**God Reveals Himself in Names – Yahweh Shalom – Part 2**

(Judges 6:17-32)

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the last lesson we began by considering the background matters leading up to the revelation of this name.
2. In that lesson we looked at:
	1. How Israel though living in the Promised Land was brought low because they had forgotten God, rebelled, and served idols.
	2. We also saw how Israel then cried out to God for deliverance and He responded by *sending a prophet* that they might *know why they needed delivering*—which meant *acknowledging their sin*—which is vitally important for anyone seeking God’s deliverance!
	3. We saw how after this God sent an angel and chose an unlikely deliverer in **Gideon**, a man who was living in fear of the Midianites, which shows that God sees us differently than we see ourselves—He sees victorious warriors when we see losers!
	4. We saw how God promised through this angel to be with Gideon and that the Midianites would be defeated, which tells us that with God on our side, we can be victorious even when we feel ourselves ill-equipped!
3. Today I want to finish our study of *Yahweh Shalom*, **the Lord is Peace**, by considering the actual revelation of this name and what it meant for Gideon and Israel, as well as what it means for us.
4. To do that we pick up in this account with Gideon’s interaction with God and how he desires assurances from God that he is to be Israel’s deliverer.

BODY:

1. **Gideon seeks assurance** (6:17-21).

* 1. Though the angel *said* he spoke for God, Gideon asked for proof, a sign, that it was truly God’s word that was being spoken to him by this angel (6:17-18).

* + 1. This did not show a lack of faith on Gideon’s part.

* + - 1. We must remember that angels did not appear with halos, wings, etc., but as people.
			2. Gideon rightly desired assurances that what was being said was from God—that he was not being coerced or deceived.
		1. So many would benefit from being more like Gideon in seeking out whether what they are hearing from those who preach in the name of God *is actually from God!* (Gal. 1:8-9 – “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!”).

* 1. When Gideon provided the sacrifice, God provided the assurances (6:19-21).

* + 1. Gideon was willing to make a *substantial sacrifice* to gain God’s assurance and received it.

* + - 1. Sacrifice: A *young goat* and *unleavened bread* made from an *ephah of flour* (93 cups of flour, 25lbs), which is amazing considering Israel was being oppressed and most of their livestock and grain were being stolen by the Midianites!
				1. This reasonwhy so many are willing to accept what is preached to them—they do not want to make the sacrifice of time/effort necessary to know the truth.
				2. Lesson: Just as Gideon sacrificed to know God’s truth, we must be willing to make the same sacrifice, to be *all in*, if we hope to know God and His salvation! (2 Tim. 2:15 – “Be **diligent** to present yourself approved to God as a **workman** who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”).
			2. God provided assurances by fire miraculously springing up from the rock and consuming the sacrifice and the immediate disappearance of the angel.
				1. This is significant because this was not the first time God had provided assurances for His people; assurances as miracles which Gideon knew of and mentioned earlier!
				2. So, what we are seeing here is God’s grace and forbearance in His willingness to provide yet another sign for His weak and fearful people!
		1. Before we lament our lack of miraculous signs today, remember that God has not left us without assurances, without proof.

* + - 1. Paul spoke of such assurances:
				1. To those at Lystra (Acts 14:16-17 – “In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; 17 and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”).
				2. To the Romans (Rom. 1:20 – “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly seen**, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”).
			2. God has provided a far greater assurance for us in sending His Son to live as a human, die on a cross, and be **raised to life** again so we can have forgiveness and freedom (Matt. 12:38-40 – “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” 39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but **the sign of Jonah the prophet**; 40 for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, **so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth**.”).
			3. We have the **word** readily available (John 20:30-31 – “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but **these have been written** so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”).
				1. Though we are tempted to dismiss these, seeing we haven’t seen them.
				2. If they are so flimsy, why was John so willing to present them as indisputable truth to the very Jews who lived during the time of Jesus?
1. **Yahweh Shalom, “the Lord is peace,” revealed (6:22-24).**

* 1. Gideon **experienced** *Yahweh Shalom* through God’s assurances that showed him God had spoken to him and was with him (6:22-23).

