

The combination of justice with peace in these pictures is something which must not be overlooked. A little reflection will show us the necessity of this. As long as selfishness and greed are widespread, or human beings are oppressed by other human beings, we cannot look for lasting peace.

Another factor in these pictures which may sound strange to modern ears is the mention of a king. Nowadays kings are considered to be out of date. Yet it is human nature to look for a leader whom we can follow. When government is in the hand of one whom we know to be fairly capable and fairly interested in the public good, most people are only too ready to leave decisions in his hands. Great decisions are not made as a rule by large masses of people; instead the people follow the leader; all are looking for one in whom they can have confidence. The Bible tells us that the period of righteousness and peace which is promised will come through the acts of a great ruler.

Where can we find such a ruler? Very few men can be trusted with great power. It generally makes them egotistic and selfish. Even if a man were good enough to be trusted to rule the world for the welfare of all, we would question whether he had ability enough for the task. Many extremely difficult factors would be involved. Only one man has ever lived with ability and goodness enough to fill this role. It is the One whose wonderful character and remarkable teachings we have been examining in these broadcasts. It is the One who gave His life a ransom for those who believe on His Name. It is the One who was raised from the dead and thus gave us the proof that He lives forevermore. This One, the Lord Jesus Christ, is coming to reign in righteousness and to establish perfect peace throughout this world.

After Jesus was raised from the dead He appeared to His disciples frequently during a space of forty days and talked with them, explaining to them the work which He had for them to do. The first chapter of Acts tells us that one day as He was standing on the Mount of Olives with His disciples a remarkable thing happened. They were hopeful that the kingdom of righteousness and peace, so often promised in the Old Testament, would be set up at once. They asked if this was what He was going to do. He answered: "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." As He finished these words, He began to rise up above them, and soon a cloud received Him out of their sight. As they kept looking up toward the place where He had disappeared, two angels stood beside them, and said: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

The disciples returned to Jerusalem and waited until the Holy Spirit came upon them. Then they began to witness to their Lord and carried the message of His saving grace to the very ends of the earth. As they did so, they constantly remembered His promise that He would return and set up His kingdom of righteousness.

Repeatedly in the New Testament we find expressed the note of longing for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The final prayer of the Bible is that He may come soon.

The twentieth chapter of the Revelation sketches plainly the great events to which Christians look forward with joy. Christ will return from heaven, put down everything that is evil in this earth, give their just deserts to the war criminals and to all enemies of justice and truth, and then will set up His Kingdom of righteousness and peace which will last for a thousand years before the great final judgment. Those who have died as believers in Christ will be raised