

Isaiah 26:3 - You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on you because they trust in you.

The kind of peace that Isaiah is referring to is the same kind of peace that the apostle Paul speaks of in Philippians 4:6, probably written from a prison cell in Rome - "Be anxious about nothing; but in all things, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests before God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This peace does not focus on the absence of trouble, but on the Presence of Jesus. It is not contingent on circumstances, but on the goodness and faithfulness of God that is unchanging; the same yesterday, today and forever.

The word for peace in Hebrew is *shalom*, a word that is familiar to us but which has a much deeper connotation than a nice greeting from the Jesus Movement of the 70's. It actually signifies harmony, completeness, integrity, well-being...wholeness. It is the same peace of which Jesus speaks to His disciples on the night before His crucifixion.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

The One who would soon become sin for us was comforting His friends, just as He offers that same comfort to us today as we choose to find refuge in His presence. In His presence, there is peace, for He is the Prince of Peace.

This peace enables us to be at rest when we face turbulence in our bodies, minds, marriages, families, jobs - any of life's circumstances - because Jesus is right there with us. Sometimes He changes the circumstances - and sometimes He walks with us right through them to the other side.

*The Message* restates Isaiah 26:3 like this: "People with their minds set on you, you keep completely whole. Steady on their feet, because they keep at it and don't quit." Even when your boat is rocking in the waves, Jesus will be right there with you, keeping you steady on your feet, making you strong, firm and steadfast.

"Peace! Be still!" And the wind and waves obeyed Him.