

## The White Flag

The whole world understands what this means. If one army gives in to the other by hoisting a white flag, or by having a delegation approach the other under a white flag, it is the signal for hostilities to cease. In the second case, the purpose is to propose a negotiated settlement. And that's what we long for between Israel and Hamas, between Russia and Ukraine, and for many other conflicts great and small around the world. Today's text will speak about the white flag extended by God. He wants to speak to you.

You might ask: What does God propose in these negotiations? Take a look at this text in Isaiah 1:18: "*Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*". This represents an offer of pardon, of reconciliation, of cessation of hostilities; a marvellous offer, if it is accepted in all its aspects. Sadly, this rarely happens. But for those who do pay attention to God's offer, eternal well-being could follow.

King David, when seriously guilty and convinced of his sin, (as he wrote in Psalm 51) raised the white flag and asked God, in verse 7: *Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow*. In Psalm 32:5, David expressed his total surrender: *I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and Thou forgave the iniquity of my sin*. At the beginning of this same Psalm, he writes: "*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven*" (Psalm 32:1).

Now imagine two opposing clans approaching each other, both displaying white flags, each seeking the end of hostilities. This is a picture of how God approaches us, and our appropriate response. God offers peace and awaits your acceptance, on His terms; as did King David. The battle will be over; and in its place, blessing and cooperation.

The good news, the Gospel, is God's call to be reconciled to Him. The apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 5:20 declares: "*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you, in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God*".

It's been more than 2000 years since people like us crucified the Prince of peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. No need to look farther as to why there is so little peace between nations and individuals. *God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing (assigning) their trespasses unto them; and has committed unto us the word of reconciliation* (1 Corinthians 5:19). This word of reconciliation is still being offered to you today; but the time is limited; it will soon end.

1 Corinthians 2:7-8 says: *We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory; which none of the princes of this world knew; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory*.

They crucified Him, He died, and now resurrected; and He's coming again to judge the world that has rejected Him. Don't be among those who reject Him. Raise the White Flag, come to Him accepting His generous offer. *Today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart*. (Hebrews 4:7).

Michel for 2020 Vision in 2023

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