



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 25:10-29:40
- John 14:25-31

## MY PEACE I GIVE YOU

- The Covenant of Peace
- Peace I Leave with You

*“Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*

*Fear can be a paralyzing emotion, the birth place of every type of anxiety. But, it should have no place in the Christian’s life. Be anxious for nothing...let the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Fear and anxiety are literally the opposite of peace, and thus are the antithesis of the Christian life. So, how can you access this peace at all times, especially in the midst of difficult circumstances?*

*Phinehas found himself in a tough spot that threatened the peace of God’s people, and he made a radical choice to stand on the side of righteousness, “because he was zealous for his God.” And for that Yahweh made to him this amazing promise. “I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him.” Why such a blessing for such a man? The psalmist might just give us the best explanation.*

*“Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace.” Psalms 37:37*

*“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.” Psalms 119:165*

*If we amalgamate these thoughts it becomes clear. The blameless and upright man is he who is zealous for Yahweh, loves to obey Him, and experiences His peace. Y’shua promised it this way; “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you...let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.” Y’shua implanted in us the desire to be blameless and upright. Walking out a blameless and upright life is exactly how you guard your heart and mind, cast out fear, and experience a peace that surpasses all understanding!*

#### **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

**“Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ” Numbers 25:12-13**

**NKJV**

## OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

**“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you;** not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27 NKJV

**“Be anxious for nothing,** but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

**“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear,** because fear involves torment. **But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**” 1 John 4:18 NKJV

## Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. In this Torah portion, Yahweh makes a covenant of peace with Phinehas and his descendants, orders a second census, settles questions about inheritance, appoints Joshua to succeed Moses and lists the sacrifices for the appointed times (Feasts of Yahweh).

### Numbers 25

2. **A Leader Turned Righteous:** As we review the final verses of last week's portion, we see Phinehas, Eleazar's son, in an act of

righteous anger, driving a javelin through a man of Israel and his Midianite harlot at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

3. Even after Yahweh's repeated demands that the people trust Him and stop complaining, plus the multiple testimonies and warnings that rebellious behavior invites severe consequences, still the men of Israel hook up with pagan gods and pagan women. *(For your reading pleasure, visit Psalm 106 to get a quick summary of Israel's propensity to disobey and complain, be punished, repent, be forgiven, and then REPEAT!)*

- (a) **Meditate on this:** The people just witnessed Korah and his rebellion, how the earth swallowed up Korah and his buddies Dathan and Abiram, their entire households and all their belongings, and then how Yahweh literally incinerated the 250 leaders who hopped on the Korah bandwagon.
- (b) Then they saw Moses make a grave error, and how harshly both he and Aaron were punished for it (they will not see the promised land). The people, yet again, complained after that, even calling Yahweh's supernatural provision, "worthless", and are punished with poison snakes until Moses intercedes. And now they decide that prostituting themselves with foreign women and sacrificing to, and bowing down to Baal is a good idea! (Note: coming soon we see it was Balaam who instigated this behavior: *"Look, these women caused*

*the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD."*

Numbers 31:16)

4. Yahweh tells Moses to take all the leaders of this latest abomination and to **hang them in public**, and it is not until Phinehas turns one lucky couple into a shish-kabob that the latest "plague" ends, but only after twenty-four thousand are dead.
5. Phinehas has turned back Yahweh's wrath because he was zealous with the zeal of Yahweh. **Yahweh makes a covenant of peace with him because he was zealous for his God**, and made atonement for the children of Israel. Numbers 25:12-13 (see Romans 10:1-3)
6. Yahweh tells Moses to "Harass the Midianites, and attack them; for they harassed you with their schemes (seducing Israel with their gods and women)."

## **Numbers 26**

7. **The Second Census of Israel:** And again, as in the first census 40 years earlier, first they are to count the tribes, other than Levi. Moses and Eleazar are told to count all the males in each tribe, twenty and over.
8. These are the numbers by tribe (current census / first census)

- (1) The sons of Reuben: 43,730 / 46,500
  - (2) The sons of Simeon: 22,200 / 59,300
  - (3) The sons of Gad: 40,500 / 45,650
  - (4) The sons of Judah: 76,500 / 74,600
  - (5) The sons of Issachar: 64,300 / 54,400
  - (6) The sons of Zebulun: 60,500 / 57,400
  - (7) The sons of Joseph Manasseh and Ephraim:
    - (A) The sons of Manasseh: 52,700 / 40,500
    - (B) The sons of Ephraim: 32,500 / 32,200
  - (8) The sons of Benjamin: 45,600 / 35,400
  - (9) The sons of Dan: 64,400 / 62,700
  - (10) The sons of Asher: 53,400 / 41,500
  - (11) The sons of Naphtali: 45,400 / 53,400
9. These are those who were numbered of the children of Israel:  
Current 601,730 / First 603,550 (1820 less this time).
10. And Israel just lost 24,000 people in the hangings for idolatry, and before that countless others who were bitten by the fiery serpents for complaining about thirst, hunger and Yahweh's lousy provision ("worthless bread"). And before that, 14,700 (non-Levites) died in addition to the deaths of Korah, Dathan and Abiram (and their entire families), plus the 250 leaders who rebelled with Korah. Yet, the people still complained by blaming those rebels' deaths on Moses and Aaron (see Numbers 16:41).

