

IT'S ABOUT CALLING A TRUCE

Let's make peace instead of war!

1. The Warrior's Boots and Garments Burnt by Fire

Isaiah 9:5 (nlt) The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.

(amp) For every [tramping] warrior's war boots and all his armor in the battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

We might have thought that the warriors after making a significant contribution to bringing victory for Israel over its enemies would have been allowed to keep their garments and boots as reminders of their victory – rather they were commanded to have them burned with fire.

What was the reason for that command and what message is there for us?

It is evident that the equipment of war would no longer be needed and were to be destroyed by burning them. They were not to be kept.

By fire, which meant to be thoroughly destroyed with no trace or a reminder of war.

Future Conflicts.

In God commanding the people to destroy those implements of war He did not want them to be a source of temptation to retaliate in a negative way when challenged with future conflicts and disputes between people and nations

There was to be the ushering in of a new era peace for the nation - no more war.

This was a definite change in their position and their mission was to be one of peace – not war.

This should also be our mission of presenting the gospel of peace which has established peace between God and man.

And future conflicts or disputes between peoples would need to be settled through dialogue and face to face meeting, in an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation.

Let's call a truce.

Let us make up our minds and declare with our mouths that whatever offence or hurt or disappointment has been experienced - we are going to declare that it cannot continue to go on and on - it must finish.

Where forgiveness, acceptance, tolerance and understanding will be our objective.

Can you join with me in stating?

That I am now calling a truce and I will make the necessary adjustments to bring this matter, this conflict this offence to an end.

That I am determined that whatever the offence, hurt, tragedy etc, I will not allow it to dominate my lifestyle and behaviour.

2. Blessed are the Peace Makers.

Matthew 5:9 (kjv) Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

(tlb) Happy are those who strive for peace-they shall be called the sons of God.

(nlt) God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

- This is the essential quality of all sons of God.
- God's sons seek to bring peace and resolution to the conflicts in people's relationships.
- This is their mission and mandate.
- They seek to bring reconciliation and restoration to the lives of people.

- God's sons are problem solvers.
- They seek to find peaceful ways in resolving the complex issues of people's lives.
- They are seeking to make peace - to bring resolution.

James 3:18 (nlt) And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

(web) Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

God's sons plant seeds that will produce the fruit of righteousness – right standing with God – right living.

3. No Sound of Hammer, Axe, or Any Other Tool at the Building Site.

1 Kings 6:7 (niv) In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built.

(tlb) The stones used in the construction of the Temple were pre-finished at the quarry, so the entire structure was built without the sound of hammer, axe, or any other tool at the building site.

All the stones for God's house were all fully prepared in the stone quarries.

Because there was to be:

No sound of a striking tool to be used in the near proximity of the temple.

Note: The hammer and the iron chisel were striking tools.

Iron spears, swords and battle axes were made of iron and were all tools of war.

Iron tools represented war, judgement, dominating rule over another.

God says I want no sound of war or threatening's of war within the hearing of his temple.
It is to be a house of peace.

So, there was not to be heard:

- The sound of war.
- Anger.
- Division and fighting (with words).
- Arrogance and pride.
- Domination - lordship over.
- Threat of judgement.
- Forcefulness, assertiveness, bossiness.

4. Agree with your Adversary Quickly.

Matthew 5:25 (nlt) When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly.

(tlb) Come to terms quickly with your enemy before it is too late.

Take time out to talk and to come to mutual agreement, settle differences, and to reconcile.

LET'S CALL A TRUCE.

- To settle our differences.
- To decide to forgive.
- To start talking together.
- To be totally committed in pursuit of these things until fully accomplished.