



Kingdom Center - JUSTIN HERNANDEZ

Jehovah Shalom (The Lord is Peace)

I. Introduction

- A. The basic definition of the word “Shalom” is a harmony or reconciliation of relationship based upon the completion of a transaction, the payment of a debt, the giving of satisfaction.
 - 1. Shalom is translated to the word “peace” 170 times in the bible.
 - 2. The word “peace” expresses the deepest desire and need of the human heart. It represents the greatest measure of contentment and satisfaction in life.

II. Chaos or Peace

- A. Let us look at the place where the name Jehovah Shalom actually appears. It is found in the book of Judges.
 - 1. Understanding the context of Judges will help us comprehend the meaning of this name.
 - The previous book, Joshua, tells the story of Joshua leading the Israelites into the Promised Land.
 - Even in the land of promise, the people experienced drama. They had been delivered into their destiny, but they continued to face chaos.
 - Evidently, you can arrive to the place God has for you and still have turmoil.
 - The book of Judges is a cyclical book. We see a pattern repeated over and over again
 - 1. The Israelites rebel against God through sin
 - 2. Their sin leads to their punishment and discipline
 - 3. The discipline drives them back to repentance
 - 4. God responds to their repentance with deliverance
 - The succession is fairly straightforward in Judges: sin, punishment, repentance, deliverance.
 - We discover the name Jehovah Shalom as Israel is caught in this very sequence.
 - 2. Judges 6:1-2
 - Israel had once again rebelled, abasing God, and the result was enslavement to the very enemies they were to triumph over.



- God had told them that He was sending them to the Promised Land, where they could expect to have victory over their enemies
 - Yet because of their disobedience the enemies they were supposed to beat, were actually defeating them.
 - The tables turned because they had rebelled, abasing God, and had done evil in His sight.
- 3. The Principle is this :
 - Disobedience disrupts peace
 - Isaiah 57:20-21
 - But, obedience brings peace
 - Isaiah 48:18
 - And peace accompanies righteousness
 - Hebrews 7:2
 - James 3:18
- B. A big misconception us Christians have about our personal promised land is that we will have no challenges there.
 1. The truth is that you can be in the promised land and, at the same time, be outside of the will of God.
 - You can be where you are supposed to be yet function outside of the will of God.
 - You can be where you are supposed to be, yet still function outside of God's ordained plan.
 - Reaching your destination does not fulfill your destiny. Your destiny includes your heart and your actions at that destination.
 - You can reach your goal, and yet remain defeated simply because you have taken your eyes off of God.
- 2. That is the situation the Israelites found themselves in. The Midianites were enemies of God, yet He allowed them to hold His people hostage for seven long years.
 - It became so bad that the Israelites had to hide for protection
 - Judges 6:2
 - The Midianites did more than just make them hide, they made them hungry, discouraged, and stripped them of their resources.
 - Judges 6:3-5
 - They were like locust, destroying everything including their farmland.



- 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.
 - It must be clear that the Midianites did not overpower the Israelites on their own, God allowed them to.
 - God allowed them to overcome Israel as a consequence of Israel's rebellious actions.
3. The Israelites eventually did what God had hoped they would do— they remembered Him.
- Judges 6:6
 - Often times, people finally cry out to God when they are in serious turmoil. Prayer is no longer a “cute” spiritual ritual, it no longer is a going-through-the-motions type prayer, it becomes a cry for help; a cry for intervention.
 - God recognizes this and answers to them
 - Judges 6:7-10
 - God reminds His people that He was the one who saved, delivered, released, sustained, and protected them.
 - Yet, despite His gentle hand, they turned away from Him and adopted the culture of foreign gods.
 - The old testament refers to this as idolatry. The New Testament refers to it as worldliness
 - Worldliness is the conformity to the god of culture rather than to the One True God.
 - An idol is something you count on for provision, direction, and satisfaction.
 - Israel stopped looking to God as the one and only divine creator of the universe. Instead, they just added Him to their collection of gods.
 - The Israelites had neglected to realize that the God who was good enough and powerful enough to get them out of Egypt could also sustain them in Canaan.
 - They did what many people do, worship God on Sunday but starting Monday we worship something else.
 - Money, prestige, fame, comfort, relationships, ourselves
 - Anything that supersedes God's demands and dictates our lives
 - Its voice becomes louder than His
 - This is where we begin to doubt that the God who freed us, is able to sustain us.

III. The problem with wanting to be a Culture Christian



A. The Israelites wanted to be like the Amorites and the Hittites. As a result, the prophet informed them that their present turmoil wasn't a social problem, a political problem, or even a financial problem. This was a spiritual problem, resulting in departure from God.

1. It was the "mystery of lawlessness"

- 2 Thessalonians 2:7

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

2. Judges 6:11-12

- Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress in order to hide it from the Midianites. No one separates chaff from wheat in a winepress.
- A wine press is where you make wine, yet Gideon chose to do his chores here because he was trying to survive.
- He felt that the Midianites would be less likely to discover his wheat in the winepress.

