

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)

IV) How can you experience this Shalom? (OT)

- **“The steadfast of mind** You will keep in perfect peace, **because he trusts in You.**
4 **“Trust in the LORD forever,** for in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock. (Isaiah 26:3-4)
- **“And the work of righteousness will be peace, And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.** ¹⁸ Then my people will live in a peaceful habitation, And in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places;” (Isaiah 32:17-18)
- **“ If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river,** your well-being like the waves of the sea.¹⁹ Your descendants would have been like the sand, your children like its numberless grains; their name would never be blotted out nor destroyed from before me.” (Isaiah 48:18-19)
- **“Those who love Your law** have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.” (Psalms 119:165)
- **“Deceit is in the heart** of those who devise evil, But **counselors of peace** have joy.” (Proverbs 12:20)
- He said, “O man of high esteem, **do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!**” Now as soon as he spoke to me, **I received strength** and said, “May my lord speak, **for you have strengthened me.**” (Daniel 10:19)

V) How can you experience this Shalom? (NT)

- Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If possible, **so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.** Romans 12:17-18
- Finally, brethren, **rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.** ¹ 2 Corinthians 13:11-12
- Be anxious for nothing, **but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.** ⁷ **And the peace of God,** which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7
- “How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, **who announces peace and brings good news of happiness,** who announces salvation, and says to Zion, “Your God reigns!” (Isaiah 52:7)
- “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**” (Romans 14:17) Ref: **Be filled and live by Spirit!** (Galatians 5:22-23)
- **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,** to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,** with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ **Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,** giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (Colossians 3:15-17)

VI) Come to Jesus, “The Lord Our Peace”! (Matthew 11:28-30)

- “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;... And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace.**” (Isaiah 9:6) “...**on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.**” (Luke 2:14)
- “**Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you;** not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” (John 14:27)
- “Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**... we exult in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:2)
- “Now **may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,** so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)
- “Now **may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance.** The Lord be with you all!” (2 Thessalonians 3:16)
- **Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ,** the Son of the Father, in truth and love. (2 John 1:3)
- “Now may **the God of peace,** who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, **that great Shepherd of the sheep,** ²¹ **equip you with everything good for doing his will,** and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)