

## 8<sup>th</sup> Buddhist – Christian Colloquium

# **Peace, Reconciliation, and Resilience in the Old Testament: A Catholic Perspective**

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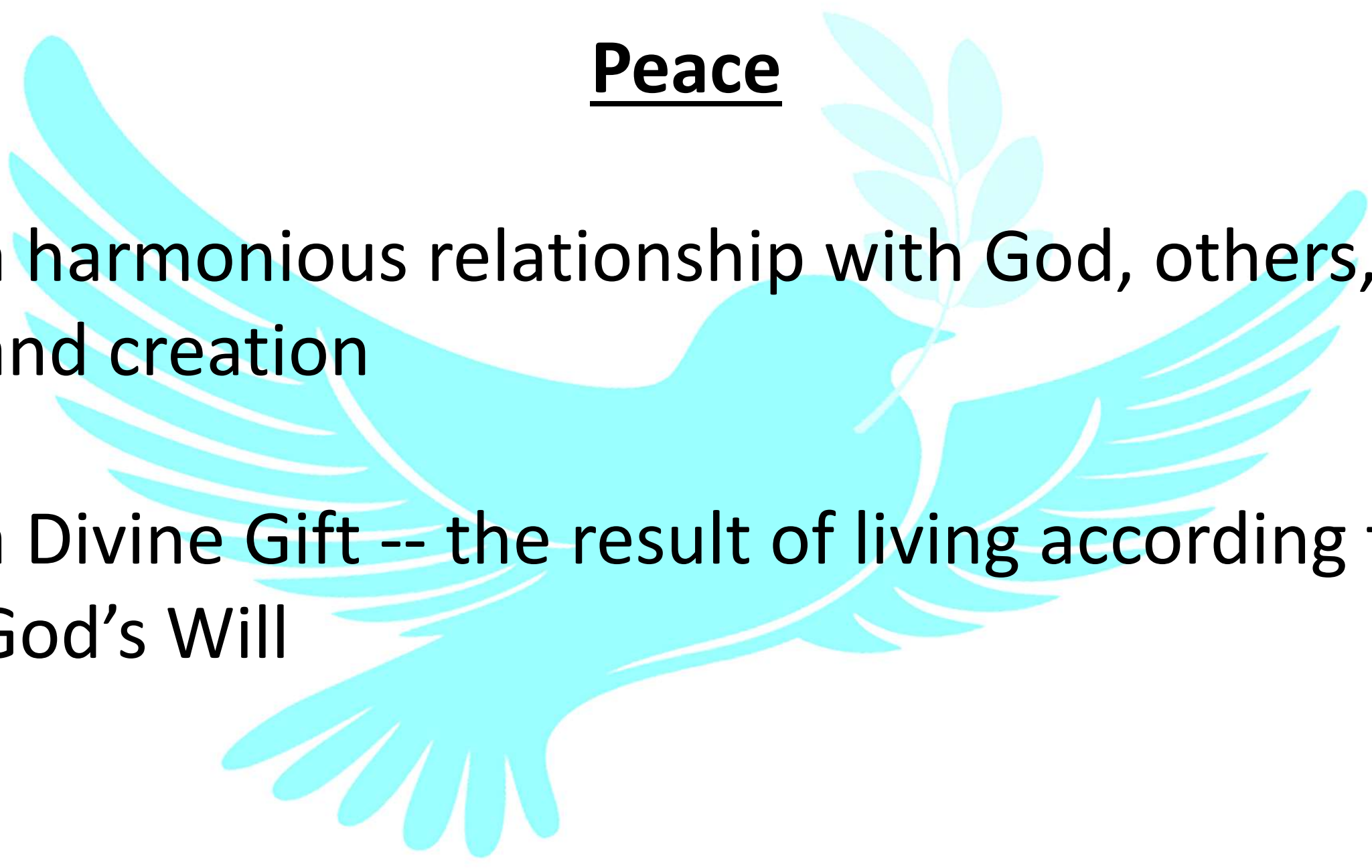
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# Peace

- a harmonious relationship with God, others, and creation
- a Divine Gift -- the result of living according to God's Will





# Aaronic Blessing

## ברכת הכהנים

*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.*

Numbers 6:24-26

© Gift Encouraging

יברכך ה'  
וישמרך.  
יאר ה' פניו  
אלריך ויחנך.  
ישא ה'  
פניו אליך  
וישם לך שלום.

במדבר ו' 24-26

Made in ISRAEL



## Creation Story (Genesis 1:4 -2:2)

After creating light, God saw that the light was **good**. After gathering the waters and letting dry land appear, ... **good**. After creating vegetation, ... **good**. After creating the sun, moon, and stars, ... **good**. After creating living creatures in the water and the sky, ... **good**. After creating animals on the land, ... **good**. After creating male and female, God looks at all of creation and declares it **very good**.

“God rested on the seventh day.”

-- Enjoy the creation in contemplation --

## **Covenantal Relationship**

“If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, ... And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid.” (Leviticus 26:3–6)

“But if you will not listen to me, and will not do all these commandments... I will appoint over you sudden terror, consumption and fever that waste the eyes and cause life to pine away.” (Leviticus 26:14, 16)

# Reconciliation



- restoration of ruptured relationships
- vertical: relationship with God
- horizontal: relationship with fellow human beings

# Reconciliation between God and Men

- sin disrupts humanity's relationship with God
- God continuously invites His people back to Him

“Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9)

“The Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.” (Genesis 3:21)

# Reconciliation among Human Beings

- **Offending others is ultimately offending God**

“Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.” (Psalm 51:4)

- **God is the source of human reconciliation**

“And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.” (Genesis 45:5)

# Resilience

- ability to endure hardships,  
not merely due to human perseverance,  
but reliance on God's compassion,  
His strength,  
His faithfulness to His promise.

## **God Is Our Strength**

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)

## **God Promises Us A Future**

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth” (Job 19:25).

## Key Takeaways

- To **seek peace** by living according to God's Will
- To **embrace reconciliation** by accepting God's mercy and extending forgiveness to others
- To **remain resilient**, trusting that God is with us and He is faithful to His promises