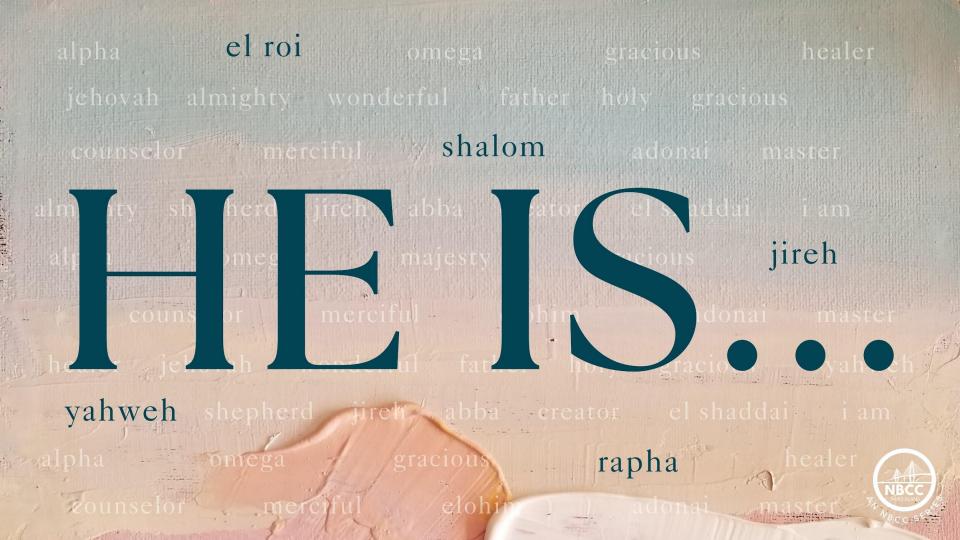


Shalom:

- More than a lack of conflict
- Completeness, soundness, welfare
- An external peace between two entities
- > Being in harmony with God and man

God is not a piece of your life; His peace is your life.



The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said to the Israelites,

Judges 2:1 (NLT)

"I brought you out of Egypt into this land that I swore to give your ancestors, and I said I would never break my covenant with you.

Judges 2:1 (NLT)

For your part, you were not to make any covenants with the people living in this land; instead, you were to destroy their altars.

Judges 2:2 (NLT)

But you disobeyed my command. Why did you do this?

Judges 2:2 (NLT)

So now I declare that I will no longer drive out the people living in your land. They will be thorns in your sides, and their gods <u>will be a constant temptation to you.</u>"

Judges 2:3 (NLT)

When the angel of the LORD finished speaking to all the Israelites, the people wept loudly.

Judges 2:4 (NLT)

After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.

Judges 2:10 (NLT)

The Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight and served the images of Baal.

Judges 2:11 (NLT)

They abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt.

Judges 2:12 (NLT)

They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the LORD.

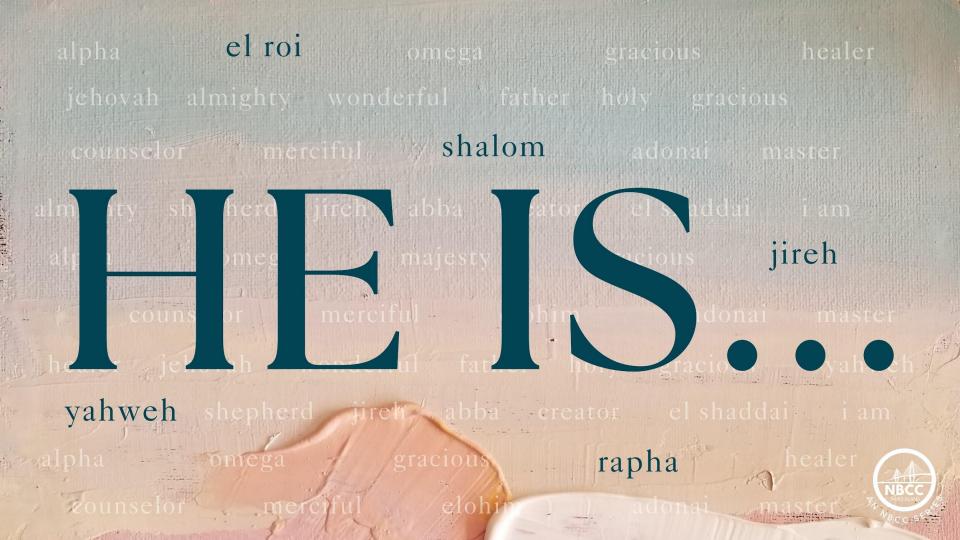
Judges 2:12 (NLT)

They abandoned the LORD to serve Baal and the images of Ashtoreth.

