

PEACE TO ANTICIPATE, COMMEMORATE, AND CELEBRATE

Selected Scriptures

According to the 2020 Global Peace Index, Canada is currently the sixth-most peaceful nation in the world as it enjoys both *positive* peace, “the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies,” and *negative* peace, “the absence of violence or fear of violence.” In other words, Canada has peace because it has cultural building blocks in place that discourage and prevent significant conflict. And that’s wonderful! However, when Scripture talks about peace—or *shalom*—it often means something more substantial than a mere absence of violence. Rather, the word carries with it ideas of universal flourishing, sin-free wholeness, and uninterrupted delight. By God’s grace, our country may be one of the most peaceful on earth but few would claim Canada enjoys biblical peace. And the fundamental reason why is that our nation, like every nation, is full of individuals who don’t experience the wholeness and delight of God’s *shalom*.

Peace in the FUTURE

Isa 2:1–4

It’s a *promise*

It’s a promise *of peace*

It’s a promise of peace *yet unrealized*

Peace in the MANGER

Isa 9:1–7; Luke 2:14

The child

The child’s names

The child’s work

Peace in the PRESENT

Rom 5:1–2; 1:18; 2:5; 3:23