

Praying for “The Peace of Jerusalem”

All Scripture is KJV: Psalm 122:6

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

Question:

- ✓ What does Psalm 122 verse 6 mean?

Psalm 122 King James Version (KJV)

¹ I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

² Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

⁴ Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.

⁵ For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:** they shall prosper that love thee.

⁷ Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

⁸ **For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.**

⁹ **Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.**

- ✓ There is a sense these days for the churches to take this verse out of context.
- ✓ Where the churches simply say that we need to pray for Israel, and to pray for Jerusalem.

1. But is that what this scripture is saying?
2. And should we be praying for Israel and Jerusalem?

Well let see what the bible is saying.....

Psalm 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

1. Yes, we should pray for the people of Israel, because 99% of them don't know the Lord.
2. Therefore we need to pray for their salvation.
3. But to just pray that the people there should prosper?
4. Or that they should have peace is not the way the scripture is speaking. Therefore many churches and people are getting it wrong concerning Psalm 122:6.
5. Yes by all means pray for them. But when you pray for them, pray in the way that the apostle Paul prayed in Romans 10.

- ❖ Essential it is to pray for those that love the Lord to have peace and prosperity.
- ❖ Not for those who don't love the Lord.

Romans 10 King James Version (KJV)

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

² For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

⁵ For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

⁶ But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

⁷ Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

⁸ But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

¹² For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- ✓ Why would you pray for a nation to prosper if they have as a nation rejected God.
- ✓ Why would you pray for Jerusalem to "have peace", when today most of the people there have rejected God?

✚ **So then you asking the question: Why then does Psalm 122:6 say we must pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**

✚ **Well let's read on past verse 6 which saysPray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.**

1. First of all Psalm 122 verse 6 ends off by saying.....:they shall prosper that love thee?

2. Well think about it.....does the whole or majority of people in the nation of Israel or Jerusalem love God. (By that I am saying do they love Jesus).
3. The answer is no they don't. They don't love Jesus and in fact as a nation they have totally rejected Jesus.
4. So why must we pray for a nation to prosper and have peace if they have rejected Jesus. In fact they blaspheme His name.

Well that is true.

But when you look at Psalm 122 verses 8 and 9 which people don't stop to include in their prayer, we find the answer to the prayer in verses 6.

⁸ For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

5. Here in verse 8 and 9 is the reason it was said to pray for Jerusalem.
 - ✚ At the time of the prayer of Psalm 122:6 the house of God did exist in Jerusalem when there were the Israelites who loved God.
 - ✚ They dwelt in the house of the LORD and were worshiping Him there.
 - ✚ They were the "brethren" and companions who loved the LORD.
 - ✚ And because they loved the LORD that is why this prayer was real for them and it was a prayer for those serving God.

But.....

After 70AD, the Temple was destroyed and the people were scattered and no longer served or worshipped God in the true way.

They served and worshipped other gods, and idols.

- ❖ Therefore today our prayer should be that they would turn to the Lord and be saved.
1. The prayer for peace was because they loved God.
 2. But today they don't love Jesus.
 3. So when you read Psalm 122 verse 6, don't leave out the rest of the verses 8 and 9 and the ending of verse 6.
 4. It is the reason why verse 6 was put there in the first place.
 5. Without verse 8 and 9 being in the picture, then verse 6 could not apply.

Psalm 122 ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

See Matthew 23:37 ff,

Matthew 23:37-39 King James Version

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Remember these are the words of Jesus.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....