



In each of these scripture passages we sense an attitude of worship. Many kinds of peace exist such as, political peace between nations, peace between enemies, peace within a family, etc. Peace with God, however, can only take place as a result of what Jesus did when He died on the cross. Without Jesus' salvation,

all human beings are enemies of God (Roman's 5:10; James 4:4). Only through Jesus can believers have peace with God.

Do you have peace with God? Does His peace rule in your heart? Paul prayed that the Christians in Colossae would "let the peace of Christ rule" in their hearts (Colossians 3:15). If your heart is troubled ask Jesus to fill your heart with His peace, so that "the peace of Christ" will rule in your heart. The peace Jesus gives is different from the peace between nations and among people (John 14:27). Jesus says that having His peace will cause the believer's heart not to be "troubled" or "afraid." We can receive this peace from Jesus Christ if we believe in Him and trust Him.

Brought again from the Dead Our Dear Lord Jesus

Once again, we repeat the two verses:

Now may the God of peace **who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus**, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. **Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV**

The writer of Hebrews uses the verb "brought" to describe how God transformed Jesus from death to life. In the New Testament the word "raised" is often used to refer to Jesus' resurrection. The writer of Hebrews wants to draw our attention to the revelation of God's plan for salvation revealed throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

Let's look at the Old Testament use of the word "brought" as it is used to describe how God brought His people out of Egypt:

¹⁰ I am the LORD your God, who **brought** you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. **Psalms 81:10 (ESV)**

⁴⁵ For I am the LORD who **brought** you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy." **Leviticus 11:45 (ESV)**

⁶ And Samuel said to the people, "The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and **brought** your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. **1 Samuel 12:6 (ESV)**

⁶ They did not say, 'Where is the LORD who **brought** us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?'

As you can see Hebrews used the word "brought" in reference to God bringing His people out of Egypt to deliver them out of slavery. But the even greater miracle of Jesus' resurrection took place when God "brought" a dead Jesus back to life. By using the word "brought" the writer of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus' salvation brought us out of slavery to sin.

Are there times when you still think like a person enslaved to sin? Jesus has set you free from sin. But like the Jewish people taken into exile in Babylon you may be a true believer who is not living in total freedom. You belong to Jesus, but you are living like you don't belong to Jesus. Don't forget that your true identity is found in Jesus. Believers are "being conformed to the image" of Jesus (Romans 8:29). One day every believer will see Jesus face-to-face, and "we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). For all of eternity each believer will be made in the image of Jesus Christ. Any bondage to sin will be totally left behind.

Jesus' death on the cross was the sacrifice that was made once for all time, that transforms believers so that they are delivered from bondage to sin.

The Great Shepherd

Both the Old and New Testament include references to shepherds and sheep. The best known is the Psalm 23, written by David.

A PSALM OF DAVID. ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. **Psalm 23 (ESV)**

David identified God as his personal shepherd. When David was king of the nation, this meant that as God led King David like a shepherd, God also led the nation of Israel. As God provided for David's needs, God also provided for the needs of the nation of Israel.

Ezekiel also identified God as the shepherd of the nation of Israel. But in Ezekiel's description of God as the shepherd of Israel, the flock has become scattered. God will need to seek them out and rescue them.

¹¹ "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. **Ezekiel 34:11–12 (ESV)**

In the Gospels, Jesus identifies Himself as the Great Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep:

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **John 10:11 (ESV)**

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. **1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)**

²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. **1 Peter 2:25 (ESV)**

Believers can say, "Jesus is our shepherd. He will always provide for our needs. Whenever fear arises, we must remember He is our great shepherd, who watches over us."

By the Blood of the Eternal Covenant

By His death on the cross Jesus Christ defeated the devil who had power over death:

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **Hebrews 2:14 (ESV)**

The sacrifice of Christ inaugurated the new and eternal covenant:

¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. **Hebrews 9:12–15 (ESV)**

After being raised, "Christ ... will never die again". This is because death has no power over Him.

⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **Romans 6:9 (ESV)**

The power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The new, "**better covenant**" based on Jesus' eternal high priesthood comes with God's oath and with Jesus as the "**guarantor**".

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," ¹⁷ then he adds, "**I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.**" ¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is **no longer any offering for sin**. **Hebrews 10:15–18 (ESV)**

The blood of Jesus Christ was offered as a sacrifice. Jesus exercised His authority as a new kind of high priest. His one sacrifice permanently changed the relationship between God and believers. Believers are at peace with God even though it may not feel peaceful. Like captives in Exile in Babylon, they may believe the

lies of evil powers because they have been made new in Jesus Christ. They can have assurance that they are at peace with God.

Equip you with everything good that you may do His will working in us that which is pleasing in His sight

God has made full provision for our growth in godliness:

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, **2 Peter 1:3 (ESV)**

If you think you can't obey God, then you are denying the truth of God's Word. The Bible tells us that God gives us everything we need in order to obey Him. God is always ready to help in our times of need and temptation (2:18; 4:16).

¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. **Hebrews 2:18 (ESV)**

¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)**

God will provide. If you sin, then confess your sin, receive God's forgiveness through Christ, then don't let anything deceive you and cause you to think you can't obey God. Never give up trying. Every one of us will sin again, so each one of us must always be ready to quickly confess our sin, and continue to grow more and more like Jesus Christ. God is molding and shaping each of us into the image of Jesus Christ so that we will be able to do what is pleasing to God. Remember our two verses:

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. **Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV**

Through Jesus

Obedying God is not something the believer does under His own power. Think of a child learning to ride a bicycle. Usually, someone bigger and older holds onto the seat of the bicycle, keeping the child upright. Eventually the adult will let go. At first, they only let go for a few seconds, but then they let go for longer and longer periods of time, until the child can do it on their own power, without any help from anyone.

Many of us have a mental image that spiritual maturity must be something like learning to ride a bike. If we try hard enough, and practice often enough, we will be able to live free from sin. But there is one very important difference between spiritual maturity and learning to ride a bike: God never let's go. God saved us through Jesus. We did not save ourselves. Jesus paid the price of our sins when He died on the cross. God will raise us up to eternal life through Jesus. When Jesus rose again from the dead, He destroyed the power of Satan. We will no longer be in bondage to sin and death. Each time we stumble into sin, we must quickly confess our sins, then God can lift us back up so we can once again walk in the light of Jesus Christ, obeying Him.

Remember our two verses:

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. **Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV**

Glory Forever

Glory belongs to Jesus. We should not seek our own glory, only His. Seeking glory for ourselves will never bring lasting fulfillment. By drawing attention away from ourselves and focusing our time and energy on loving and serving God, we can have a closer relationship with the God of peace forever and ever.

Once again we remember our two verses:

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, **to whom be glory forever and ever.** Amen. **Hebrews 13:20-21** **ESV**

Benediction (Hebrews 13:20-21)

P E A C E R U A C O V
R C M H B V D R O L S
E V E R R L U Q V H H
G G N I H T Y R E V E
J V E S E R E E N T P
E D I T O V P N A H H
S E P L E A S I N G E
U A G R Q R P A T U R
S D O P U M N G O O D
D F O U I G T A E R G
G U D L P D O O L B E
G T R A I H D G R G R

Now may the God of **peace** who **brought again** from the **dead** our **Lord Jesus**, the **great shepherd** of the **sheep**, by the **blood** of the **eternal covenant**, **equip** you with **everything good** that you may do his will, working in us that which is **pleasing** in his sight, through **Jesus Christ**, to whom be **glory forever** and **ever**. **Amen.**

([ESV](#))

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