- (a) **Side Note:** it would seem that we get clarity here about who was swallowed up in the earth at Korah's tent that day. It says in Numbers 26:11, "*Nevertheless the children of Korah did not die.*" God told Moses to warn the people to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, but Moses then goes to the tents of Dathan and Abiram, who come out with their wives, their sons, and their little children. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. But it does not say Korah's family is swallowed up (just Korah).
- (b) Moses is told to melt the censers used in rebellion by the 250 men who were devoured by fire, and to make a memorial for the people so they "do not become like Korah and his companions", and reading carefully in Numbers 16:40, we see that Korah's family is not mentioned, so later in this portion (10 chapters later) when it says that Dathan and Abiram (Korah's cohorts) and their wives and children were swallowed up together with Korah, "but the children of Korah did not die" (v. 26:11), it clarifies who exactly got swallowed up in Numbers 16.

11. **Continuing in this portion:** Moses is instructed about how the promised land is to be divided according to the size of the

tribes. Larger tribes get larger portions of and smaller tribes get smaller portions of land. It seems that within tribes, the allotted land will be divided into the families of that tribe by lot.

12. We are then reminded who Moses', Aaron's, and Miriam's parents are (Amram and Jochebed) and the names of Aaron's sons (Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar).

(a) Nadab and Abihu were Aaron's first and second born sons incinerated by Yahweh for offering profane fire before the LORD. We see that narrative in Leviticus 10:1-3. Prophetically, 10:3 shows Aaron's reactions to the tragedy; it says **"Aaron held his peace"**, instead of lashing out at Yahweh and Moses for what he just witnessed. We are again reminded of this incident in Numbers 3:1-4 at the first census. This very incident is why Eleazar has stepped up into the firstborn role and why it is through his line and Phinehas (his firstborn son), that we have **the covenant of peace!**

13. Then the Levite's were counted a second time, every male a month old or above is counted. This time the Sons of Levi number 23,000. In the first census it was 22,000.

14. *But among these there was not a man of those who were numbered by Moses and Aaron the priest when they numbered the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Sinai. For the LORD had said of them, "They shall surely die in the wilderness." So*



*there was not left a man of them, **except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.***” Numbers 26:1-65  
NKJV

## Numbers 27

15. **The Clarification of Inheritance laws:** Women will not lose their family land or family name if their father dies without sons. *“Why should the name of our father be removed from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father’s brothers.”* (Numbers 27:4)

(a) Moses brought their case before Yahweh and Yahweh agrees.

***“If a man dies and has no son, then you shall cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter.** If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the relative closest to him in his family, and he shall possess it.* Numbers 27:8-11

(b) Note that later in Numbers 36:1-13, Moses adds to this ruling instructing that if these daughters marry, they must marry within their tribe so that the tribal land does not change hands. *“Let them marry whom they think best, but they may marry only **within the family of their father’s tribe.**’ So the inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands*

*from tribe to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.” Numbers 36:6-7 NKJV*

16. **Joshua is appointed as the next leader:** Moses is brought high up on Mount Abarim to look over the land he will not cross into. Moses asks Yahweh to appoint the next leader so that the people are not like sheep with no shepherd. They need someone to go in before them, a man to lead them out of the wilderness and bring them into the promised land.

17. Yahweh tells Moses to: *“Take Joshua, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. **And you shall give some of your authority to him,** that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.”* (Numbers 27:18-20) **Joshua is given SOME of Moses’ authority, NOT ALL of his authority. Why?**

(a) **He must parter with the priest to make a move:** *“He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, **who shall inquire before the LORD for him** by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation.”*  
Numbers 27:21 NKJV

(b) **Moses lays hand on Joshua and passes on SOME of his authority:** *“So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. **And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him**, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.”* Numbers 27:22-23 NKJV

18. **Numbers 28 gives details about the following:** Daily Offerings, Sabbath Offerings, Monthly Offerings, Passover Offerings, and Shavuot (Weeks) Offerings.

