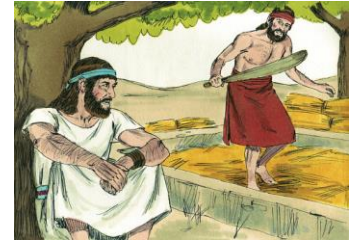


THE NAME JEHOVAH

4. Jehovah Shalom

Leader's Notes



The next covenantal name for God we are going to look at is 'The One who is our Peace' or 'Jehovah Shalom'. We see this name revealed in the Book of Judges in the life of Gideon.

At this time the Midianites were oppressing the Children of Israel. Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to hide from the Midianites, when an angel appeared to him, telling him God would use him to deliver the Israelites. Wanting to be sure this really was a messenger from God, Gideon asked for a sign. Let's read the story.

SCRIPTURE READING: Judges 6:11-24

- ✧ Why do you think Gideon asked the angel for a sign? V17 Discuss.
(The Midianites were far more powerful than the Israelites, so the thought of fighting against them would have terrified Gideon. He wanted to be very sure that this is what God was telling him to do!)

- ✧ What sign did the angel give? V20-21 Why would this have been significant to Gideon do you think?
(The angel told Gideon to place the meat and bread he had prepared on a rock and pour out the broth. Then the angel touched the meat and bread with the tip of his staff and fire consumed them. This would have reminded Gideon of how the sacrifice in the tabernacle had been consumed by fire. Only God could do this!)

At this time the people believed they would die if they saw an angel, so when Gideon realized he had encountered an Angel of the Lord, he was afraid.

- ✧ What comfort did God give Gideon and how did he respond? V23-24
(God said to Gideon, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." In response Gideon built an altar to the Lord.)

- ✧ Why do you think Gideon called the altar 'The Lord is Peace'? v24

As an Israelite, Gideon lived under the Old Testament covenant. Sadly because of their unfaithfulness to God the people were being oppressed by the Midianites, and they were not experiencing the blessings and promises God had given them. However when Gideon encountered the Angel of the Lord he had a revelation of the Lord as the one who gives peace. The Lord himself was his peace.

There are several ways in which we all need peace. Firstly, we need peace with God.

- ✧ What provision has God made for us, so we can have peace with him? Romans 5:1, Colossians 1:19-20
(We have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. He shed his blood as a sacrifice for man's sin, and when we believe and receive what God has done for us, our relationship with God is restored. We have peace with God.)

When we have peace with God, we can experience the peace of God in the midst of difficult situations, just as Gideon did.

- ✧ What do you think the name 'Jehovah Shalom' or 'The Lord is Peace' meant to Gideon? Share your thoughts.
- ✧ What promises did Jesus give to those who believe in him? John 14:27, John 16:33
(He will give us peace, even in the midst of trouble.)
- ✧ Share a difficult situation you have gone through when you experienced this kind of peace.

CONCLUSION

Gideon was living in a difficult time, and his people were in fear of the Midianites who stole their crops and livestock, leaving them impoverished. However, when Gideon encountered the Angel from God he had a revelation that the Lord himself was the source of his peace.

In the same way, Jesus is our peace. When we accept the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, we have peace with God, and the assurance that his peace is available in every situation we face in life. If you are going through a difficult time, facing conflict and loss like Gideon was, God wants to give you his peace. This peace is not dependent on circumstances, but an inner peace that no one can take away. And the reason why no one can take away this peace is because JESUS HIMSELF IS OUR PEACE. (Ephesians 2:14)