

# GOD OF WONDERS

## Jehovah Shalom “The Lord is Peace”

“He is our Bridge over Troubled Waters”

Attribute:

**God Is Gracious** – God Is Infinitely Inclined to Spare the Guilty

“The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.”

– **Psalm 145:8**

If mercy is not getting what we do deserve (damnation), grace is getting what we don't deserve (eternal life). Labels

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

**Matthew 5:45** tells us, ‘For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.’”

## **God called Gideon to be the Judge of Israel Gideon named God – Jehovah Shalom**

### **Judges 6: 23**

1 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So, the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years.

The Midianites (others from the east) did not continually occupy the land, but only came at the time of harvest to steal what the Israelites grew (leave no sustenance for Israel).

And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD: After the long season of humiliation, fruitless labor, poverty, and domination by an oppressive power. Israel finally cried out to the LORD. Prayer was their last resort instead of their first resource.

Israel thought the problem was the Midianites, but the real problem was Israel. It is human nature to blame others for problems that we cause.

## **1. (11-13) The Angel of the LORD appears to Gideon.**

Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.

### **a. This encounter with the Angel of the LORD shows that God himself, spoke to Gideon.**

· Then the LORD turned to him and said  
**(Judges 6:14).**

· And the LORD said to him **(Judges 6:16).**

And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

**a.** Gideon saw himself as a nobody.

**b.** He was afraid and hiding in the winepress

**(Good news – You are what God declares)**

Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

a. Gideon said, "Where is He, I don't see Him"

b. Gideon answers himself, "Oh the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites"

## **2. (14-16) Gideon's call to God's service.**

Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

So, he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the LORD said to him,

"Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.

**Go in this might of yours: It is hard to see that Gideon had any might to go in.**

## · **Gideon had the might**

He of the **humble**, threshing wheat on the winepress floor.

He **cared** about the low place of Israel.

He had **knowledge**, because he knew God did great things in the past.

He was **spiritually hungry** because he wanted to see God do great works.

He was **teachable** because he listened to what the Angel of the LORD said.

He was **weak**, and God's strength was made perfected in weakness.

## **2 Corinthians 12:9**

O my Lord, how can I save Israel: Gideon thought of himself as insignificant, from the smallest clan in his tribe, and that he was the least in his own family.

## **3. (17-21) A sign from the Angel of the LORD.**

Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back." So, Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

- a. Gideon ask God to clarify His presence – This is you talking.
- b. How does God clarify His presence with us today?

#### 4. (22-24) Gideon reacts with awe and worship to the miraculous sign.

Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So, Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face." Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die." So, Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it "**Jehovah Shalom**" The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Peace is more than happiness.

Peace comes with Salvation (Zoe Life – Life of God)

**Note:** Medians was allowed to over-run Israel, and Satan is allowed to over-run us when we are disconnected from God.

**Separation from God = No Peace**

**Trinity:** The Father, Son and The Holy Spirit. Do all three represent peace?

Jesus was our Peace / Jehovah Shalom – The Lord is Peace

**Holy Spirit – Romans 15:13 (NIV)** “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **5. How can I get this Peace?**

- a. Know God is with you
- b. While you are in the battle, walk in peace.
- c. Jehovah Shalom will show up.

Gideon army - 32,000 – God said you have too many men.

**Notice:** Midianites Army 135,000 men strong against Israel.

God said “Tell the men who are afraid to go home”  
So, 22,000 went home, leaving 10,000 men.

God said, “too many men – narrow it down to 300.

Gideon gave each man a horn, a jar and a torch, and at midnight they gathered around the camp of the enemy – they blew their horns and broke the jars and shouted Jehovah’s sword. The enemy was confused and afraid, woke up running. Israel won the battle!



## **6. How do I know He is with me? Romans 8: 5-7**

If you want Peace you need a mind-set – You need a Conductor!

Example: Coachella Valley Symphony

**Chaos** – Noise – Complete disorder & confusion.

**Conductor:** Then the conductor walks into the room.

To unify performers, set the tempo, execute clear preparations and beats, listen critically and shape the sound of the ensemble, to control the interpretation and pacing of the music.

**Philippians 4:8 (NLT)** Fix your thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. Think on things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

**Romans 8:6 (NIV)** The minds governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace”

**Philippians 4:9 (NLT)** Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me- everything you learned from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

**Galatians 5:22-26 (NIV)** The fruit of the Spirit is Love, joy, & peace...

## **Application:**

- 1.** If an attribute of God is “gracious”, how might we conduct ourselves in relationships to amplify (amplify-add detail to your story) graciousness in our lives toward others? Who is someone you might show God’s grace to today?
- 2.** The Midianites bullied Israel for long seasons with an oppressive power, causing Israel humiliation, fruitless labor, poverty, and domination. What was the first steps the children of Israel took to turn this situation in their favor? The god of this world tries to oppress and dominate us. In what ways can we move toward freedom in Christ?
- 3.** Gideon ask God to clarify His presence – that this was God talking to him. How did God reveal Himself to Gideon, how does He reveal Himself to us today?
- 4.** Then the LORD said to him, “Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.” So, Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it “Jehovah Shalom”

## **The-LORD-Is-Peace.**

When we cannot control our circumstances that surround us, how can we find peace?

### **5. How can we know that God is with us?**