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The Fruit of the Ruach is Peace
5: 22c

The fruit of the Ruach is peace DIG: What does peace mean? How does that relate to Messiah Yeshua? What did Isaiah have to say about the peace that passes all understanding? And the Prince of Peace? How does Dani'el give us an example of the peace that passes all understanding? How does Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael also give us an example of perfect peace?

REFLECT: Do you feel like Dani'el in the lions' den? Do you feel like Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael in the fiery furnace? What examples does this set for us? What problem are you facing right now that you need the peace that passes all understanding? How can you get it? Is the smell of smoke all over you? Why? Why aren't you all alone?

When **Paul** spoke of **walking by the Ruach** (**to see link click Bv – Walk by the Ruach, and Not the Desires of the Flesh**), **he** was not referring to following after mystical visions and revelations. Instead, **he** provided a list of attributes that describe a **Ruach**-led person. Thus, the evidence of **the fruit of the Ruach** is a changed life. **Paul** now presents the proper path according to which those faithful to **God** in **His Messiah** should **walk**. **The fruit** stands in contrast to **the deeds of the flesh**. **The Ruach's fruit** simply shows us the qualities which characterize the Kingdom of **God**. **But, in contrast to the deeds of the flesh, the fruit of the Ruach (singular, like a cluster of grapes) is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (5:22a). All of these elements should be a part of your life as you allow the Ruach ha-Kodesh to flow through you.**



If **joy** speaks of the exhilaration of **heart** that comes from being right with **ADONAI**, then **peace** (Greek: *eirene,* meaning *tranquility of mind*) refers to **peace** that comes from the saving relationship with **God (Psalm 29:11)**. Some form of this word is found 429 times in the Scriptures. The verb form of *eirene* means *to bind together*. Thus, **Messiah Yeshua,** through the blood of **His** cross, binds together that which was separated by human sin, sinners who put their **trust** in **YHVH**.[143] Let's look at some passages about **peace**.

Isaiah says: **You will keep the** believing **remnant in perfect peace, those whose mind is steadfast, because the steadfast** person **trusts in You (Isaiah 26:3).** The phrase **perfect peace** is just a doubling, **shalom, shalom.** And because **the** faithful **remnant** trusted in **the LORD,** and the mind of **the remnant** focused on **Him** in spite of what was happening around **them, they** will enter the Millennial Jerusalem (see the commentary on **Isaiah Fe – We Have a Strong City; God Makes Salvation It's Walls**). Principles can be taken out of this verse and applied to us today, but the context dictates that **Isaiah** has the Jewish believing **remnant** at the end of the Great Tribulation in mind here (see the commentary on **Revelation Ev – The Basis for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**).

For to us a child is born, a son will be given to us, and the government will be upon His shoulder. His Name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, My Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:5). Yeshua is **the Prince of Peace** (see the commentary on **Isaiah Ck – He Will Be Called the Prince of Peace**), both in the sense that **He** was supremely **peaceful Himself**, and in the sense that **He** gives **His peace** to those who are **His.**

Shalom I leave you, My shalom I give to you; but not as the world gives! Do not let your heart be troubled or afraid (John 14:27). Even when **He** confronted **the Adversary** face-to-face **in the wilderness**, **Messiah** had perfect **peace**, knowing **His** heavenly **Father** was continually with **Him** and would supply **His** every need (see the commentary on **The Life of Messiah Bj – Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness**).

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have shalom. In the world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33)!

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live in shalom with all people (Romans 12:18).

Do not be anxious about anything – but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the shalom of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah Yeshua (Philippians 4:6-7). What does that really look like? How did this **peace that passes all understanding** play out in the lives of real people in the Bible?

In the book of **Dani'el** there was a **king** named **Nebuchadnezzar**. **He** was an evil **king** and did all kinds of despicable things. **He** had a ninety-foot statue made of **his image**, and **he** declared that no one would bow down to or worship anything other than that ninety-foot **idol**. But three Hebrews named **Hananiah, Azariah** and **Mishael** (most people know **them** by **their** Babylonian names of **Shadrach, Meshach,** and **Abed-Nego**), continued to do what they had always done, **they** prayed to **their God**. **Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar ordered Hananiah, Azariah** and **Mishael to be summoned.** When **they** refused to bow down and worship **his** idol, **he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than it was normally heated and commanded some of the mighty men in his army to tie them up and to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire. But because the king's order was so urgent and the furnace so extremely hot, a raging flame killed those men who carried them up to be thrown into the fiery furnace. And the three men fell bound into the blazing fire.**

When **Nebuchadnezzar** viewed **his** decree being carried out from a distance, **he was astonished and leapt to his feet. He asked his ministers, "Didn't I** tell you to **cast three men bound into the middle of the fire?" They replied to**

the king, “Surely, O king.” But then he answered saying, “Look! I see four men walking about unbound and unharmed in the middle of the fire, and the fourth has the appearance like the Son of God!”

