
Peace of Jerusalem

A. DEFINITION OF PEACE IN HEBREW

1. Understanding the Hebrew word for “peace” — “shalom”, can help us appreciate the richness of the word when we pray for the peace of Israel or the peace of Jerusalem.
2. “Shalom” is taken from the root word shalam, which means, “to be safe in mind, body, or estate.” It speaks of completeness and fullness.
3. When the Jewish people greet each other with “shalom” they are actually saying, “may you be filled with a complete and perfect peace and be full of well-being” or “may health, prosperity, and peace of mind and spirit be upon you.”
4. Beyond being just a simple greeting of peace and happiness, the word suggests a state of fullness and perfection, and an overflowing inner and outer joy and peaceful serenity.
5. The Hebrew word “Shalom” (Hebrew: שלום shalom; also spelled as sholom, sholem, sholoim, shulem) speaks of peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquillity. It can also be used idiomatically to mean both hello and goodbye.

B. BIBLICAL CONTEXT OF PEACE

A scriptural search on the word “shalom” presents us with five general (non-exhaustive categorisations) of the Biblical context of peace.

1. No physical harm (i.e. safety) from people (including war), from beasts or from natural disasters.

Scripture references: Genesis 26:29; Leviticus 26:6; 1 Samuel 20:13; 1 Samuel 20:21; Psalm 4:8; Ecclesiastes 3:8; Jeremiah 14:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

2. Wholesome well-being of person, belongings (livestock), or nation. This gives the idea of completeness or the totality of the person, livestock, or nation.

Scripture references: Genesis 37:14; 1 Samuel 25:5–6; 2 Kings 4:26; Esther 2:11; Proverbs 3:2; Jeremiah 29:7; Acts 24:2.

3. State of overflowing joy. A sense of contentment that is free from evil, and from confusion.

Scripture references: Proverbs 12:20; Isaiah 45:7; Isaiah 55:12; Psalm 34:12-14; Isaiah 48:22 & 57:21; Romans 15:13; 1 Corinthians 14:33.

4. Friendly relationship between men. This implies there is no relational adversity or enmity between men (including between nations).

Scripture references: 1 Samuel 7:14; Genesis 37:4; Judges 4:17; 1 Kings 5:12; Psalm 41:9 (of David, a Messianic psalm); Jeremiah 20:10..

5. No relational enmity with God

Scripture References: Judges 6:23–24; Isaiah 53:4-6; Isaiah 27:5; Luke 24:36; Romans 5:1.

C. PSALM 122 — HOW TO PRAY FOR JERUSALEM

1. Psalm 122 is a psalm that calls God's people to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
2. However, more than praying for the peace of Jerusalem, it also speaks of praying for the completeness of God's will for the city of Jerusalem.
3. The word Jerusalem ("Yerushalayim" in Hebrew) translates to "*foundation*" or "*possession of peace*". It is a city that is meant to manifest and from where the shalom of God will go forth.
4. God's throne will be set in Jerusalem.
 - a. Jerusalem is a city that is set apart as the chosen city of the Great King and the city of the great God (Isa. 8:18; Ps. 74:2).
 - b. Out of Jerusalem, Jesus will rule and reign over the whole earth (Ps. 2:6).
 - c. Out of Jerusalem, Jesus will judge the earth (Isa. 2:2–4).
5. Psalm 122:3 — "*Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together*" (NKJV)
 - a. In another translation, the verse says "as a city that is joined together".
 - b. This also speaks of the joining together of the earthly Jerusalem with the heavenly Jerusalem in Revelation 21.

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- c. The partial fulfilment of this verse was in 1967. Although Jerusalem was designated to be an international city by the UN in 1947, the war of 1948 resulted in Jordan conquering East Jerusalem and Israel taking the West. Jerusalem was divided into two¹ until 1967 when the city was joined back together.
6. Psalm 122:6–9 further denotes a “fourfold prayer” which will be further expounded below.
- a. *“Peace of Jerusalem”* (verse 6)
 - i. This speaks of the security from outside attacks or safety from war.
 - b. *“Peace within your wall”* (verse 7)
 - ii. Only Jesus the Prince of peace can bring peace to the hearts of men.
 - iii. There will be complete fulfilment of God’s plans for this city. This is the fullness of heavenly Jerusalem being reflected in the earthly Jerusalem.
 - iv. Peace within her walls can also refer to the unity and harmony among the residents of Jerusalem.
 - v. Today there is much conflict among various groups in Israel. This comprises of those from different tribes of Israel (the northern and southern kingdoms have been divided since Rehoboam took over Solomon’s reign, 1 Kings 12:1–24), the Jewish people who return from being scattered in the nations, as well as people from different nationalities (Jewish people, Arabs, and the international community in Israel).
 - c. *“Peace be within you”* (verse 8)
 - i. This speaks of wholeness and health in families.
 - d. *“I will seek your good”* (verse 9)
 - i. Seeking and contending for her good refers to the economic, religious, and political prosperity of the land.

D. PRAYER POINTERS

- 1. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps 122:6–7; Num. 6:24–26)
 - a. Pray for harmony and unity among different groups in Jerusalem.
 - b. Pray for the supernatural peace of God in their hearts amid wars, attacks and unrest. True peace comes from the Prince of Peace, Yeshua.

¹ <https://www.oneforisrael.org/israel/miraculous-restoration-jerusalem-1967/>

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- c. Pray for family wholeness and health.
 - d. Pray for economic, and political prosperity.
 - e. Pray for peace with God through calling on the name of Yeshua as Messiah.
2. Pray for Jerusalem to live out her namesake “Yerushalayim” — the foundation of peace (Ps. 122:6–7)
 3. Pray for her wholeness and her completeness in God.
 4. Pray that the Prince of Peace Himself will walk in her midst and that He will put His name Yahweh Shalom on each of their children (Num. 6:24–27).
 5. Pray that out of this land, God’s perfect peace and plans will come to pass and that out of Jerusalem, His peace will extend to the ends of the world (Matt. 6:10).