

BE ROOTED, KNOW GOD BY HIS NAMES: YAHWEH SHALOM

December 27, 2020

WORSHIP

Angels We Have
Heard on High
/King of Heaven,
In Control,
We Praise You

WELCOME

What symbol of peace do you know of? Why do you think it's used as such? Share to the group.

WORD

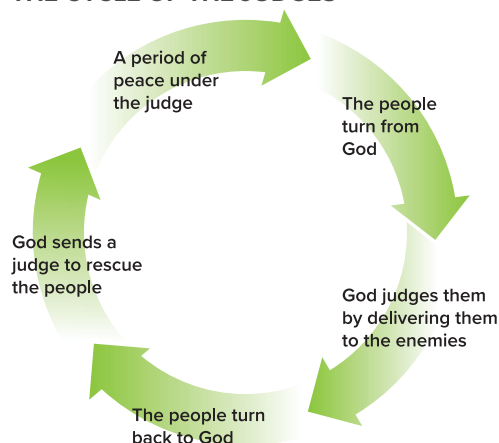
JUDGES 6:24

Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

During this season as the year comes to a close, one of the things we're looking for most is PEACE. Peace is something the world longs for. With a lot of things going on, a lot of things can take our peace away. In fact, it doesn't take a lot to take our peace away. We have come to the last message of the series BE ROOTED: Know God by His Names! God's name today that we are going to study is YAHWEH SHALOM. It is first mentioned by Gideon in **Judges 6:24**.

The book of Judges tells of a tragedy because it ends with everyone doing what is good in their own eyes (**Judges 21:25**). There is a "cycle of the Judges"—it gives us an overview of what happened throughout the book repeatedly and how things kept getting worse through each cycle.

THE CYCLE OF THE JUDGES



The beginning of the story (**Judges 6:1**) was where the cycle began. The Israelites did what was evil, so they were given over to the Midianites and there was no peace in the land. This lack of peace did not begin with the Midianites nor with God. It began with the people's sin of forgetting their God. These were the same people who experienced many great miracles and amazing victories in their lifetime. So how did they forget the God who delivered them many times before?

In **Judges 1:27-33**, we see the Israelites let the Canaanites stay when they were supposed to take over the land completely. Israel did not drive the Canaanites out and let them stay. For the convenience of having forced labor, the Israelites chose to obey God only partially. The results of such partial obedience are seen in **Psalms 106:34-40**. They mingled with the nations, learned their evil practices and ended up serving idols. These idols became a snare to God's people. Partial obedience can lead to compromise; compromise leads to sin. Remember, **partial obedience is disobedience**. The result of all of these was a generation that did not know the Lord (**Judges 2:10-12**).

How do we forget God and what He has done for us? It happens in the seemingly SMALL compromises and PARTIAL obedience or trusting in God PLUS other things over a long time. The Israelites added another god to the mix. Sometimes the intention to compromise is well-meaning but you forget God over time. If we do not watch our hearts, we may be guilty of partial obedience and compromise and as time passes, there will no longer be any difference between us and the people who do not know the Lord.

When the Israelites were overpowered by their enemies as a result of their sin (**Judges 6:2**), they tried to hide from their problem (the Midianites). They tried to make it work and solve things on their own. There was no mention about God. Finally, in **v.6**, Israel cried out to God when they were at the end of their ropes.

In response, God shows them their problem of sin (**Judges 6:7-10**). The story of Gideon beating out wheat hidden in a winepress comes right after (**vv. 11**). Take note how God does not look at who we are but who we can be in Him. He saw Gideon as a valiant warrior (**v.12**). God also challenged him to deliver Israel (**vv. 14,16**) and called him to be a deliverer. It doesn't matter how small or insignificant one is, just as Gideon was the least among his family (**v. 15**). God still wants to be with us and partner with us to do great things through us.

Gideon tested God in **Judges 6:17-18** to see if God's favor is truly with him; and the "angel of the Lord" waited for Gideon to complete his "test". This shows that God is patient and the patience of God leads us to repentance. Let us not be afraid of coming to God in all honesty. Gideon was fearful but God is the first one to say, "peace to you, do not be afraid" (**v.23**). God wants us to experience His peace. It was when Gideon experienced peace from the One who gives peace that he built an altar (**v.24**) to God. **YAHWEH** is the personal name of God

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and He wants to have a personal relationship with us. **SHALOM** means peace; it means all of God's blessings, which produces a sense of well-being; a complete, fulfilled, state of wholeness; unity and restored relationships-- the way things ought to be. Indeed, God delights in the well-being ["prosperity"] of His people (**Psalm 35:27**)!

God wants us to experience peace but why are we having a hard time experiencing peace? It is because of sin; when we choose to turn our backs to God. The cycle of the Judges is also something that happens in our lives today.

On the same night that Gideon declared the LORD is Peace, God wanted Gideon to know that he had to get rid of the Baal in his own backyard before he becomes a deliverer (**v.25**). God told him take down the altar and build on top of it. The idols God want us to take out can be stepping-stones to worship Him (**v.26**). Take an idol and turn it around for good. Laying down our idols is an act of worship to God. Gideon did it even if he was fearful; he obeyed on that same day.

It was after this point that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon (**Judges 6:34**). From that moment on, God was the one working through Gideon and God wanted the people to know that He is the one who delivers. Only God can bring deliverance with only 300 Israelites against 135,000 Midianites, and peace was restored in the land.

Sadly, as soon as Gideon died the people went back to Baal worship (**Judges 8:32-35**); back to the sin cycle. How do we break the cycle in our own lives? **Romans 5:1-2** shows we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ by grace through faith. We cannot break the cycle on our own. But we have a Deliverer that never dies, that never leaves us, and that changes us from the inside out—JESUS CHRIST! God also gives us the ministry of reconciliation (**2 Corinthians 5:17-19**). We are to be peacemakers for Him. Here are some practical applications in order not to forget about God: 1) Place your trust completely in the Lord by surrendering your life to Him (**Isaiah 26:3-4**). We have to believe God is a good God even if we don't feel like it. We can entrust our life to Him. 2) Loving the Word of God is important to having peace. Call on the Lord to help you to trust in Him and fall in love with Him (**Psalm 119:165**)

God fills us with joy and peace through Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:13**). The peace the world offers is temporary and is based on circumstances but take heart, the peace that Jesus gives never leaves us (**John 14:27**). If you...

have never experienced peace, **trust Jesus Christ to become your deliverer, your Lord and Saviour.**

have experienced peace before but it's now gone because of circumstances, **surrender your idols.**

have peace and living in peace, **be a peacemaker.**

Bring people and point people to Jesus.

May Yahweh be your Peace!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What things in your life are taking away your peace or bothering your heart right now?

2. Setting It Right

How can you avoid the cycle of the Judges and fix your eyes on Yahweh Shalom?

3. Living It Out

What do you think is God teaching you in this season of uncertainty? What practical steps can you do to address this?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that people will come to know and experience personally Yahweh Shalom in their life. Be a peacemaker to everyone anywhere. Share the good news that we can have peace with God only through the Lord Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants

A God-centered Philippines

Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends