

## The Prince of Peace

A renowned passage in Handel's Messiah is taken from **Isaiah 9:6** - *"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace..."*. The New Testament identifies Jesus as this descendant of David who will rule over his restored kingdom - **Luke 1:32**. While Jesus and those who rule under him will be immortals, they will be governing mortal human beings, whose foibles remain unchanged from ancient times. Peace - personal, social or political - does not occur naturally in human nature. There is no need to point out how this peace is absent from the world as we now know it. In order for that peace to come, mankind needs close instruction, guidance and supervision. The apostle Paul showed that it is according to human nature to practise *"sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies"*, etc - **Galatians 5:19**. On the other hand, it requires constant reminding and ongoing effort to practise *"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"* - **verse 22**. But we human beings can't overcome our natural animal tendencies without outside help. That is why, as long as the earth has been governed by mortal man, true peace has been unattainable. Much of the trouble and bloodshed is in the form of warfare, which is a collective manifestation of *"enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy"*. We can look forward to the conversion of the instruments of warfare into tools for peaceful pursuits - *"they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore"* - **Isaiah 2:4**. And how much safer will civil life be when the National Rifle Association has become the National Shovel Association!

There may be some control over petty lawlessness in current civil society. But organized crime has permeated, like a cancer, the body politic of this world. Gangs have spent large sums for bribery and pay-offs to protect their operations in gambling, narcotics, loan-sharking, prostitution and other criminal activity. Not to mention the much worse state of white-collar crime. Only the presence of Christ in the earth will rid it of the gangsterism which is fed by men's insatiable appetite for illegal and immoral pleasures. How will it be eradicated? For examples of the power of detection and retribution that Christ's spirit-powered rulers will have, see what Elijah did in **2 Kings 1** and Peter in **Acts 5**. But they will also attack the root of the problem. Education and the media will be in the hands of Christ's government. A new generation will be brought up, instructed and trained according to the teaching of Jesus. An old self-absorbed, self-centred and self-indulgent generation will be replaced by a love-God-and-love-your-neighbour generation. These will have no appetite for what big-time criminals have to offer. No demand, no business.

Not only so, but their divine education will make the new generation very sensitive of unlawful activity. Such an attitude in the general population will greatly reduce the need for a professional police force. There will no longer be a willingness to ignore criminal activity, but in the spirit of **Deuteronomy 13** the ordinary citizens will take an active part to nip it in the bud. The result will be peace and tranquillity - *"He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, And will break in pieces the oppressor...He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence"* - **Psalms 72:4**.