

# Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor

# OUR GREAT GOD

THE NAMES OF GOD

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יהוה שלום

## Jehovah Shalom – The Lord Our Peace

*“So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD,  
and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace (Hebrew Jehovah Shalom).”  
(Judges 6:24)*

A well-known statement goes like this: **“No God, no peace. Know God, Know peace.”** Our society has walked further and further from knowing God, and therefore peace is absent in every area of life.

Tony Evans says, “Our world is rife with war, terrorism, and crime. Closer to home, we often see conflict in our own churches through socioeconomic, denominational, or racial divides. Sometimes turmoil appears in our work situations simply because we get overwhelmed trying to meet the needs and demands of so many people with so many expectations. Our homes are also full of turmoil, as evidenced by the divorce rate. Many couples today seem to be married by the secretary of defense rather than the justice of the peace, creating a battleground where arguments, misunderstandings, neglect, and even physical and emotional abuse take place. Yet the worst turmoil of all often takes place in one’s own soul. This happens when you can’t seem to live with yourself, when your own pain, anxiety, depression, and regret eat you up, leaving you with an unsettled ache. You are at war within. Whether it’s in the heart, the home, the church, or the broader society, turmoil rules today.”<sup>i</sup>

*But the wicked are like the tossing sea,  
For it cannot be quiet,  
And its waters toss up refuse and mud.  
“There is no peace,” says my God,  
“for the wicked.” (Isa. 57:20-21)*

The theme book of Judges could be described with one word - **“CYCLES”** – because the nation of Israel would go through the same cycle over and over again: 1) They would sin, rebel against God and even worship other idols; 2) God would permit a neighboring nation to oppress Israel, and thus discipline His people; 3) Israel would repent and call out to God to help them; and 4) God would raise up a “Judge” or a deliverer to rescue His people. However Judges 21:25 is the theme verse for the book: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” The same could be said for America today.

David Wilkerson writes, “Why did the people have to endure constant distress? It was because of their continual idolatry. They acted holy before God, offering up prayers of weeping and intercession. But as soon as their prayer meetings ended, they sneaked off to kneel before their altars of Baal. In fact, throughout those seven years of raids from the Midianites, Gideon’s father, Joash, kept an altar to Baal in his backyard. Why would any Israelite do such a thing? He did so because, like the other Israelites, he was jealous of the prosperity the Midianites enjoyed. The Israelites reasoned, ‘Our enemies are prospering. They have our fruit and provisions. Their god provides them with everything while we sit here starving. Those Midianites must have one powerful god. Obviously, we can’t afford to offend him.’ So the Lord’s people became hypocrites, two-faced worshipers. They gave lip service to Jehovah while paying tribute to another god.”<sup>ii</sup>

## Applications from Judges 6-7:

### 1) God sees in you what you can be, not just what you currently are.

*Judges 6:12 – And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" Joel 3:10 – Let the weak say, "I am strong."*

### 2) God leads today through the inward witness of the Holy Spirit, not through the fleece.

See Judges 6:36-40. *Romans 8:14, 16 - <sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God... <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

### 3) God plus you are a majority.

*See Judges 7:3 and 7 – The army went from 32,000 to 300. They conquered an immeasurable army (Judges 7:12).*

## What is Shalom?

The word shalom is very important. It is used 170 times throughout the Bible, and, when translated, it simply means “peace.” The prophet Isaiah announced that Jesus would come as “the Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Jerusalem, Jesus’ city, means “the city of peace,” or “the possession of peace.”

“What is peace? We can begin to answer that question by saying what peace is not. It’s not a truce or a 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 that doesn’t mean they’re talking to each other either. Unfortunately, too many people equate a cold war with peace. That’s merely a truce. Peace is bigger than calm. The word shalom means ‘wholeness, completeness, or well-being.’ It means having things properly aligned and ordered. Or as we say today, peace means no more drama. It means harmony and balance. It means more than just feeling good at a particular moment. It even means more than happiness.”<sup>iii</sup>

## Jesus is our Shalom

“Do you remember how the angelic messengers heralded the coming of Christ? **"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased"** ([Luke 2:14](#)). In [John 14:27](#), Jesus promises His followers that He would give them peace of a different quality than what the world offered. Jesus is the Prince of Peace promised by the prophet Isaiah ([Isa. 9:6](#)); therefore, He alone can give us peace; He alone can reconcile sinners to a holy God. He lived a life without sin, and therefore He alone is qualified to pay the transaction price to reconcile man to God ([2 Cor. 5:21](#)). If you want to experience Jehovah Shalom, you must turn from your sin and accept Jesus' payment for your sin by inviting Him to come into your life.”<sup>iv</sup> Jesus said clearly, **"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world"** ([John 16:33](#))

<sup>i</sup> Tony Evans, *The Power of God’s Names* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2014), under “Jehovah Shalom”.

<sup>ii</sup> David Wilkerson, *Knowing God by Name* (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen, 2014), under “Jehovah Shalom”.

<sup>iii</sup> Evans, *ibid.*

<sup>iv</sup> Ken Hemphill, *The Names of God* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2001), 133-146.