

# Isaiah 57:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

## Analysis

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God creates "the fruit of the lips" (niv sefatayim)—praise and confession that flows from renewed hearts. This echoes Hebrews 13:15, "the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." The double pronouncement "Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near" announces comprehensive reconciliation. "Far off" and "near" likely distinguish Gentiles from Jews (Ephesians 2:13-17), though also representing the distant exiles and those remaining in the land. Paul explicitly quotes this verse to describe Christ's reconciling work (Ephesians 2:17). The Hebrew shalom encompasses complete well-being, wholeness, and right relationship with God—the comprehensive salvation provided through Christ's atonement. The verse concludes, "saith the LORD; and I will heal him"—God both announces peace and accomplishes the healing necessary for it. This is the gospel in miniature: God creates faith and repentance (fruit of lips), announces peace through Christ, and heals our relationship with Him.

## Historical Context

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The immediate historical reference is to restored exiles (near) and those still scattered (far off) receiving God's peace. However, the New Testament's interpretation shows the ultimate fulfillment in Christ breaking down the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile, creating one new people reconciled to God (Ephesians 2:11-22). The early church saw this as prophesying gospel expansion to all nations.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's creation of 'the fruit of the lips' demonstrate that even our faith and praise are gifts of grace?
2. What does Christ's achievement of peace for those 'far off' and 'near' mean for the church's mission?
3. In what ways have you experienced the comprehensive healing and peace that God promises?

## Interlinear Text

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לְרֹחַ וְקַרְבָּן וְשַׁלְוָם שַׁלְוָם שְׁפָטֵת יְמֵינוּ בָּרוּךְ אָ

I create the fruit of the lips Peace Peace to him that is far off

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וְרֹפֵא תְּמִימִון וְלֹא־קָרְבָּן אֶת־הָרָא יְהִי־הָרָא וְ

and to him that is near saith the LORD and I will heal

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## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 13:15** (Parallel theme): By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

**Acts 2:39** (References Lord): For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

**Acts 10:36** (Peace): The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

**Ephesians 6:19** (Parallel theme): And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

**Luke 2:14** (Peace): Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**Luke 21:15** (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

**Isaiah 6:7** (Parallel theme): And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

**Mark 16:15** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

**Matthew 10:13** (Peace): And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.