19. **Numbers 29 gives details about the following:** Trumpets Offerings, Yom Kippur Offerings (Day of Atonement), and Tabernacles Offerings (plus the eighth day offerings)

(a) *‘These you shall present to the LORD at your appointed feasts (besides your vowed offerings and your freewill offerings) as your burnt offerings and your grain offerings, as your drink offerings and your peace offerings.’ ”* So Moses told the children of Israel everything, just as the LORD commanded Moses.” Numbers 29:12-40 NKJV

20. See last year’s very important teaching on this Torah Portion here: [Zealous with Yahweh’s Righteousness!](#)

## THE COVENANT OF PEACE

### 1. Zeal and Peace

#### A. Zeal

(1) Fervent, Ardent, Fiery, Passionate, Devout, Committed, Dedicated, Enthusiastic—all of these with authenticity and without pretense!

(a) **The Zeal of Phinehas:** “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, **because he was zealous with My zeal** among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel **in My zeal**. Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him **My covenant of peace**; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because **he was zealous for his God**, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ”” Numbers 25:10-13 NKJV

1. **What were the people doing?** “Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit **harlotry with the women of Moab**. They invited the people **to the sacrifices of their gods**, and the people ate and **bowed down to their gods**. So Israel was

joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.” Numbers 25:1-3 NKJV

a) From the previous Torah portion, of which the majority is about Balak’s attempt to hire Balaam to curse Israel, we witness the amazing prophetic blessing over Israel. And toward the end we see that the people go back to harlotry and idolatry. And we know that it was Balaam who actually put this stumbling block before the people of God.

1) *“Look, these women caused the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.”* Numbers 31:16

2) *““And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there **those who***

*hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.” Revelation 2:12-16 NKJV*

2. **What was Yahweh’s response?** “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and **hang the offenders before the LORD**, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel.” So Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.”” Numbers 25:4-5 NKJV

3. **What did Phinehas do and how did Yahweh react?**  
“And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation

and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.” Numbers 25:6-8 NKJV

- a) **Yahweh prefers passion over neutral:** “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. **I could wish you were cold or hot.** So then, **because you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.” Revelation 3:15-16 NKJV

#### 4. **Summary:**

- 1) The People committed harlotry and idolatry
  - 2) Yahweh has the offenders executed in public (and people are dying by a plague)
  - 3) One man activates with authentic zeal
  - 4) Yahweh halts His punishment because of it
  - 5) Yahweh loves authentic passion and hates lukewarm
- (2) The long term blessing because of what Phinehas did:
- (a) Somehow, this violent response by Phinehas was EXACTLY what was on Yahweh’s heart.

- (b) I give to him My covenant of peace! Yahweh makes an **everlasting covenant** with Phinehas and his descendants after him, a covenant of an everlasting priesthood. The greatest fruit of this will show up **FOURTEEN GENERATIONS later!** Can you imagine?

## **B. The Prophetic Fruit of Phinehas' Action**

### (1) The Covenant of Peace

- (a) "Behold, I give to him **My covenant of peace**; and it shall be to him **and his descendants** after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.' "" Numbers 25:12-13 NKJV
- (b) Please recognize the powerful prophetic moment of this covenant of peace made with this **special priest** and his **specific line of descendants** and what it accomplishes way into the future **14 generations later!** (If there was ever a lesson in patience!)

### (2) How did Phinehas become the line of promise?

- (a) First let's go way back to when Phinehas' father, Eleazar (the third son of Aaron) takes over the firstborn position.
- (b) Nadab and Abihu were Aaron's first and second born sons who were incinerated by Yahweh for offering profane fire before the LORD. We see that narrative in



Leviticus 10:1-3. Prophetically, 10:3 shows Aaron's reactions to the tragedy; it says "**Aaron held his peace**", instead of lashing out at Yahweh and Moses for what he just witnessed. We are again reminded of this incident in Numbers 3:1-4 at the first census. This very incident is why Eleazar has stepped up into the firstborn role and why it is through his line and Phinehas (his firstborn son), that we have **the covenant of peace!**

- (3) How did this covenant of peace play out 14 generations later because of Phinehas' single act of righteousness? Introducing Ezra—and his role in the restoration of Jerusalem and the Temple, **was a descendant of Phinehas**, 14 generations later! (Ezra 7:1-5)
- (a) Aaron was the chief priest
  - (b) Eleazar was the son of Aaron (as we noted he, is the third born stepping into the firstborn role!)
  - (c) **Phinehas** is the son of Eleazar and here are his decedents with whom is the "covenant of peace!"
    - 1. Abishua the son of Phinehas
    - 2. Bukki the son of Abishua
    - 3. Uzzi the son of Bukki
    - 4. Zerahiah the son of Uzzi
    - 5. Meraioth the son of Zerahiah

