



Shalom: Peace in the Waiting

Luke 1

Rev. Matthew Harder

December 15, 2024

Big Idea: God's peace meets us in the waiting, anchoring our hope in His presence.

Peace in the Waiting | LUKE 1:5-25

Shalom, the Hebrew word for 'peace,' represents the pattern of God's intended reality. But sin, hurt, confusion, and pain tear through our peace with God, leaving us longing for restoration.

CONTEXT: LUKE 1:7-25

Elizabeth and Zechariah lived during a politically unstable and oppressive time under King Herod, yet their faith remained unwavering.

- ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.
- ^{13a} But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard.

God hears prayers even when they seem forgotten, delayed or unanswered for years.

- ^{13b} Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.

If our promise doesn't go beyond us then it may not be in God's plan!

- ¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, 'How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years.

He's not muting the miracle, He's making room for you to see it unfold.

- ²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

- ^{25a} 'The Lord has done this for me,' she said.

Even being obedient to naming him John was against customs but it wasn't culture that produced the miracle all Glory to God!!

- ^{25b} 'In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people'

When God shows up, He restores peace and dignity.

1. God is working in the waiting

2. Receive Peace through God's Word

3. Prepare the Way

Peace isn't found in the fulfillment of our plans, peace is found in God's presence.

Whether we are waiting—for an answer, a breakthrough, or a promise—remember

- Take hold of the wonder of God's peace in the waiting.
- As we wait, we believe His word.
- Before we see God's plans unfold we prepare the way!