

Shalom

The word “**Shalom**”, well known and well used by us all, is found throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. Shalom is usually translated as the word “*peace*”, but translation into this one word alone may not be giving us the full depth and richness of its meaning. If we dig deeper into the Biblical Hebrew we will find some hidden treasures not openly obvious, something we have not seen, but there for us to find and appreciate.

What we will find is that the word Shalom (Root: **SH-L-M**) is connected with verbs such as “leHa**Shlim**”, which means “*to fulfil that which is lacking*” and “le**Shalem**” which means “*to make a payment*”.

So, with this added understanding, when we read in the Scriptures, “Peace be with you!” (**Shalom** Aleichem) we now understand that the word **Shalom** speaks of the combination, the integration, of ***peace, fulfilment of something lacking, and a paid bill on our behalf!*** Knowing this when we now read the Scriptures we will be able to appreciate the deeper meaning presented in the Bible where this word **Shalom** is used.

For instance, let’s apply the wider meaning of **Shalom** in the following verses and see how it opens up their deeper and fuller meaning, especially in a prophetic sense, as the Son of God came to ***fulfil that which was lacking*** in our lives ***by paying the price*** for our salvation so that we may enjoy eternal ***peace***.

... “The Lord will bless His people with peace (**Shalom**)” (Psalm 29:11).

... “I will hear what God the Lord will say; for He will speak peace (**Shalom**) to His people, to His godly ones; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace (**Shalom**) have kissed each other” (Psalm 85:8-10).

... “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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace (**Shalom**)” (Isaiah 9:6).

... “And the work of righteousness will be peace (**Shalom**)” (Isaiah 32:17).

The use of the word peace (**Shalom**) in these and many other verses point to the “*peace, fulfilment of something lacking and payment to be made*” that could only be ours through the sacrificial death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

... “Peace (**Shalom**) I leave with you; My peace (**Shalom**) I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe” (John 14:27).

... “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace (**Shalom**). In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Amen!