* + 1. Note that fear of God preceded peace from God.

* + - 1. Gideon feared for his life because he had seen God’s angel, but God assured him.
			2. Fear is exactly what God’s holy presence should produce in the heart of sinful people.
			3. Consider how it affected Isaiah (Isa. 6:5 – “Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”).
		1. Lesson: If we hope to have God’s holy presence in our lives, there must be a fearful acknowledgment of our sinfulness and its condemnation.

* 1. God’s assurances caused Gideon to build an altar to honor how “the Lord is Peace” (6:24).

* + 1. Gideon had awakened to the truth that the Lord is Israel’s only hope for peace!

* + - 1. That is a conviction all God’s people need to have and trust (Phil. 4:12-13 – “I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me**.”).
		1. Something else to ponder is that Gideon built an altar and named it “the Lord is Peace” when, at this point in time, Israel had no peace.
			1. Nothing concerning Israel’s physical state had changed! The Midianites had not been dealt with or defeated!
			2. Lesson: Like Gideon, before we can have peace in the physical realm, we must seek peace with God in the spiritual realm.

* + - * 1. That is a lesson so many have failed to learn, whether churches or individuals!
				2. Churches today approach saving the world by trying to bring peace to people’s physical world through benevolence, recreation, socializing, etc., before ever addressing their spiritual needs!
				3. Until one is willing to gain peace with God by addressing his/her sin, their heart will never know true peace (Romans 8:5-6 – “For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, **but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace**.”).
1. **For the Lord to be your peace requires commitment.**

* 1. God required the same night of Gideon’s realization that “the Lord is Peace” to begin tearing down Israel’s idols (6:25-27).

* + 1. God would not coexist with Israel’s idols!

* + 1. For Gideon to be God’s deliverer, idols had to be first removed from Gideon’s own house.

* + - 1. Reminds us of Jesus’ words (Matt. 7:3-5 – “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”).
			2. Granted, Israel had more than speck in their eye. They had a “beam.”
			3. But Gideon had that same “beam” of sin in his eye and it needed to be removed first, as does the sin in our lives if we hope to gain peace from God! We must do our part!
	1. What Yahweh Shalom, *the Lord is Peace*, required of Gideon was difficult (6:28-32).

* + 1. Gideon had to stand against his family and fellow Israelites (6:28-30).

* + - 1. Peace from God is not found in everything being easy, cushy!
			2. Although Deut. 13 says that death is the punishment for committing idolatry, the Israelites wanted to kill Gideon for destroying their idols!
			3. Seeking God today can be met with similar anger and aggression! (Matt. 10:34-37 – “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 36 and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household. 37 “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”).
			4. The reality of resistance and harm must not stop us from serving God!
		1. Godly courage promotes godly courage. For, Gideon’s stand caused his father to stand up for his righteous actions as well (6:31-32).

* + 1. Despite the attitudes of the people (i.e., they are still defending idolatry), God’s amazing grace is seen in His persistent desire to deliver them!

* + - 1. These people wanted to kill Gideon, the very one being sent by God to save them!
				1. God saved them by the faith of Gideon and others, delivering them from oppression by bringing fear/confusion on the Midianites and a great slaughter that followed.
				2. As a result of God’s deliverance, Israel had peace for 40 years.
			2. That attitude of rebellion returned and continued in Israel until they finally did put to death God’s deliverer, Jesus, whom He sent to bring them eternal redemption!
			3. It was through Jesus’ *death* and *resurrection* that God has provided freedom, not from physical oppression, but from sin and condemnation, bringing **peace** and **hope** to all who will trust in Him!

CONCLUSION:

1. Do you want peace?
2. If so, you need to get to know *Jehovah Shalom*, that truly *the Lord truly is peace*.
3. Will you trust in Christ, repent of your sins, confess your faith in Christ, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins?
4. If you want the Lord to be your peace, please come as we stand and sing!