

Peace

Janet	Judy, what are you doing?		
Judy	I'm working on this devotional skit for our LWML meeting this Saturday. I'm really confused.		
Janet	What are you confused about? Maybe I can help.		
Judy	Our program theme is "Peace", so I've looked up that term in the Bible and it seems to mean many things...or is referenced in many ways.		
Janet	That sounds interesting – what have you found that confuses you?		
Judy	<p>First off, I started at the beginning of the Bible and the first mention of "Peace" referred to a "Peace Offering" – and the Bible says in Leviticus that there are laws for peace offerings – here in Leviticus 3:1-5 list³ to what it says:</p> <p><u>1</u> "If his offering is a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offers an animal from the herd, male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD.</p> <p><u>2</u> And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and kill it at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and Aaron's sons the priests shall throw the blood against the sides of the altar.</p> <p><u>3</u> And from the sacrifice of the peace offering, as a food offering to the LORD,</p> <p>What does that have to do with "Christmas Peace?" It sounds disgusting!</p>		
Janet	Judy, the offerings were before our Lord, Jesus Christ was born. Let's sing the hymn " Prepare the Royal Highway ", and maybe that will help explain...		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near! Let every hill and valley A level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story; Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>2 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king! Your king, yet every nation Its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him; All Nations now adore Him! Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near! Let every hill and valley A level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story; Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!</p>	<p>2 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king! Your king, yet every nation Its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him; All Nations now adore Him! Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!</p>
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4 His is no earthly kingdom;
 It comes from heaven above.
 His rule is peace and freedom
 And justice, truth, and love.
 So let your praise be sounding
 For kindness so abounding:
 Hosanna to the Lord,
 For he fulfills God's Word!

Judy	Oh, Janet, so in verse 1 – it tells us that the offering is to be without blemish in Leviticus – and that the King “foretold in sacred story” is talked about in the Old Testament – and He is an offering without blemish. This is emphasized throughout the Old Testament – I found many references to this offering
Janet	You are right! The Old Testament tells us MANY times that Peace offerings are brought to the Lord. As we prepare for His coming, let's sing “Comfort, Comfort Ye my People”

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrow's load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them! Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.	2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed; All that well deserved His anger, He no more will see or heed, She hath suffered many a day, Now her gifts have passed away; God will change her pining sadness Into ever springing gladness.
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Judy	Janet, this is sort of a sad song – but talks about Peace in the first verse. It also talks about sin and forgiveness – I guess that speaks to Jesus as well. We need to have our sins forgiven to have peace with Jesus. And then in the second verse we find that God is going to bring gladness!
Janet	Right again! This song reminds us that we need to be forgiven for our sins and that Jesus forgives us because of what He has done on the cross. Isaiah in chapter 9 verse 6 tells us Jesus is the Prince of Peace!

Judy (look up)	Let me see...it says - ^u For to us a child is born, to us ^v a son is given; ^w and the government shall be ^x upon ⁴ his shoulder, and his name shall be called ⁵ Wonderful ^y Counselor, ^z Mighty God, ^a Everlasting ^b Father, Prince of ^c Peace.
Janet	And that child that Isaiah was talking about was Jesus – the “Prince of Peace”. Let’s sing about his birth in the song “O Little Town of Bethlehem!

<p>1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.</p>	<p>2 For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.</p>
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Judy	This song really gives me hope this year talking about the “everlasting light” – like Jesus is forever and ever, and all our hopes and fears belong to Him! We sing praise to God our King – and Jesus brings peace to us here on earth.
Janet	Yes, Jesus brings us peace – He became a peace offering to God on the cross, so we can have the hope of living forever in His everlasting light!
Judy	Thanks for helping me, Janet! Now I’m ready to do our little devotion. Let’s pray: Thank you God our Father, for sending Jesus, your son to be a peace offering in our place so we may have the hope of everlasting life. Please be with us as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Amen