- Judges 6:12

- The angel of the Lord addressed Gideon as a valiant warrior. Yet Gideon had not fought one battle

- In fact, we find him hiding out in a winepress in the previous verse.

- Gideon's doubtful response echoes our own when we hear God's plan for our lives and the promises and hope He holds for a future.

- Judges 6:13

- Gideon wanted to know where God had been

- Where were all the miracles he had heard about? And why was there such a mess?

- Gideon needed God.

- God planned on delivering the Israelites from the Midianites through this young man

- Judges 6:14

- Gideon's response allows us to see how he viewed himself

- Judges 6:15

- He was pretty much letting God know that he wasn't all that, he saw himself as insignificant

- God often calls ordinary men or women to do extraordinary things



- This is because the ordinary man or woman understands that they can not do it
 - as shown by Gideons request
- Judges 6:17
- 3. Gideon then gathers some meat and unleavened bread, along with some broth and set it before the Angel of the Lord.
 - Judges 6:21-24
 - 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.

IV. What is Peace?

A. Lets answer that question by stating what peace isn't:

1. Its not a truce or cease-fire
 - A lot of people in a cease fire live in a cold war
 - They may not be fighting or fussing at each other, but it doesn't mean they are talking to each other
 - We must not be satisfied with a truce and then call it peace.
2. Calm is not peace.
 - Peace is bigger than calmness. The word "Shalom" means wholeness, completeness, or well-being.
 - Shalom means having things properly aligned and ordered.
 - It means harmony and balance, it is more than just feeling good at a particular moment
3. Peace is more than happiness
 - Happiness depends on what happens; Peace is not tied to circumstances
 - Peace has to do with well-being despite circumstances
 - A person who is at peace, is stable, calm, orderly, and at rest within.
 - Being at peace doesn't mean you are calm when everything around you is calm. Being at peace means you are at rest despite what is going on all around you.
 - Nothing looks right, nothing looks promising, all is dark, but in those situations true peace wins the battle.
 - This is because the tranquility on the inside eases your mind despite the chaos on the outside.
4. John 16:33
 - We are to expect bad days, weeks, or even months in this life.



- Jesus reminds us of what the angel of the Lord told Gideon— peace is not defined by your circumstances.
 - It is one thing for the world to be falling apart, it is another thing for you to be falling apart with it.
 - We can not control the world but rather we can control how we respond to it
5. Health may decline, the economy may take a hit, situations will arise, “But take courage.” Jesus says. “I have overcome the world.”
- We enter into the name Jehovah Shalom standing firmly in faith in our connection to Jesus Christ, as we usher in light where there was once darkness.
 - Jehovah Shalom brings something that eludes many who face trials today, and that is rest.
 - Shalom tells us that the secret to victory over life drama is God himself.
 - We can find this peace in the person of Christ
 - Matthew 11:28-29
 - Jesus is the prince of peace (Isaiah 6:9)
 - He has left us His peace (John 14:27)
 - The peace of Jesus is accessible through intimacy, through abiding in Him.
 - By wearing Christ’s yoke in faith, you will find shalom in His sufficiency to will and to work all of God’s good pleasure in you and through you.
6. Knowing the truth and aligning yourself and your thoughts with the truth, are powerful ways in which we experience peace.
- In order to transform what you do, you must first transform how you think.
 - For Gideon that wasn’t only knowing that God was with him, but also that He was for him.
 - There was still an issue, yet before Gideon dealt with the issue in the physical realm, he made an altar to worship the Victor in the spiritual realm.
 - On the altar he praised God for his peace, not because his situation had changed , but because God showed upon in the midst of the situation.
 - Gideon accepted his role as warrior and leader of God’s army
 - God didn’t need 30,000 men, He needed 300 men
 - In the process of asking Gideon to reduce his numbers once again God gave Gideon peace
 - He did this by imparting wisdom and insight— He told Gideon a secret
 - Judges 7:9-11,15



- He gave Gideon peace by giving him insight into the mind of the enemy, who was afraid
- 7. If presence is the key to our peace, how do we abide in it?
 - Paul tell us a secret to experiencing Jehovah shalom
 - Romans 8:5-6
 - Paul instructs us that if we want to have peace, we have to adjust our thinking
 - Peace begins with having a proper mindset
 - God promises to keep those in perfect peace whose minds are set on him (Isaiah 26:3)
 - When the right mindset is followed up with the appropriate action, peace is the outcome. (Leviticus 26:3,6 ; Isaiah 48:18)
 - The mind that is set on the spirit is that which seeks to align its thoughts underneath God's point of view— it is a mind full of peace
 - The mind set on the flesh is death. Death is ultimately a separation from God.
 - The mind set on human point of view is a carnal mind— a mind that doesn't bring peace

V. Conclusion

- A. Only one person can give you true peace, Jehovah Shalom
 - True peace comes in obedience and in abiding