Later in the book of **Dani’el** there was another **king** whose name was **Darius**. **He** wasn’t a horrible **king** and **he** actually did some things that were good, but the truth is that **he** really liked **Dani’el**. **His supervisors,** however, **tried to find ground for a charge against Dani’el regarding the kingdom. They** knew **Dani’el** was a man of prayer, so **they** went to **the king** and asked **him** to **issue an edict and enforce a decree that anyone who prays to any god or man for 30 days other than you O king, will be cast into the lion’s den. Thereupon King Darius issued the written decree** because of **his** ego. **His supervisors** had set a trap for **Dani’el** for **they** knew that **Dani’el prayed** to **ADONAI** multiple times a day. Eventually, **they** “caught” **Dani’el** praying to **ADONAI** , **they** had **him** arrested and brought before **Darius**. **When the king heard this report, he was deeply distressed.** But because **he** had signed **a decree** which **could not be altered**, reluctantly, **the king gave the order and Dani’el was thrown into the lions’ den. That night the king went to his palace and passed the night fasting – no entertainment was brought before him. He was unable to sleep.**

At dawn the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. As he reached the den, he cried out to Dani’el with a voice of anguish, saying: **Dani’el, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions? Dani’el spoke to the king, “May the king live forever! My God sent His angel to shut the lions’ mouths so that they haven’t harmed me, because I was found innocent before Him. Nor have I committed any crime against You, O king.”**

As a result, **not a hair of their head was singed, nor were their robes scorched, nor was there a smell of fire on them (Dani’el Chapter 6).** If you had not had a conversation with **them**, you wouldn’t have even known that **they** had gone through **the fire**. But there are those who go through **the fiery furnace** and they cannot live without you knowing how hard they’ve had it. How they have been mistreated. How many horrible things have happened to them. They go through life and **the smell of smoke** is all over them. But, when **Hananiah, Azariah** and **Mishael** got out of that **furnace the smell of smoke** wasn’t even on **them**.
They weren’t worried about what **they** had been through, **they** wanted you to

know **Who**
had brought **them** through **it**! **They** wanted you to know that it was **God** who rescued **them**.

Sometimes we face struggles in life, and we are tempted to think that **God** has forgotten us. We may even believe that **He** no longer loves us. But **the LORD's** love for us is as wide as the open arms of **Messiah** on the cross. And the tender compassion of **ADONAI** is more dependable and more lasting than the love of a nursing mother for her child. Be comforted: **For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations (Psalm 100:5).**

God uses a picture to assure **Zion** that **He** has not forgotten **her, He** says: **Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands** (see the commentary on **Isaiah Ip – Zion Not Rejected**)**.** This is the opposite of normal practice. Instead of the master's name being written on the servant's hands, the servant's name is written on **the Master's** hands. This is a figurative way of expressing that **the LORD** will never forget **Zion**. **The City** is represented as graven on **His hands**, so that its walls are perpetually in **His** sight, and thus **the people of God**, who are figured by **the City**, are kept in everlasting remembrance. A similar form of speech is frequently used in India to express one's destiny. It is common to say, in reference to men or things, "They are written on the palms of his hands." Remembrance of an absent one is expressed by a figure of speech used in this verse: "Ah, my friend, you have long since forgotten **Me**!" But have I forgotten you? Never! This picture can apply to us today also.

Quite a thought isn't it? Your name is written on **God's hands**. Your name on **the LORD's** lips. Maybe you've seen your name in some special places. On an award or diploma . . . But to think that your name is on **the LORD's hands** and on **His lips** . . . could it be? Or perhaps you have never seen your name honored. And you can't remember when you heard it spoken with kindness. If so, it may be more difficult for you to believe that **ADONAI** even knows your name. But **He** does. Written on **His hand**. Your name is whispered by **His lips**.

When you are thrown into **the lions' den** and **the fiery furnace** of life, you might have caused it, you might not have caused it, it might have been brought about by some circumstance that was beyond your control, but you have found yourself under attack. When your enemies have surrounded you, **the shalom of God, which surpasses all understanding** can be yours by knowing that **you can**

trust your God. **He** knows who you are and **He** knows the struggles of your life. **He** knows where you've been, **He** knows where you are, **He** knows where you're going. **He** has **engraved you on the palms of His hands**. When you find yourself in **the fiery furnace** and in **the lions' den**, that is when you can find **the peace of God that passes all understanding** for you are not alone.

*Dear **Father**, Praise **You** that we can be at peace when we go thru any trial, for **You** have promised to always be right there by our side. **For God Himself has** said: **I will never leave you or forsake you, (Hebrews 13:5c).** Our hearts, resting in your power and strength, will trust and not fear **because with confidence we say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:6).** Even when someone spitefully wrongs us, we praise you that you work it for our good, **Now we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28)**; even as **You** did for King David who trusted in **You** even when the king pursued him with his whole army. David's love for you grew stronger as he went thru trial after trial and again and **You** were always faithful to him with a rich, strong, deep and loyal chesed love.*

*Praise **You** that we can have peace as we think of the qualifications to enter heaven. We know that no amount of good works can be enough to get us into **Your** holy heaven **(Ephesians 2:8-9);** for **You** are totally perfect and can allow no sin in **Your** holy heaven. **You** taught **Your firstborn son (Exodus 4:22), the Jews**, that the only way **they** could only approach **You** was by having **their** sins' payment of death paid . . . by transferring **their** guilt to the lamb, slain in **their** place. **He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, so that it will be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf (Leviticus 1:4).** This transfer of sin to a blood slain scapegoat is the same pattern that **You** use for all to enter **Your** presence in **Your** holy heaven **– for Messiah, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed (First Corinthians 5:7c).***

*We do not take this great gift lightly; but we bow in reverence to **You** and seek to love **You** back with all our hearts. In **Your** holy **Son's** name and power of resurrection. Amen*