

Names of God, X, From Judges 6:11-24,

YHWH Shalom (YHWH is peace or YHWH of peace): July 21, 2019

In Israel, people greet one another saying “Shalom” for hello and goodbye. Israelis sing the folk song, *Hevenu Shalom Aleichem*, (we bring peace to you) to welcome people. It’s a glimpse of how important peace, or *Shalom*, which means, peace, order and harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, and tranquility to the Hebrew soul. There is another *Shalom Aleichem* song for Sabbath service which mothers often sing to their children at bedtime. The Sabbath greeting is *Shabbat Shalom*, or “Sabbath of Peace!” A very scant and skinny English equivalent to Hebrew, *Shalom* would be, “it is well.”

Our study of God’s names (This is name 11) is to get to know God the way He chose to introduce Himself to us. Today’s name is Shalom. Each name for God in the Bible is another way of God saying, “Hello, I’m...”

We’ve covered God’s title, Elohim, His name as YHWH, and YHWH Jireh, provider, YHWH Ropheyka, Your Healer, YHWH Nissi, My Banner, YHWH Sabaoth, of the armies, YHWH Makkadeshkem, makes you all holy, Abba, Father, YHWH Roi, My shepherd, YHWH Qanna, Jehovah the Jealous One, and this, YHWH-Shalom which means “God is peace” or “God of Peace.” God extends His hand and says, “Hello, I am YHWH Shalom, or Yahweh Peace.”

Hebrew Names of God ·

יהוה שלום

Jehovah Shalom – The Lord is Peace

This as God’s name is what Gideon discovered about God when he expected God to hurt him or kill him. He found out that God sought Him out for *shalom*. Gideon’s *shalom* would bring the same peace to the nation in the direst straits and turmoil.

“God of peace” is repeated in the New Testament regarding the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, “*the God of peace*” (Romans 15:33, 1 Thessalonians 5:23), “*God of love and peace*” 2 Corinthians 13:11) and “*the Lord of peace*” (2 Thessalonians 3:16). Jesus said, “*in me you might have peace*” (John 16:33), and “*the fruit of the Spirit is...peace*” (Galatians 5:23). God’s name of peace has much to say.

Shalom means Peace. What a loaded word however applied, whether it’s world peace, inner peace, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peace between two who disagree, and the peaceful times when things are quiet, undisturbed, and one can escape from strife.

Most everyone agrees that peace is important, *but why then is there so little of it?* Not a complex answer, **No God, no Peace, know God, know peace.**

Book of Judges chapter 6. Israel abandoned God for idols, a major act of disrespect, and insult to God who freed them from Egypt. They looked to other gods for protection, therefore God removed His protection. They were constantly under attack by the nations Midian and Amalek every year at harvest, they were without *shalom* when they stopped knowing God. No God, no peace. So bad their state of no *shalom* they dug out and hid themselves and their crops in holes when attackers came in hordes on camels. Israelites cried out for help to God who never resists a desperate heart cry for mercy. He chose Gideon to liberate them to restore *shalom*.

Like Gideon, know God in peace, *shalom*. Know God, know peace. Encounter God, get His vision for you, let that vision lead you to shalom, and the person changed

by shalom brings shalom to change the world. This begins as we Find God as our *shalom*.

1 . Encounter YHWH-Shalom, and His shalom vision for you.

11 Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine-press to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." 13 And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying,

Life Changer:

It's His vision
for each of us that
defies the lies
we believe about ourselves.
Get the message,
learn what God thinks of you:
Defy every lie

'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."

It's important to hear God's message for each of us. This is a life changer: His vision for each of us defies the lies we believe about ourselves. Learn what God thinks of you. Defy every lie.

The Fallacy of Believing what we Feel Instead of what is True

In this text, "Angel of YHWH" appears 6 times, in Hebrew "*Mal'akh YHWH*." *Mal'akh* means "messenger" or "angel" but often when *Mal'akh* appears with God's covenant name, *YHWH*, it's usually Jesus with the message. Gideon had and we must have an encounter with Jesus and get the real message he has for us. What He said to Gideon was the truth, *God with Him and He was brave*. God's vision for Gideon was a brave man accompanied by God. But Gideon, threshing wheat in a wine pit, hiding in fear, believed a lie that he had to hide for his life and God abandoned him. He repeated to God not the truth but the lie that he *felt* was true, "*the LORD has forsaken us.*" How often do we believe what *feels* true rather than what God says about us? When one encounters God, He speaks truth to the lies our emotions believe, to believe in our heart what God says. Get the real message. Know God's vision for you. Defy every lie.