6. Azariah the son of Meraioth
7. Amariah the son of Azariah
8. Ahitub the son of Amariah
9. Zadok the son of Ahitub
10. Shallum the son of Zadok
11. Hilkiah the son of Shallum
12. Azariah the son of Hilkiah
13. Seraiah the son of Azariah
- 14. Ezra the son of Seraiah (14 generations later peace is restored!)**

- (4) So, how did this covenant of peace play out 14 generations later because of Phinehas' single act of righteousness?
- (a) Think about the history and the lineage of what happens as a result of this promise to Phinehas (See Ezra Ch. 1-6)
  - (b) Ezra a priest, not a prophet, refers to the fulfillment of the words of the prophets Jeremiah, Haggai and Zechariah.
  - (c) Ezra chapter one opens with the end of the Judah's and Benjamin's Babylonian Captivity
  - (d) Yahweh stirs King Cyrus to allow the Jews to rebuild the temple!

- (e) Judah is released from captivity and heads back to Jerusalem (It was Nebuchadnezzar who carried them away with the riches from the temple!)
- (f) Worship is restored in Jerusalem.
- (g) The restoration of the temple begins!
- (h) Adversaries then resist the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple.
- (i) The opposition reminds the king of the letter issued by Ahasuerus (AKA Artaxerxes, Esther's Husband) to kill the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem and writes to Artaxerxes telling him that if he allows Jerusalem to be completed that they won't pay his taxes and that he will lose control of the region and as good Babylonians they just want to "protect their king's honor".
- (j) The King researches the accusations and realizes that Jerusalem's history is such that it convinces him that this is exactly what will happen if he allows them to complete rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple, so he agrees and commands they STOP building!
- (k) Then a letter is sent to King Darius explaining that it was King Cyrus who originally authorized the rebuilding!
- (l) King Darius finds the original letter written by King Cyrus in the archives authorizing the whole things (the

letter from King Cyrus is in Ezra 6 and is so powerful, including not just permission to build, but that the King will PAY for it's rebuilding with his own tax money from the region, and he commands that the articles stolen from the temple by Nebuchadnezzar be returned to their proper place!)

(m) So the rebuilding is resumed.

(5) Then the temple is completed and dedicated and we arrive at Ezra chapter 7!

(a) **Who is Ezra?** the first 5 verses contain the lineage we already spoke about. He is the seed of Phinehas and is about to be the beneficiary of the **everlasting covenant of peace!**

(b) **Ezra's Character!** "— this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a **skilled scribe in the Law of Moses**, which the LORD God of Israel had given. **The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.** Some of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. On the first day of the first month he began his journey from

Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. **For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.**" Ezra 7:6-10 NKJV

1. A skilled scribe in the Law of Moses
  2. Favor of the King because of Yahweh
  3. A heart to seek, do and teach the Laws Yahweh
- (6) The Kings Letter (you don't have more favor than this!)
- (a) "This is a copy of the letter that King **Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD,** and of His statutes to Israel: **Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: Perfect peace, and so forth.** I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, **who volunteer** to go up to Jerusalem, **may go** with you. And whereas you are being sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to **the Law of your God** which is in your hand; and whereas you are to **carry the silver and gold which the king** and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in

Jerusalem; and **whereas all the silver and gold that you may find in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offering of the people and the priests, are to be freely offered for the house of their God in Jerusalem—**now therefore, **be careful to buy** with this money bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them on the altar of the house of your God in Jerusalem. **And whatever seems good** to you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do it **according to the will of your God.** **Also the articles that are given to you for the service of the house of your God, deliver in full before the God of Jerusalem.** And **whatever more may be needed** for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to provide, **pay for it from the king's treasury.** And **I, even I, Artaxerxes the king, issue a decree to all the treasurers who are in the region** beyond the River, that **whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, may require of you, let it be done diligently,** up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred kors of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribed limit. **Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it**

**diligently be done for the house of the God of heaven.**

For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons? **Also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or servants of this house of God. And you, Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know them.**

**Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him,** whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment. **Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart,** to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me." Ezra 7:11-28 NKJV

(b) Recap! *“To Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of Yahweh, from King Artaxerxes, I issue this decree:”*

**1. Ezra, have PERFECT PEACE (the covenant of peace!)**

2. Anyone who volunteers to go with you may go!
3. I will even send seven of my counselors to be trained by you!
4. Take as much of my silver and gold that you can carry!
5. Plus feel free to use whatever additional silver and gold you can acquire from where you are going; plus you can keep whatever the people want to offer you as well!
6. Use the resources for whatever you need, offerings, building projects, etc.
7. If you need more, you can use the tax money I collect from the region as well!
8. And take with you all the gold and silver articles that Nebuchadnezzar stole from the temple long ago.
9. Plus, the people with you, the priests and anyone else who goes to serve Yahweh and His house, they are free from taxation.



