

The Lord Our God

“ . . . that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the LORD our God.”
(Exodus 8:10)

LESSON #4: JEHOVAH-SHALOM

Most people know that “*shalom*” in Hebrew means “peace.” Therefore it should be obvious that the name Gideon gave to the altar in Judges 6:24, Jehovah-shalom, means “Jehovah is Peace.” We know that the Lord *gives* peace, but do we realize that He *is* Peace? Before you read the story behind the name in Judges 6:1-24, it would be good to contemplate God as our Peace by meditating on Ephesians 2:11-18, Romans 16:19-20, II Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 4:9, Colossians 3:14-15, Psalm 29:10-11, and Isaiah 26:1-4. In the name Jehovah-shalom, God is saying to us, “I AM your Peace”!

Peace With God

One aspect of “peace” that is definitely meant by Jehovah-shalom is the idea of peace with God. In other words, Gideon was referring to peace that was made between the holy God and sinful men. See this idea throughout Judges 6.

1. The consequences of sin (vs. 1-6).

The chapter opens by saying,

“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.” (verse 1)

Because of Israel’s sin, God sent the Midianites to oppress them. Doing wrong has consequences.

2. The mercy of God (vs. 7-16).

Under the burden of oppression, the Israelites repented and prayed to the Lord for deliverance. In response God sent a prophet and called a deliverer. The prophet rebuked the people and told them why the trouble had come (vs. 7-10), and Gideon the son of Joash was called to be the leader of a divinely-empowered uprising against the Midianites (vs. 11-16). God responds to humble repentance.

3. The offering of a sacrifice (vs. 17-24).

When the angel of the Lord had said, “*Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man*” (v. 16), Gideon wanted some evidence to convince him that this had been a true divine encounter. In this case, the “*angel*” was a manifestation of the Lord Himself! In verse 14, the angel begins talking as the Lord. See this again in verse 16. Gideon was a man of weak faith who always needed some help in believing (See this again in verse 36-40). So he asked the angel to stay in that place while he went to get Him a “*present*.” Then he prepared a young goat and other things as a meal for the angel. But when He saw and received the present, the angel turned it into a sacrifice (vs. 20-21). He touched the goat with his staff and “*then*

rose up fire out of the rock” which was used as an altar, and the sacrifice was consumed. This miracle certainly convinced Gideon, and now he feared the consequences to a sinful man at seeing *“an angel of the Lord face to face”* (v. 22).

“And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” (vs. 23-24)

God’s holiness was appeased by the offering of a sacrifice. Every animal sacrifice in Old Testament days pictured this truth, which really points to the atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

Look now at Romans 5:1.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ . . .”

Sinners being justified (made right) before God by means of Christ’s sacrifice is called in Romans 5:11 *“the atonement,”* a term that uses in Greek a word based on the verb translated in verse 10, *“reconciled.”*

“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” (Romans 5:10)

God and men are natural *“enemies”* because God is holy and man is sinful. But God took the initiative to make peace with us by sending Jesus to die for our sins as the atoning (reconciling) sacrifice. Our sins were given to Jesus so that His death would pay the price justice demands (See Romans 6:23).

“When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.” (Romans 5:6)

We could not pay for our own sins without going to Hell. Jesus paid for our sins by suffering Hell for us on the cross (Romans 5:8).

When sinners put their faith in Christ to reconcile them with God, they are taking the only route (God’s way) to have peace with God (Look again at Romans 5:1). We can’t make our own peace with God. Jehovah Himself made the peace, and when we accept His provision for peace with Him, we get it. He, Jehovah, is our peace with God. Do you know this by experience? Read Romans 5 all the way through, several times if necessary, until you understand how to trust the Lord for your salvation.

Peace of God.

Jehovah has not only made the peace that we must have in order to be *“saved from wrath”* (Romans 5:9), He has also made the way for reconciled sinners (saved people) to

experience the inner peace we all need. Again, this peace is *in Him*. He is our Peace! Look at the New Testament promises of peace:

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

“Be careful [worried] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

The Lord Himself is our Peace, and we must look to Him in order to have His peace. Notice that it is *His peace* (the peace He enjoys) that we experience when we look to Him in faith. It is peace the world cannot understand. This is the peace you need today, Christian. Look to Jehovah for it. Gideon’s altar was called Jehovah-shalom. God is saying, “I AM Peace.”