

IT'S THE MOST
Full
TIME OF THE YEAR



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IT'S THE MOST
Full
TIME OF THE YEAR

unexpected...



IT'S THE MOST
Full
TIME OF THE YEAR

unexpected...

Wonder



IT'S THE MOST
Full
TIME OF THE YEAR

desperate for...

Wonder



IT'S THE MOST
Full
TIME OF THE YEAR

desperate for...



IT'S THE MOST
Full
TIME OF THE YEAR

not mentioned...



IT'S THE MOST
Full
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IT'S THE MOST
Full
TIME OF THE YEAR

the pinnacle...



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desperate for...



IT'S THE MOST
Peaceful
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*That's actually
far from the truth....*



Forbes Magazine

Michael Ledeen... April 2016

The many divisions around the world should not surprise us, as we are in the midst of a transition from the post-World War II bipolar world to something else, something as yet unclear. In part, it is a return to historic normalcy, although few who grew up during the Cold War would recognize it as such. The post-war world, for roughly a half-century after the defeat of Germany and Japan, was unusually peaceful compared with past centuries. From 1945 until very recently, there was no major war, and “stability” was considered a fundamental objective of sensible strategy. Three or four generations have grown up in that world, and are surprised at open conflict and instability.

This reveals our ignorance of history. Americans have long been unique in believing that peace is the normal condition of mankind.

The opposite is true. Most of human history, including our own, is the story of war, the consequences of wars, and preparations for war.

Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*

- 1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town.
- 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,
- 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*

- 6 And while they were there,
the time came for her to give birth.
- 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped
Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger,
because there was not room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:8-20 *Shepherds and Angels*

- 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.
- 10 And the angel said to them,
“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
- 11 *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

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- 12 And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger”.
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
- 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

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Greek: *eirene* 48 occurrences in New Testament

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Today - cessation of hostilities, absence of conflict

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace** among those with whom He is pleased!”

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-peace of mind;

-health and welfare of the individual;

-wholeness...when all the essential parts are together.

Hebrew: *shalom*

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Deuteronomy 6:4

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From the root *sh-l-m* come the words *shalom*..... "peace, wholeness"
hishtalem.... "it was worth it"
shulam..... "paid for"
meshulam... "paid in advance"
and *shalem*..... "safe, peaceful"

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peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility, the bringing together that which has been fractured.

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The webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets call shalom. We call it peace but it means far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight— a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed; a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior open doors and welcomes the creatures in whom He delights.

Shalom, in other words, is the way thing ought to be.

Cornelius Plantinga – Professor at Calvin College

Shalom

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace** among those with whom He is pleased!”

Eirene

Shalom

Blessed are the **peacemakers**,
for they shall be called the sons of God. Matthew 5:9

Eirene

Shalom

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in **peace**, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. Luke 2:29-33

Shalom

Peace I leave with you; my **peace** I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:27

Eirene

Shalom

“I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have **peace**.
In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Eirene

Shalom

As they were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood among them, and said to them, "*Peace to you!*"

But they were startled and frightened....

Luke 24:36-37

Eirene

Shalom

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

Eirene

Shalom

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live **peaceably** with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, *“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”* Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:18-21

Shalom

For God is not a God of confusion but of **peace**.

I Corinthians 14:33

Eirene

Shalom

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another,
agree with one another, live at **peace**;
and the God of love and **peace** will be with you.

II Corinthians 13:11

Eirene



So.....therefore.....what now?





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**Be astonished by the fact that Jesus is our
'shalom' in light of the brokenness of our lives.**



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Be astonished by the fact that Jesus is our
'shalom' in light of the brokenness of our lives.

**Find some way or ways to be '*shalom*' to those
who surround you.**

"Aunt" Clara Brown



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Born: January 1, 1800 in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

1815: With her mother they were sold to the Smith family who moved them to Kentucky.

1818: Married a slave named Richard...had 4 children: Richard, Margaret, and twins ***Paulina Ann*** & Eliza Jane.

1835: The family was sold...all to different buyers. Clara was purchased by George Brown who saw strength and intelligence in her character.

1856: according to Mr. Brown's will, Clara was emancipated, and according to Kentucky law she was required to leave the state.

"Aunt" Clara Brown



1859: made her way via wagon train to Denver, Colorado and eventually to the mining town of Central City where she opened a laundry.

Mid 1860's: By the end of the Civil War she accumulated \$10,000, owned 16 lots in Denver, 7 homes in Central City, and property in Boulder, Georgetown, and Idaho Springs. Financed the building of the first Protestant and Catholic Churches in the Rocky Mountains.

Used her homes as 'hospitals' for the poor, the sick, and the struggling immigrants.

Liquidated her real estate and returned to Kentucky in search of her family.

"Aunt" Clara Brown



Her husband and oldest daughter were dead, her son was 'lost', and it was unknown as to where **Eliza Jane** had landed.

So she financed the relocation of nearly 20 of her relatives and friends to live in Denver, found them jobs, and helped them begin their education.

1882: She found her daughter and grand-daughter in Council Bluffs, Iowa; after a long visit they returned to Denver with her.

October 23, 1885: passed away and her funeral was attended by hundreds, including the mayor of Denver and the governor of Colorado.

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"I always go where Jesus calls me."



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Be astonished by the fact that Jesus is our
'shalom' in light of the brokenness of our lives.

**Find some way or ways to be 'shalom' to those
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So.....therefore.....what now?

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'shalom' in light of the brokenness of our lives.

Find some way or ways to be 'shalom' to those
who surround you.

**As best you can, settle the wars that you find
yourself involved in and seek 'shalom'.**

Shalom

Now may the **God of peace** who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will , working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen

Hebrews 13:20-21