10. Whatever Ezra may require of the people in that region, let it be done diligently.
11. Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it diligently be done for the house of the God of heaven!
12. Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set up a government in the area according to the laws of your God; and teach the laws to those who do not know them.
13. Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him.
14. Ah.. and Ezra acknowledges all this is by the hand of his sovereign Lord! **“Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king’s heart.” [Yes, the prophetic fulfillment of the covenant of peace was PLACED BY YAHWEH INTO THE KING’S HEART! DO YOU SEE IT?]**

(7) Psalms (History Lesson—Psalm 106 is a history lesson)

- (a) “They joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, And ate sacrifices made to the dead. Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, And the plague broke out among them. **Then Phinehas stood up and intervened,**

**And the plague was stopped. And that was accounted to him for righteousness To all generations forevermore.” Psalms 106:28-31 NKJV**

**C. Zealous but...Ignorant of Yahweh’s Righteousness**

(1) Operating in your own righteousness

(a) “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.** For they being **ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness,** have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” Romans 10:1-4 NKJV

1. Zealous but not with God’s righteousness
2. Ignorant of God’s righteousness
3. Seeking to establish you own righteousness
4. Christ is the goal of that righteousness.
5. This is how we can tap the heart of God regularly (for we have the mind of Christ, 1 Cor. 2:16)

(2) The Righteousness of Faith

(a) “For Moses writes about the **righteousness which is of the law,** “The man who does those things shall live by them.” But **[AND]** the **righteousness of faith speaks in**

**this way**, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (**that is, the word of faith which we preach**):”

Romans 10:5-8 NKJV

1. The Righteousness of the law is that that true life is only available by grace-empowered-faith-based obedience to God. (See Leviticus 18:1-5 and Deuteronomy 30:11-20)
2. And that is the word of faith Paul is about to expound on!

(3) Confess and Believe

- (a) “that if you **confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart **one believes unto righteousness**, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For

“whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”” Romans 10:9-13 NKJV

1. You must confess... (if you confess without belief it is with your own righteousness)
2. And believe... (One believes unto God's righteousness).
3. That is the word of faith Paul is preaching, and when you dig deep into from where Paul draws this teaching, Leviticus 18:1-5 and Deuteronomy 30:11-20, you see that the confession of faith is towards radical obedience to Yahweh's commands.
4. This explains what a covenant of peace looks like!
  - (a) Ezra prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, to do it, and to teach the statutes and ordinances.
  - (b) Ezra was a scribe and expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes to Israel which gave him perfect peace!
  - (c) Whatever Ezra required of the people it was done diligently.
  - (d) Whatever was commanded by the God of heaven, it was done diligently!

- (e) Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set up a government in the area according to the laws of your God; and teach the laws to those who do not know them.
- (f) Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him.
- (g) And all this happened because Yahweh made a covenant of peace with Phinehas 14 generations earlier! And the only reason Phinehas was there was because his father Eleazar was the high priest, and the only reason Eleazar was now the high priest was because Aaron was dead, and Aaron was dead because Moses struck the rock twice, and the only reason Eleazar was next in line was because Yahweh incinerated his two older brothers (Nadab and Abihu) 40 years earlier!**
- (h) Anyone want to question Yahweh's plan?**

## **Summary:** THE COVENANT OF PEACE

1. Phinehas had an authentic zeal for Yahweh and because of it Yahweh suspended his punishment of the people and made with him an everlasting covenant of peace.
2. Amazingly, it is 14 generations later that we see this being fulfilled in Ezra (a descendent of Phinehas).
3. How did this covenant of peace play out 14 generations later because of Phinehas' single act of righteousness?
  - (a) King Cyrus gives Ezra permission to rebuild the temple and says he will even PAY for it with his own tax money.
  - (b) Ezra is blessed by the king Artaxerxes with perfect peace because Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.
  - (c) This is all an extension of the authentic righteous zeal of Phinehas!
4. What a contrast to the inauthentic zeal Paul speaks of Israel as a people.
  - (a) They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge
  - (b) They are ignorant of God's righteousness
  - (c) They are seeking to establish their own righteousness
  - (d) They have not submitted to the righteousness of God

5. We learn that the true righteousness of God is found in Christ and that He is the goal of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU

## 2. From Phinehas to Ezra all the way to you!

### A. A Covenant of Perfect Peace

- (1) **From Phinehas (My Covenant of Peace to a priest zealous for Yahweh):** “Therefore say, ‘Behold, **I give to him My covenant of peace**; and **it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood**, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ” Numbers 25:12-13 NKJV
- (2) **To Ezra (Perfect Peace to a priest, expert in the words of the commandments of Yahweh):** “For Ezra **had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach** statutes and ordinances in Israel.” (Ezra 7:10 NKJV)  
“This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave **Ezra the priest**, the scribe, **expert in the words of the commandments of the Lord**, and of His statutes to Israel: Artaxerxes, king of kings, **To Ezra the priest, a scribe of**

