


The Bible answer to our violent society



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UK soldier killed in Afghanistan

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Sudan cattle clashes kill dozens

At least 47 people have been killed in fighting between rival groups in southern Sudan in the latest round of bloody clashes in the troubled region.

This attack was blamed on cattle raiding, but it is the latest in a string of violent clashes in the area.



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Press alarm at Egypt-Algeria football violence

WHY IS THE WORLD SUCH A VIOLENT PLACE?

What is the
cause?



Causes of violence

- Greed/envy - wanting what others have and using violence to take it
- Lack of self-control - anger or dislike for others being unrestrained
- Lack of justice and punishment of violent behaviour, to stop the cycle
 - Violence begets violence
 - Violence becomes a way of life

The Bible View

- **James 4 v 1 (ESV)**

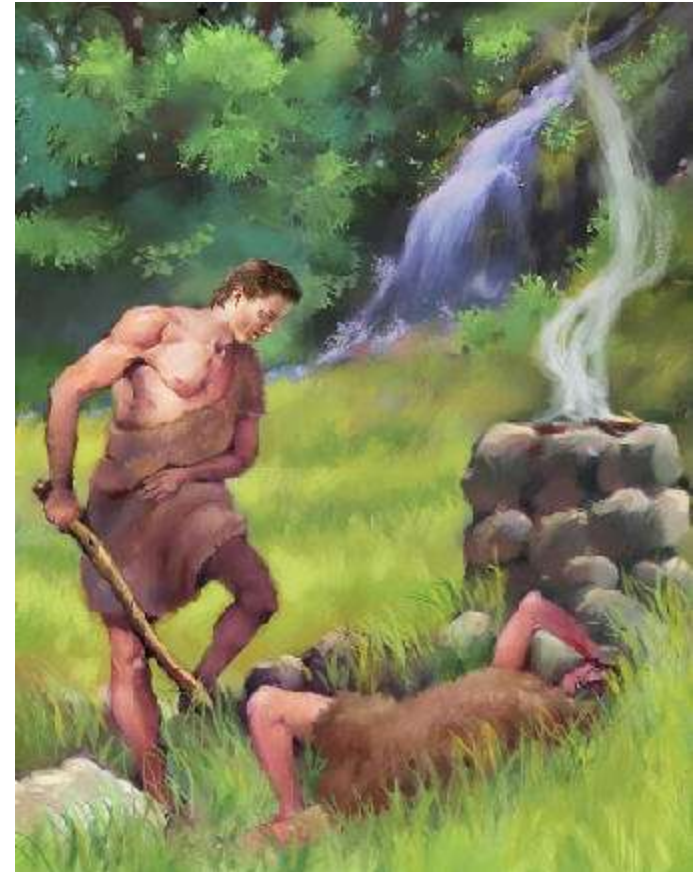
What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? **Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?**

Passions - greed, envy, anger, hatred

Violence is the expression of our human nature

The Bible view

- **Genesis 4** - Cain and Abel
- First ever episode of violence - Why?
- **Genesis 4 v 3-5** - anger, unrestrained
- **1 John 3 v 12** (ESV)
- We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. - **Envy**



The Bible view

- **Genesis 4** - Lamech, one of Cain's descendants
- **v23-24** - Murder - Why?
- **Anger - unrestrained**
- **No justice** - disproportionate revenge - and unpunished



The Bible view

- **Genesis 6** - Noah's day
- **v11-13** - violent - why?
- **v1-2** - **greed** - wanting something and using violence to obtain it.



- **Genesis 10** - Nimrod
- **v8-11** - 'mighty hunter' - enlarged his kingdom by conquest - why?
- **Greed** - wanting more land



The world today....

- The natural conclusion of what develops in Genesis:
 - Justice lacking - violence often unpunished
 - Greed and envy unchecked/encouraged
 - Self-control lacking so anger and hatred overflow



God tells us our world will be like
this:

2 Timothy 3 v 1-6 (ESV)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, **lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive**, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, **unappeasable**, slanderous, **without self-control, brutal**, not loving good, treacherous, **reckless**, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...or among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, **burdened with sins and led astray by various passions**

Is there a solution to this violence?



What would it take?

- Justice - punishment for violent behaviour
- True justice - no miscarriage, universal
- Education for right living
 - People taught the right way to live
 - Learning to exercise self-control
 - Human passions suppressed

True justice + Right living => Peace

How could this ever be?

- **The Bible Answer:**
- God wants a world without violence
- God will intervene to bring about His will
- He will bring about true justice
- He will instruct men and women in how to live in the right way
- How?
- Through Jesus Christ, God's son

God's intervention

Acts 17 v 31 (ESV)

He has fixed a day on which **he will judge the world in righteousness** by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Jesus is the one who will bring about
true justice

God has appointed a day for Jesus'
return to judge the world

Jesus' credentials

- **Isaiah 11 v 1-5**
- God's spirit on him:
- Wisdom, knowledge, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the LORD
- His judgement is not flawed - righteous
- Will bring equity - fairness
- Will slay the wicked with a word

Wisdom and knowledge to be able to
give righteous judgement
Power to be able to punish the violent

Jesus' credentials

- **Psalm 72 v 1-4**
- God's king
- Judges with righteousness
- Justice for the poor and needy
- Oppressors destroyed
- **v8-11** - power to make everyone his subjects
- **v12-14** - delivers those in need from oppression and violence

The result of having Jesus as King

Psalm 72 v 7

In his days shall the righteous flourish; **and abundance of peace** so long as the moon endureth.

