

## The God of Peace

Hebrews 13:20-21a

“Now (may) the **God of peace**, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will ...”

We have already seen how Paul asks for prayer on his behalf (v. 18), and now he prays on their behalf. He prays that the Hebrews may be fit for every good work and that God may work in them to do that which is well-pleasing in His sight. As he prays for them, he uses a name for God – “The God of Peace.”

### I. The God of Peace is a name used in association with a changed life.

*“May the God of peace ... equip you ... to do His will and to work in you what is pleasing in His sight.”* You find this name only used in the writings of Paul (why I believe the Apostle authored Hebrews). Paul closed his letter to the Roman believers by saying, *“Now, the God of Peace be with you all.”* In the same Epistle, Paul writes, *“The God of Peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly”* (16:20). *“Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace and the God of Love and Peace shall be with you”* (2 Cor. 13:11). When Paul closes his letter to the Philippians he writes, *“Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of Peace shall be with you”* (Phil. 4:9). *“And the very God of Peace will sanctify you wholly”* (1 Thess. 5:23).

### II. The God of Peace is a name that is not used in the Old Testament at all.

God is not spoken of as the God of Peace in the Old Testament, but there He is, *“a man of war, the Lord is His name.”* He is frequently spoken of in the Psalms and the Prophets as, *“the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.”* The Old Testament calls Him “the Lord of Hosts,” and of this title an old Puritan once said, “It has the sound of hostility in it.” But now we no longer speak of the Lord of Hosts, but of the God of Peace, for, since Jesus is our Peace, **the enmity is slain**. War between God and us is over because Christ has died at Calvary. God loved us enough to move to end the war.

**A. The Messiah’s reign commenced with songs of peace ...** *“peace on earth, goodwill towards men.”*

**B. The Messiah’s reign continues with news of peace ...** It’s the “gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15).

**C. The Messiah’s reign consummates in peace ...** It is for this that the entire creation “groans.”

*“The God of Peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus”*— So long as Jesus was in the grave peace was not openly declared. When the Mediator rose and especially when He ascended on high and it was declared that God was at peace with the sons of men.

### III. The God of Peace is a name that must become reality to you before you are sanctified.

It is of no use for us you to seek happiness in life except by the way of holiness, living God’s way. We have peace with God through the atoning work of our Lord Jesus Christ—but for deep calm of heart and quiet of conscience there must be a work of sanctification within us by the power of God.

**A. The God of peace put to death our enemy of sin and death at the cross.**

Until I realize that God has forever removed my offenses, I won’t have peace (Eph. 2:13-15).

**B. The God of peace is now at work within us to root out the sin within.**

Peace with God is the root of personal virtue! *Reconciliation by the death of His Son is the door to conformity to the life of His Son.* May we know our Shepherd in His death and His life.

**C. The God of peace will accomplish the very thing He sets out to do.**

*“He shall save His people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21). Everything in your life is designed and orchestrated by God for your good (holiness and character) and His glory (Jesus Christ).