**the Law of the God of heaven: Perfect peace**, and so forth." Ezra 7:11-12 NKJV

- (3) **King David (the future of the man who loves Yahweh's law is peace:** "Great peace have those **who love Your law**, And nothing causes them to stumble." (Psalms 119:165 NKJV)  
"Mark the **blameless** man, and observe the **upright**; for **the future of that man is peace.**" Psalms 37:37 NKJV
- (4) **To You (My Peace I Give to You):** "Peace I leave with you, **My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27 NKJV) "**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." I John 4:18 NKJV
- (5) **Do the math!** Peace is for those who: are **zealous** for Yahweh, **know** His Word, and **love** Him and His law!

## **B. The Peace of God; The God of Peace**

- (1) His Peace
  - (a) **The Promise of Peace:** "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. **Peace I leave**



**with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.** You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, **for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.** But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from" John 14:25-31 NKJV

(2) A peace that surpasses all understanding—Paul's interpretation of "*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*"

(a) **The Peace of God: "Be anxious for nothing,** but in everything by **prayer** and **supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; and **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

(3) How? Think about how these Seven things relate to being: zealous for Yahweh, knowing His word, and loving Him and His law!

(a) **The God of Peace:** “Finally, brethren, **whatever things are true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy**—**meditate on these things.** The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and **the God of peace** will be with you.” Philippians 4:8-9 NKJV

- 1) So, you have anxiety and Paul is giving us the remedy. First, plead to Yahweh in prayer and be thankful. Then, in your quiet time, meditate on the things of God: truth; righteous, exalted, and honorable things; whatever is right and fair; sacred and holy things; things that are beautiful, uplifting, pleasant and agreeable; things that are positive and encouraging; things that are important to Yahweh; and things that are commendable and admirable!
- 2) Take a moment now and do this. And—I will offer you a challenge. If you want to study a list of these

“things” all in one place, read Psalm 119. [**176 verses extolling the virtues and benefits of meditating on and applying the laws of Yahweh to your life.**] In the New King James Version of the Bible the heading over this Psalm is *“Meditations on the Excellencies of the Word of God”*

- 3) **Want to be blessed? In His law he meditates day and night:** “Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.**” Psalms 1:1-2 NKJV

### **C. Righteousness and Peace**

- (1) The Kingdom—righteousness, peace and joy
- (a) **Pursue the things which make for peace:** “Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for **the kingdom of God** is not eating and drinking, **but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** For **he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God** and approved by men. **Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace** and the things by which one may edify another.” Romans 14:16-19 NKJV
- (2) The righteous seek peace

- (a) **The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous:** “For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; **Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,** And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.””  
Peter 3:10-12 NKJV [Peter referencing Psalms 34:12-16]

(3) Peace—wisdom and fruit of righteousness

- (a) **The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace:** “But the **wisdom that is from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now **the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**” James 3:17-18 NKJV

1) Mediate on this “list” as well. The wisdom from above is...

- (b) **Good fruit—the Spirit is peace:** “**But the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, **peace**, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV

- (c) **The work of righteousness will be peace:** “Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, **And righteousness remain in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace,** And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,” Isaiah 32:16-18 NKJV
- (d) **All of wisdom’s path are peace:** “**Happy is the man who finds wisdom,** And the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, **And all her paths are peace.** She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.” Proverbs 3:13-18 NKJV
- 1) *The path of wisdom that is from above is: pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*  
(James 3:17-18)
- (4) The righteous have abundant peace

- (a) “In **His days the righteous shall flourish, And abundance of peace,** Until the moon is no more.”

Psalms 72:7 NKJV

(5) The righteous and perfect peace

- (a) “Open the gates, **That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in. You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.**” Isaiah 26:2-3 NKJV

1) **Selah (Stop! Pause! Contemplate! Consider!**

**Meditate!):** “*You will keep him in **perfect peace**,*

*Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in*

*You.*” We just saw what it means to keep our minds

stayed on Yahweh. Mediated on “these things” and

on His law he mediates day and night. We are about

to be reminded about Ezra, and why he was given

“perfect peace!” “*Ezra the priest, **the scribe, expert in***

*the words of the commandments...*” “*Have **perfect***

*peace!*”

