



Knowing Christ

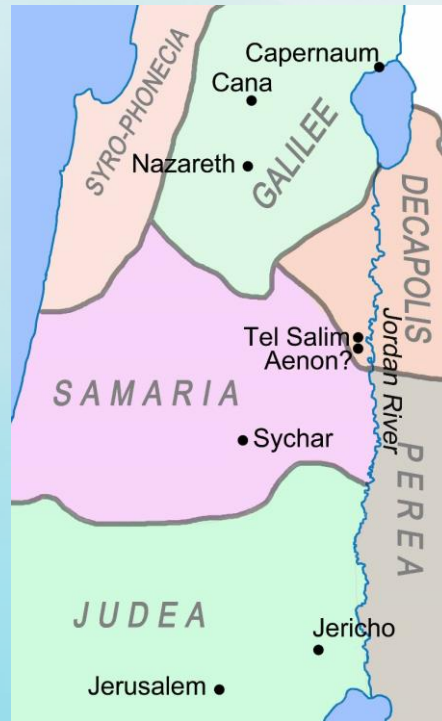
New Strength



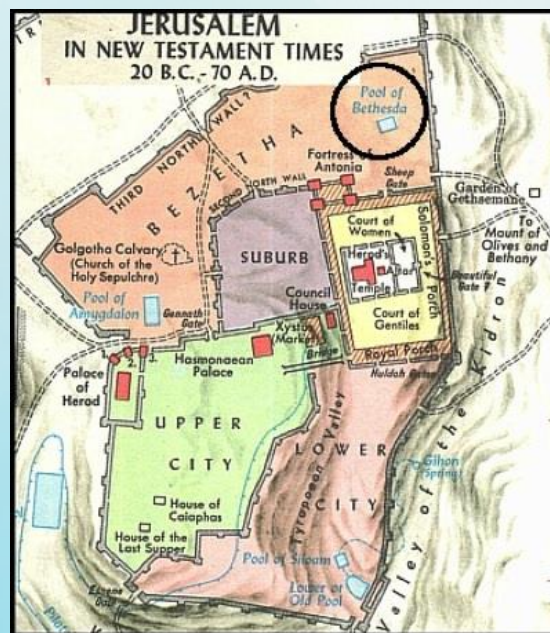
On the second Sunday in Advent
the "Peace" candle is lit

Peace (Shalom)

- ^{NAS} **Psalm 29:11** The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.
- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 9:6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- ^{NAS} **John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you...
 - *security, safety, prosperity, happiness, welfare, health, ordinarily in the context of one's relation to God*



- ^{NIV} **John 5:1** Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.



- NIV **John 5:2** Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.
 - *Bethesda* = house of grace or mercy



Waiting for Shalom

- ^{NAS} **John 5:3** In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, *waiting for the moving of the waters;* ⁴ *for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.* ⁵ And a certain man was there, who had been thirty-eight years in his sickness.

➤ Well: whole, sound, healthy (state of shalom).

Shalom Offered

- ^{NAS} **John 5:6** When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" ⁷ The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

Shalom Granted

- ^{NAS} **John 5:8** Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your pallet, and walk." ⁹ And immediately the man became well, and took up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day.

Words of Shalom

- ^{NAS} **John 5:8** Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your pallet, and walk."
- ^{NAS} **John 4:50** Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he started off.
- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 52:7** How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Centrality of Shalom

- ^{NAS} **John 5:6** When Jesus saw him lying there... He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?"
- ^{NAS} **John 5:9** And immediately the man became well...
- ^{NAS} **John 5:11** But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Take up your pallet and walk.'"
- ^{NAS} **John 5:14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore..."
- ^{NAS} **John 5:15** The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Jesus, Bringer of Shalom

- Shalom (peace): *security, safety, prosperity, happiness, welfare, health*, ordinarily in the context of one's relation to God.
- ^{NAS} **Malachi 4:2** "But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.



Applications

Jehovah God is Coming ...

- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 40:3** A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God...⁵ Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken... ⁹ Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, And His recompense before Him. ¹¹ Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs, And carry them in His bosom..."

Jehovah God is Here ...

- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 40:18** To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?... ²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth... ²³ He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.
- ^{NAS} **John 5:16** And for this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

Jehovah God is Here ...

- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 40:28** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. ³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, ³¹ Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.
- ^{NAS} **John 5:8** Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your pallet, and walk." ⁹ And immediately the man became well, and took up his pallet and began to walk...

Conclusions

Peace in Christ

- ^{NAS} **Romans 5:1** Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.
- ^{NAS} **Colossians 3:15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.
- ^{NAS} **Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Strength in Christ

- **NAS 2 Corinthians 12:9** And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
- **NAS Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
- **NAS 1 Timothy 1:12** I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me ...

New Strength

- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 40:29** He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. ³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, ³¹ Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.