2 . God's vision leads us to Shalom

14 And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" 15 And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." 16 And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." 17 And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. 18 Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return." 19 So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. 20 And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. 21 Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the

rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.



The wood the rock and fire take us to shalom.

The prophetic imagery is unmistakable. We can ascertain that in a *pre-incarnate* (before he was born into a human body) appearance of Christ, the wood represents the cross, and as the New Testament says, “The rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:4), and “our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29). Gideon went back and forth, God speaking truth, Gideon repeating the lies his emotions believed until he believed totally. Sometimes we must go back and forth with the lies our emotions believe to to replace them with the *shalom* truth in our emotions, in the soul, in the heart. Sometimes one must fight for peace in the soul. God is willing to go back and forth and let one spew the lies to Him. For one who is ready to change, after spewing lies, God will replace them with truth, time after time. He was honest with God about the lies he felt were true and God replaced the lies with His presence, and replaced his fear with hope. It’s ok to bare every feeling before God, yes, He can take it.

In verses 14-21 Gideon went back and forth with God, repeating the lies his emotions believed that robbed his peace/*shalom*, and God continued speak truth to Him. Gideon knew the history of Israel’s past victories when they were with God. His head knew the truth but his heart was not convinced that God would do for he and his generation what He’d done before.

The Turning Point of Worship

But Gideon made a powerful choice. He chose to worship, with the sacrifice of the goat, the bread, and the broth. After Gideon worshiped, God convinced him with fire from the rock when the “Angel of Yahweh” touched it with the wood, again, the wood of the cross, the rock that is Christ, and the fire of God that transforms the soul.

When we have a lack of peace, *shalom* seems distant, rather than turn our backs on God we can keep laying out our emotional case of doubt to Him, and then ask Him to speak truth. He will, especially when one comes to God in sincere worship. Once a person makes a conscious choice to worship God, not just repeat a ritual, a transformation begins. To recognize God as the One who loves us, as holy with no equal, as all powerful, and as majestic in glory and splendor places a person in one’s true status, belonging to Almighty God, under His shadow of protection and mission. It begins with the wood of the cross, the solid rock, Jesus, and God’s fire to burn in us! It is when our mind *and* emotions embrace truth that we start on the path of *shalom*. Have you been touched by the wood of the Old Rugged Cross? Have you put your faith in Jesus, the Solid Rock? If so, all sin vanishes like mist in bright sunlight and the promise of rock solid stability in the soul is near as ever Have we let Him set our hearts on fire?

3 . The person changed by Shalom brings change toward Shalom.

22 Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” 23 But the LORD said to him, “Peace (shalom) be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace (YHWH Shalom). To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

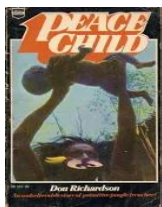


To meet God on improper terms can be deadly. Gideon knew it but

God assured Him that His presence was *shalom*. Those who find *shalom* will bring *Shalom*. After the necessary transforming encounter with YHWH, Gideon knew God as His source of *shalom* even though nothing had *yet* changed. But things would change. When a person finds *Shalom* things will change because the person has changed. Gideon would become a great hero of Israel. He began a career of battle and leadership that saved his nation. He would liberate them from the fearful existence of living in holes and they'd go on to obliterate their tormentors. How is your situation? It is well? Is there *shalom*? If it is well, know that God has made it so. If things aren't so well remember that our God is Gideon's God. His name is peace/*shalom* even when all is crazy. 1st, encounter with Him, and then... *Hevenu shalom* (we bring peace) to conflicts, order to lives out of control, production and prosperity to deficiency and want, motivation to the uninspired who quit caring, calm to agitation, discipline to the unruly, security to the insecure, and wholeness to the needy by bringing Shalom truth to the lie. It's knowing that if we made peace/*shalom* with the Father, Son, and Spirit, the 3 say as one God, *Hevenu shalom Aleichem* (We bring peace to all of you!).

