

Jehovah Shalom –The Lord Our Peace!

“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.” ²³ The LORD said to him, “**Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die.**” ²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and named it **The LORD is Peace.** To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” (Judges 6:21-24)

Our God is a God of Shalom! “I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel’s mourners,
¹⁹ creating praise on their lips. **Shalom, shalom, to those far and near,**” says the LORD. “**And I will heal them.**” ²⁰ **But the wicked** are like the tossing sea, which **cannot rest**, whose waves cast up mire and mud.
²¹ “**There is no shalom,**” says my God, “**for the wicked.**” (Isaiah 57:18-21)

I) The meaning of “The Lord Our Peace”!

- “Shalom” means fullness of blessings of peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare, tranquility, and rest. In the spirit, soul, and body. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)
- A greeting of “Shalom” means a prayer, a blessing, a deep desire, a benediction for the person you greet.
- “In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O LORD, make me to **dwell in safety.**” (Psalm 4:8)
- “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our **well-being** fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)
- **The Lord is our rest, well-being, safety, and fullness of blessing in our spirit, soul, and body!**

II) What did “Peace” mean for Gideon and the Israelites in Judges 6?

- “The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and **for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites.** ² Because the **power of Midian was so oppressive**, the **Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds.** ³ **Whenever the Israelites planted their crops**, the Midianites, Amalekites and other **eastern peoples invaded the country.** ⁴ They camped on the land and **ruined the crops** all the way to Gaza and **did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys.** ⁵ They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; **they invaded the land to ravage it.** ⁶ **Midian so impoverished the Israelites** that they cried out to the LORD for help.” (Judges 6:1-6).
- **Why?** “The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD,..” Ref: (v. 6:10)
- **Deliverance and safety** from power and oppression of Midianites, Amalekites and others eastern peoples! From fear of the enemy invasion, oppression, and violation, fear of death and harm, fear of impoverishment, and fear of losing everything you work for, and so on.

III) How did Gideon experience “the Lord Our Peace”?

- **Gideon was fearful and wimpy with low self-esteem.** He feared the enemy, self-protective, doubted and did not trust easily, feared threat of harm and death. “...where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.” (Judges 6:11) “But if you are afraid to go down...Purah ” (vs. 7:10-11)
- **Quote: “God often uses the weak, the fearful, and the ill-equipped.** It is in our weakness that He is strong. It is in fearfulness that he proves Himself more than able. And it is in our lacks that He equips us to do exactly what He’s called us to do.”

However,

- **Gideon feared and worshipped God.** (vs. 19,24)
- **At the end of the day, he was always faithful to obey God’s instructions**
 - When God instructed him to tear down the altar of Baal and Asherah! (vs. 6:25-27)
 - When he sounded the trumpet to call out Israel for battle! (vs. 6:33-35)
 - When God said He will use only the 300 who lapped water with their hands. (vs. 7:5-8)