2) *Be anxious for nothing—instead mediate on His*

*Word! That is what is **true, noble, just, pure, lovely,***

*of good report, virtuous and worthy praise.*

#### **D. Zeal—Perfect Peace— and Righteousness**

(1) Zeal

- (a) **My covenant of peace:** “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, **because he was zealous with My zeal** among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel **in My zeal**. Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him **My covenant of peace**; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because **he was zealous for his God**, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ”” Numbers 25:10-13 NKJV

(2) Perfect Peace

- (a) **Expert in the Law:** “For Ezra **had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach** statutes and ordinances in Israel.” (Ezra 7:10 NKJV)  
“This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest, **the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments** of the Lord, and of His statutes to Israel: Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: **Perfect peace**, and so forth.” Ezra 7:11-12 NKJV

(3) Christ is the goal of the law for righteousness

- (a) **The goal of the Law:** “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. **For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness,** have not submitted to the righteousness of God. **For Christ is the end [goal] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**” Romans 10:1-4 NKJV **[prepared to seek, do, and to teach the Law of the Lord!]**
- (b) What does that look like? It looks like Ezra! (Authentic zeal— expert in the commandments; prepared to seek the Law, to do it, and to teach it!)

#### **E. The Promise of Peace**

##### **(1) The way of Peace**

- (a) **Thoughts of peace:** “For I know the **thoughts** that I think toward you, says the Lord, **thoughts of peace** and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV
- (b) **The way of peace:** “Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; **To give light** to those who sit in darkness and



the shadow of death, **To guide our feet into the way of peace.**” Luke 1:78-79 NKJV

(2) Blessed are the peacemakers

(a) **The meek and peace:** “But **the meek** shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in **the abundance of peace.**” Psalms 37:11 NKJV

1) **Blessed are the meek:** “Blessed are **the meek**, For they shall inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:5 NKJV

2) **Blessed are the peacemakers:** “**Blessed are the peacemakers**, For they shall be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:9 NKJV

(3) The Blessing of Peace

(a) **The Lord blesses you with His peace:** ““The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, **And give you peace.**” ’ “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.” Numbers 6:24-27 NKJV

(b) **His people are blessed with peace:** “The Lord will give strength to His people; **The Lord will bless His people with peace.**” Psalms 29:11 NKJV

(4) He speaks peace to His people

- (a) **He speaks peace:** “Show us Your mercy, Lord, And grant us Your salvation. I will hear what God the Lord will speak, **For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints;** But let them not turn back to folly.” Psalms 85:7-8 NKJV

(5) Justification and Peace

- (a) **We have peace because we are justified:** “Therefore, **having been justified by faith, we have peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
- (b) **He has redeemed my soul in peace:** “Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice. **He has redeemed my soul in peace** from the battle that was against me, For there were many against me. God will hear, and afflict them, Even He who abides from of old. Selah Because they do not change, Therefore they do not fear God.” Psalms 55:17-19 NKJV

(6) The Spiritual Mind and Peace

- (a) **To be spiritually minded is life and peace:** “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the

things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**"

Romans 8:5-6 NKJV

(7) Live with Peace with All Men

- (a) **Live peaceably with all men:** "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. **If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:17-21 NKJV
- (b) **Pursue peace with all people:** "**Pursue peace with all people,** and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;" Hebrews 12:14-15 NKJV
- (c) **Even your enemies will be at peace with you:** "When a man's ways please the Lord, **He makes even his enemies**

**to be at peace with him.** Better is a little with  
righteousness, Than vast revenues without justice.”

Proverbs 16:7-8 NKJV

(8) Yahweh establishes peace for us

(a) **Rest in peace:** “You have put gladness in my heart,  
More than in the season that their grain and wine  
increased. **I will both lie down in peace,** and sleep; For  
You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.” Psalms  
4:7-8 NKJV

(b) **He establishes peace for us:** “Lord, when Your hand is  
lifted up, they will not see. But they will see and be  
ashamed For their envy of people; Yes, the fire of Your  
enemies shall devour them. **Lord, You will establish  
peace for us,** For You have also done all our works in  
us.” Isaiah 26:11-12 NKJV

(9) He is our Prince of Peace

(a) **He is the Prince of Peace:** “For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be  
upon His shoulder. And His name will be called  
Wonderful, **Counselor,** Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
**Prince of Peace.** Of the increase of His government and  
peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David  
and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with

judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJV

(10) Counselors of Peace

- (a) **Joy:** "Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But **counselors of peace have joy.**" Proverbs 12:20 NKJV

(11) Proclaim Peace

- (a) **Proclaim His Peace:** "How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, **Who proclaims peace**, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"'" Isaiah 52:7 NKJV

(12) He Suffered for our peace

- (a) **He takes away everything that prevents our peace:** "Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; **The chastisement for our peace was upon Him**, And by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:4-5 NKJV

(13) He is our peace

- (a) **In the end, He is our peace!** "For He Himself is our **peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down

the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity."

