

The COMPOUND NAMES of GOD

Jehovah Shalom

The Lord is Peace

Part I

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. | **Samuel 17:45**



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(1)

The Power of God's Names

The Foundation Names of God

Elohim: The Strong Creator God

Jehovah: The Relational God

Adonai: The God Who Rules

The Compound Names of God

Jehovah Jireh: The Lord Our Provider

Jehovah Tsaba: The Lord Our Warrior

Jehovah Shalom: The Lord Is Peace

Jehovah Rohi: The Lord My Shepherd

Jehovah Nissi: The Lord My Banner

Jehovah Mekoddishkem: The Lord Who Sanctifies

Jehovah Rapha: The Lord Who Heals

Jehovah Tsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness

El Elyon: The Most High God

El Shaddai: Lord God Almighty

The Incarnational Names of God

Immanuel: God with Us

(2)

God's name that we are going to get to know in this chapter speaks directly to our need for calm, security, and stability. It is the name **Jehovah Shalom**, which means "the Lord is peace."

Chaos or Peace

Many places in Scripture could serve as the backdrop for our understanding of God as the Lord of peace, but I want to look at the only place that the name *Jehovah Shalom* actually appears. It's found in the book of Judges.

Understanding the context of Judges will help us comprehend the meaning of this name.

The book of Judges is a cyclical book. We see a pattern repeat in itself over and over again.

- The Israelites rebel against God through sin.
- Their sin leads to their punishment and discipline.
- This discipline drives them back to repentance.
- God responds to their repentance with deliverance.

The succession is fairly straightforward in Judges: sin, punishment, repentance, deliverance. Over and over, again and again. We discover the name *Jehovah Shalom* as Israel is caught in this very sequence.

Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord;
and the Lord gave them into the hands of Midian seven years. The
power of Midian prevailed against Israel (**Judges 6:1-2**).

The principle is clear: Disobedience disrupts peace (**Isaiah 57:20-21**), but obedience brings peace (**Isaiah 48:18**), and peace accompanies righteousness (**Hebrews 7:2; James 3:18**).

The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of God, so He removed His protective hand from them and allowed the Midianites to take control.

"So Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the sons of Israel cried to the Lord" (**verse 6**).

God recognizes this as well, and He responds. In the next verses we read what He has to say to Israel once He knows He has their ear.

(Verses 7-10)

(3)

The Old Testament refers to this as idolatry. The New Testament often refers to it as worldliness. Worldliness is conformity to the god of culture rather than to the one true God. And idol is never just a tree stump, a cow, or a piece of metal. An idol is that thing you ultimately count on for your provision, direction, and satisfaction.

They did what many of us do without thinking. Too many of us worship the one true God on Sunday, but on Monday we worship something else – money, prestige, fame, comfort, relationships, ourselves...anything that supersedes God’s demands and dictates.

To Be like Mike

Such was the situation for the Israelites. They had become like today’s cultural Christians. They wanted to be like Mike. They wanted to be like the Amorites and the Hittites. Thus God turned them over to those who sought to dominate them.

As a result, the prophet informed them that their present turmoil wasn’t a social problem, a political problem, or a financial problem. Theirs was a spiritual problem resulting from their departure from God.

What do you believe to be the root of America’s problem?

God has allowed them to get so low that He became their only option. Sometimes God lets the same thing happen to us if we’re turning our backs on Him. He lets us go so low that we will know He’s our only way back up.

The Israelites cried out to God because they were in a mess. So the Lord sent an angel to a young man named Gideon.

In this story line of Israel’s struggle to survive, the angel of the Lord appears to Gideon and tells him, “The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior” (**Judges 6:12**)

Have you ever had someone see something in you before you did? Maybe it was a parent, a teacher, a mentor, a spouse, or even a friend. But they saw a talent, skill, or ability in you that you didn’t even know you had, and they told you about it. You rise to a higher level simply because someone believes in you.

The angel of the Lord addressed Gideon as a valiant warrior. Yet Gideon had fought no battles and won no wars. Still, God Himself believed in Gideon and sent the angel to let him know.

(4)

Read Verses 13-17

O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, “Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?” But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian (**verse 13**).

Gideon wants to know if God is for him, then where is He? If God says He’s going to be his God, then why can’t he find Him? If He can do miracles, why is there such a mess?

He needed more than a church service, a three-point sermon, and a song – as evidenced by his accusation, “But now the Lord has abandoned us.”

Gideon needed God.

And God needed Gideon.

“The Lord looked at him and said, ‘Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?’” (**Verse 14**).

Gideon’s response gives us a special insight into his view of himself.

List Gideon’s insufficiencies.

List your insufficiencies.

Basically, Gideon let God know he wasn’t “all that.” He was insignificant. He didn’t have a diploma, a degree, or a high-paying job. Gideon hadn’t been born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

But then again, maybe that’s why God chose him. God often calls the ordinary man or woman to do the extraordinary thing.

“If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who speak with me” (**verse 17**).

Gideon then gathers some meat and unleavened bread, along with some broth. He makes a stew and sets it in front of the angel of the Lord.

(5)

Then the angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight. When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the Lord, he said, "Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face." The Lord said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace (*Jehovah Shalom*) (**verses 21-24**).

Gideon experienced this name of God, *Jehovah Shalom*, when he experienced God's presence. He found peace knowing God was near. He built an altar and named it peace.