The process

- **Isaiah 32 v 15 - 19** - following a time a trouble for God's people:
- Justice
- Righteousness
- These bring PEACE - forever
- How can this be possible?
- **v1** - Jesus reigning as king

Isaiah 2 v 1-4

- God's house in Jerusalem exalted - where Jesus will be King
- Everyone comes to Jerusalem to worship
- And learn God's laws - right living
- Jesus brings justice and an end to war - warfare becomes a thing of the past



The end result....

- **Isaiah 11 v 6-9**
- Even the animals live in harmony
- No more violence world-wide
- Knowledge of God is global



The Bible Answer:

- Foretells our current violent society
- Promised intervention by God - sending Jesus back to earth as King
- Jesus will establish justice and righteousness
- Violence will be brought to an end
- The world will be full of peace

Will you and I be there to see this future?

Will we be there?

- Only if we seek peace with God NOW
- God offers us personal peace today, through faith in Jesus Christ...
- ..and the hope of future eternal peace in his Kingdom
- Unless we have peace with God there is no hope of future peace:
- *“There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.”* *Isaiah 52 v 17*

Peace = being reconciled to God

Ephesians 2 v 3-17 (ESV)

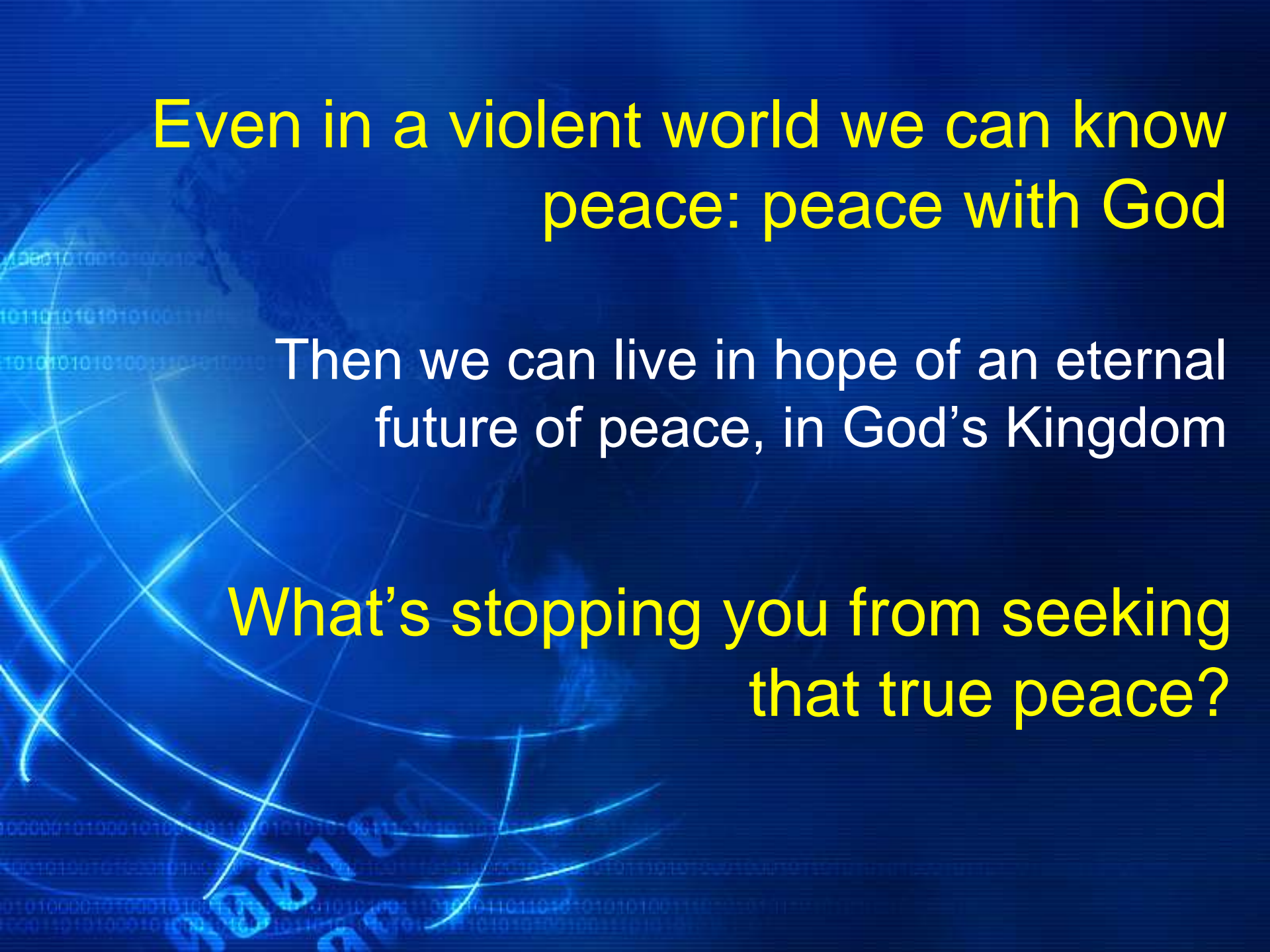
But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For **he himself is our peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility..that he might create in himself one new man...**so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God** in one body through the cross...And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

Peace = being reconciled with God
through faith in Jesus Christ

Romans 5 v 1 (ESV)

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

- Peace today comes through belief in what Jesus has done for us:
 - Dying so that our sins might be taken away
 - Reconciling us to God



Even in a violent world we can know
peace: peace with God

Then we can live in hope of an eternal
future of peace, in God's Kingdom

What's stopping you from seeking
that true peace?