Ephesians 2:14-16 NKJV

## F. Final Thoughts

(1) He has overcome the world

- (a) **Peace in the midst of a fallen world! "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."** John 16:33 NKJV

(2) Do not think that I came to bring peace

- (a) **The peace He brings is NOT for the "world": ""Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."** Matthew 10:34 NKJV

- (b) See this teaching about the world Y'shua loves and the world He hates: [Do Not Love the World—PART I](#)

(3) Cast every anxiety on Him!

- (a) **He will give you rest:** "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.** Take My

yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**" Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV

- (b) **Casting your cares:** "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, **casting all your care upon Him**, for He cares for you." I Peter 5:6-7 NKJV

(4) Salutations

- (a) **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace:**  
"Now **may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace** in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 NKJV
- (b) **May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace:** "Now **may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace** always in every way. The Lord be with you all." II Thessalonians 3:16 NKJV
- (c) **Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you:** "Finally, brethren, farewell. **Become complete.** Be of good comfort, be of one mind, **live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.**" II Corinthians 13:11 NKJV

- (d) **Above all these things—let the peace of God rule in your hearts:** “But **above all these things** put on love, which is the bond of perfection. **And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,** to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” Colossians 3:14-15 NKJV

### **Summary: PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU**

1. From Phinehas to Ezra all the way to you!
  - (a) To Phinehas—a Covenant of Peace to a zealous priest
  - (b) To Ezra—Perfect Peace to a priest, who is an expert in the commandments of Yahweh
  - (c) From King David—the future of the man who love Yahweh’s law is peace
  - (d) To You—His peace He gives you; there is no fear in love
  - (e) Peace is for those who: are zealous for Yahweh, are experts in His word, and love Him and His law!
2. The Peace of God from the God of Peace
  - (a) If you have anxiety, first, plead to Yahweh in prayer and be thankful. Then, in your quiet time, meditate on the things of God: truth; righteous, exalted, and honorable things; whatever is right and fair; sacred and holy things; things that are beautiful, uplifting, pleasant and agreeable; things that



are positive and encouraging; things that are important to Yahweh; and things that are commendable and admirable!

3. The righteous pursue the things which make for peace: You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

(a) Selah (Stop! Pause! Contemplate! Consider! Meditate!): to keep our minds stayed on Yahweh, we must meditate on “these things.” (on His law he mediates day and night)

(b) We are reminded why, in Ezra, the covenant of peace was fulfilled; he was given “perfect peace!”

1) Ezra, like Phinehas, was zealous with Yahweh’s zeal

2) Ezra the priest, was a scribe and expert in the words of the commandments

3) Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel

4) The goal in Christ is to have that same righteousness of the law (authentic zeal— expert in the commandments; prepared to seek the Law, to do it, and to teach it!)

4. We saw all the promises of peace: The way of Peace; The Blessing of Peace; Justification and Peace; The Spiritual Mind and Peace; Living with Peace with All Men; how Yahweh establishes peace for us; we are to Proclaim Peace; He is our

peace; having peace in the midst of a fallen world; and how the peace He brings is NOT for the “world”.

5. Then we said goodbye:

- (a) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
- (b) May the Lord of peace give you peace
- (c) Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you
- (d) Above all these things—let the peace of God rule in your hearts

**Above all these things—let the peace  
of God rule in your hearts!**

## **QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

**1. Why was Phinehas promised a Covenant of Peace?**

A. What made his zeal authentic?

**2. How did Phinehas become the line of promise through Aaron?**

A. What had Nadab and Abihu done to lose their positions?

B. What happened to them?

C. What is the prophetic significance that Phinehas stepped into the firstborn position?

- 3. The fruit of the Covenant of Peace made with Phinehas can be seen in the life of Ezra, 14 generations later:**
  - A. What was it about Ezra that made him find such favor with Yahweh and the king?
  - B. List all the ways Ezra found outrageous favor in the eyes of king Artaxerxes.
- 4. Compare and contrast the zeal of Phinehas in Numbers 25:1-13 to that of Israel as described in Romans 10:1-8.**
- 5. Relate the following to one another:**
  - A. The Covenant of Peace with Phinehas
  - B. The perfect peace of Ezra
  - C. The future peace of the upright man in David's Psalms
  - D. The peace that Y'shua promised
- 6. How do you attain a peace that surpasses all understanding?**
  - A. How does the relate to fear and anxiety?
  - B. Discuss the Peace of God and the God of Peace from Philippians 4:6-9.
- 7. With all this talk about the promises of peace, explain these words of Y'shua's from Matthew 10:34:**
  - A. "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."