

Judges 6:1-24

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 winepress 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, sir, 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, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” 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 speaks 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 flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. 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 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. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

All Scripture taken from the English Standard Version.

Getting to Know God

Lesson #5

Jehovah Shalom — God our Peace



Judges 6:21-24

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God our Peace

“The peace of God is that eternal calm which lies far too deep in the praying, trusting soul to be reached by any external disturbances.”

(A. T. Pierson)

Peace Defined from an Author Unknown

*In the center of the whirlpool, while the waters rush around,
There's a space of perfect stillness, though with turmoil it is bound;
All is calm, and all is quiet, scarcely e'en a sense of sound.
So with us—despite the conflict—when in Christ His peace is found.*

“Shalom”

- The word, as a noun, means completeness, health and welfare.
 - The word indicates a state of ease, both inwardly and outwardly as well as emotionally and spiritually.
- The word, as a verb, means to be completed, finished and to make peace.

Gideon's Peace

- Gideon questioned the angel of the Lord regarding the state of the nation of Israel (Judges 6:11-13).
 - Israel's problem was not the Midianites, it was their sin and turning away from God (Judges 2:11; 3:7; 4:1; 6:1; 8:33; 10:6; 13:1).
- Gideon makes excuses for himself (Judges 6:14-16).
- Gideon request a sign and receives an answer (Judges 6:17-21).
- Gideon built an altar and proclaimed the altar as “Jehovah Shalom” (Judges 6:24).

The Results of Finding Peace

- Gideon, the least of the house in the weakest tribe, led 300 men to conquer tens of thousands (Judges 7, 8).
- “And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon...” (Hebrews 11:32)

“Here I am at sixty-five, still seeking for peace.”

(H. G. Wells)

The Peace a Christian finds in Jehovah

- **Can peace be achieved?**
 - Peace can be achieved for the child of God (Philippians 4:7), the follower of Christ (John 14:27) and the one possessing the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).
- **Peace in Christ!**
 - Peace in Christ was predicted 700 years before his birth (Isaiah 9:6).
 - Christ was the sacrifice that brought us peace (Isaiah 53:5).
 - Christ took it upon himself to make peace (Colossians 1:20).
 - (Ephesians 2:11-22)
- **Peace Encouraged!**
 - “Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, **live in peace**; and the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11, *Emphasis Mine*)
 - “So flee youthful passions and **pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace**, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22, *Emphasis Mine*)
 - “So then let us **pursue what makes for peace** and for mutual upbuilding.” (Romans 14:19, *Emphasis Mine*)
- **Becoming a Person of Peace**
 - Believe in peace — “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)
 - Make a place for peace — “And let ^bthe peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)
 - Try — “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.” (Romans 12:18)
 - Speak words of peace — “And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.” (Ephesians 2:17)