disturbing the peace.
  - 5. Inner contentment; serenity: peace of mind.
- Mostly to do with the absence of something:
  - *still waters slide*
  - absence of people, of hassle, of stress, the holiday tranquility
  - *barbed wire slide*
  - in particular often think of peace as the absence of conflict, the opposite of war

## Isaiah 43:1-7

- Exposition, following through passage / Bible Study notes

### You are mine

- Scattered through these verses are words and phrases that point to God's special relationship with Israel, his people:
  - created (v.1) redeemed (v.1) by name (v.1) you are mine (v.1) with you (v.2) protected (v.2) your Saviour (v.3) give up others as ransom for Israel (v.3) precious (v.4) honoured (v.4) love you (v.4) with you (v.5) bring children to you (v.5) gather you (v.5,6) called by my name (v.7) created for my glory (v.7) formed and made (v.7)
  - and vs.3-4, the sacrifice on behalf of the loved one, foreshadowing of Jesus' self-sacrifice for his people on the Cross...
- **We belong - to God, and in the home, the secure place he has made for us**

### Do not be afraid

- And so we do not need to be afraid
  - verses **one and five**
  - the dangers alluded to here are of physical harm, of separation from home and land, scattering, of people being split up (children scattered), danger of death (waters), and of being held hostage by an enemy power
  - which covers an awful large swathe of all we can fear too!

### Peace in adversity

- But Isaiah is suggesting we can be at peace, not be afraid, even in the context of adversity:
  - in other words, **the peace doesn't come because of the absence of trouble**
  - no, the peace comes because of the relationship with God, despite the external circumstances

### Shalom

- In other words, what this passage is doing - though it doesn't use the word - is painting a picture of a life at peace looks like:
  - in right relationship with God
  - secure
  - not afraid
  - safe
  - provided for...
- This is what the Old Testament in particular calls peace - or **shalom**

- a Hebrew word denoting wholeness, completeness, soundness, well-being
- it carries echoes of harmony of relationship, of prosperity and well-being...

## Conclusion

- *Wholeness / shalom slide*
- Biblical peace is that wholeness of relationship, rooted in right relationship with God
  - sins forgiven, relationship with God restored
  - secure in the knowledge of God's love for us, and the forgiveness....
  - knows we are provided for
  - knows our future is secure
  - knows our fears are dealt with
  - bodily wholeness and health is part of it
  - right relationships with others
- This is God's best for us:
  - and though the fullness of God's **shalom** peace will not come until heaven...
  - his intention is that we experience something of it now
  - some or all of these things will be true for us now
  - **as we know him!**
  - **this is the key, and how it is a fruit of the Spirit's work...**
  - as we know him more, as we know we are loved, as we experience his provision for us on all levels, the fruit of peace, of shalom, of wholeness, will grow...
  - **(even in the midst of adversity)**