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace (shalom) with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). So have faith that justifies, meaning declared “Not Guilty!” and encounter YHWH-Shalom. Believe His vision for you, take the path of shalom, and bring world changing shalom to the world. *Shalom Aleichem!*

The Peace Child



Don and Carol Richardson almost gave up serving as missionaries with the warring cannibals from the Sawi tribe of Irian Jaya. The Sawi esteemed and admired traitors. Judas was the hero when they first heard the gospel story. But as they suffered from unending war, they had to find a solution. Their sacred lore required that only one act could bring peace. One chief had to give his cherished boy to the other, called, *The Peace Child*. As long as the Peace Child lived, conflict was resolved, those at war were friends and allies. To betray the Peace Child was the lowest form of life. Richardson told the warring Sawi clans that Jesus is God's peace child and he lives forevermore. The tribe accepted Jesus Christ as the Peace Child of God to humanity. They changed from cannibalism to education and technology and the following generations have leadership roles in their country even today.

A biblical recipe for Shalom

We all want inner peace. Most therapists say that lack of peace inside comes from wishing things were different, worry, control, anxiety, conflict, and guilt. The old Serenity prayer asks God to accept what I can't change, change what I can, and for wisdom to know the difference. Worry and feeling powerless rob so much peace. That's because we just don't know how much we mean to God. Jesus said not to worry because the Father cares for us, ***“Don't worry”*** (Matthew 6:25), ***“Your Father knows”*** (Matthew 6:32). The forgiveness that comes from the blood of Jesus is the solution to guilt and conflict for those who not only want to be forgiven but are willing to forgive, ***“forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors”*** (Matthew 6:12).

Creating and Keeping Shalom

Aristotle said, “It is more important to organize the peace.” Peacemaking is a quality of a child of God according to Jesus, ***“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God”*** (Matthew 5:9). Former president of the US Richard Nixon said,

“The greatest honor history can bestow is that of a peacemaker.” Many would venture to say what a peace maker is, or what one does, but the early church story of Telemachus shows it graphically and with drama.



Telemachus was a travelling monk. Coming from the east he wandered into the coliseum during a gladiator match on January 1, 404. What he saw repulsed him. He went into the arena, a lone robed figure in the bloody sand among the gladiators and demanded a stop to the games. The crowd stoned Telemachus to death and the scene so moved Honorius the emperor that he banned gladiator matches from the Roman Empire. This was the last

gladiator match. Theodoret of Cyrus later recorded the event (Theodoret of Cyrus. *Chapter XXVI.—Of Honorius the*

emperor and Telemachus the monk. The Ecclesiastical History. Book V: Chapter XXVI. In: Philip Schaff (1819-1893) (Ed.). NPNF (V2-03). p.264.)

Peacekeeping is the glue to unity according to the New Testament **“Maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”** (Ephesians 4:3). The usual image of a peacekeeper is a blue helmeted UN soldier that stands between two parties that want to kill one another with the possibility of using force to keep them from using force. It could also be the picture of two pit bull owners keeping the dogs from tearing each other apart by having them chained out of reach from one another. There is only physical peace in both cases. Remove the restraints, and peace would be gone. Biblical peacekeeping is much different. It is making sure that the existing unity continue, not by force, but maintaining a spiritual focus together. The same passage in Ephesians 4 calls for humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with others in love. It is the important task of relationally creating the ambience for understanding, to continue an ongoing spiritual mission. The spiritual mission ends up being unity with the same hope, faith, and initiation into the Lord Jesus Christ. When two believers disagree, Jesus requires them to step toward peace saying, **“reconcile with your brother”** (Matthew 5:25).

Extreme Shalom for Extreme Anxiety

The bible says to confront the often powerful force of anxiety, **“do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 4:6-7). That is extreme *shalom*.

- Hebrew Names of God -

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YHWH Shalom of Gideon is also our YHWH Shalom, Father, Son, and Spirit. Because of the cross and the risen Peace Child, YHWH Shalom says, *Shalom Aleichem!*

Jehovah Shalom - The Lord is Peace