Judges 2:13 (NLT)

Baal - the false god of rain and fertility

Ashtoreth - the false god of war and love



The Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight. So the LORD handed them over to the Midianites for seven years.

Judges 6:1 (NLT)

The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds.

Judges 6:2 (NLT)

Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, camping in the land and destroying crops as far away as Gaza.

Judges 6:3 - 4 (NLT)

These enemy hordes, coming with their livestock and tents, were as thick as locusts; they arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count. And they stayed until the land was stripped bare.

Judges 6:5 (NLT)

So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help.

Judges 6:6 (NLT)

When they cried out to the LORD because of Midian, the LORD sent a prophet to the Israelites.

Judges 6:7 - 8 (NLT)

He said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt.

Judges 6:7 - 8 (NLT)

I rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land.

Judges 6:9 (NLT)

I told you, 'I am the LORD your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live.' But you have not listened to me."

Judges 6:10 (NLT)

Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer.

Judges 6:11 (NLT)

Gideon, son of Joash, was there threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites.

Judges 6:11 (NLT)

The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!"

Judges 6:12 (NLT)

"Sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about?

Judges 6:13 (NLT)

Didn't they say, 'The LORD brought us out of Egypt? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites."

Judges 6:13 (NLT)

Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

Judges 6:14 (NLT)

"But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

Judges 6:15 (NLT)

The LORD said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

Judges 6:16 (NLT)

Gideon replied, "If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the LORD speaking to me. Don't go away until I come back and bring my offering to you."

Judges 6:17 - 18 (NLT)

Gideon hurried home. He cooked a young goat, and with a basket of flour he baked some bread without yeast.

Judges 6:19 (NLT)

Then, carrying the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, be brought them out and presented them to the angel, who was under the great tree.

Judges 6:19 (NLT)

The angel of God said to him, "Place the meat and the unleavened bread on this rock, and pour the broth over it." And Gideon did as he was told.

Judges 6:20 (NLT)

Then the angel of the LORD touched the meat and bread with the tip of the staff in his hand, and the fire flamed up from the rock and consumed all he had brought.

Judges 6:21 (NLT)

And the angel of the LORD disappeared.

Judges 6:21 (NLT)

When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he cried out, "Oh Sovereign LORD, I'm doomed! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

Judges 6:22 (NLT)

"It is all right," the LORD replied. "Do not be afraid. You will not die."

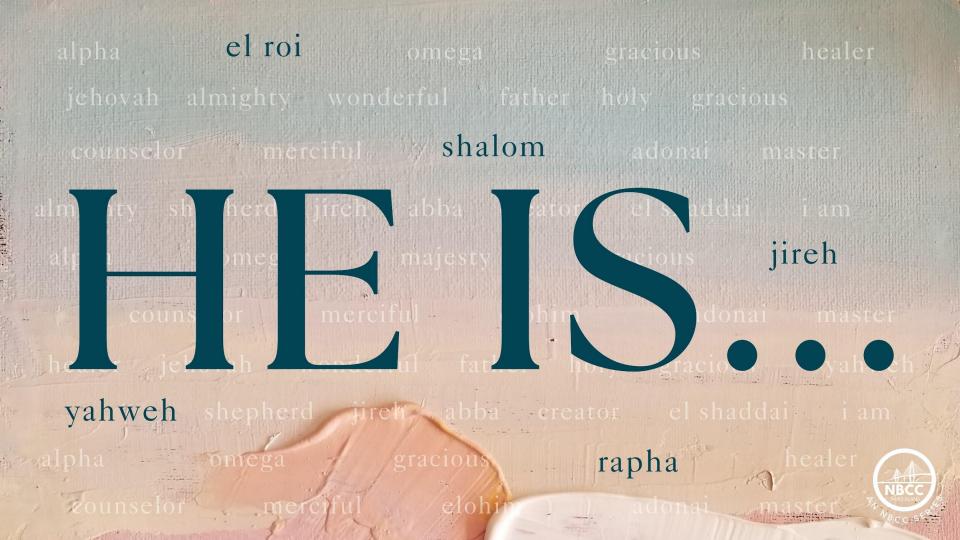
Judges 6:23 (NLT)

And Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means "the Lord is peace").

Judges 6:24 (NLT)

The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day.

Judges 6:24 (NLT)



That night the LORD said to Gideon, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one that is seven years old.

Judges 6:25 (NLT)

Pull down your father's altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole standing beside it.

Judges 6:25 (NLT)

Then build an altar to the LORD your God here on this hilltop sanctuary, laying the stones carefully.

Judges 6:26 (NLT)

Sacrifice the bull as a burnt offering on the altar, using as fuel the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down."

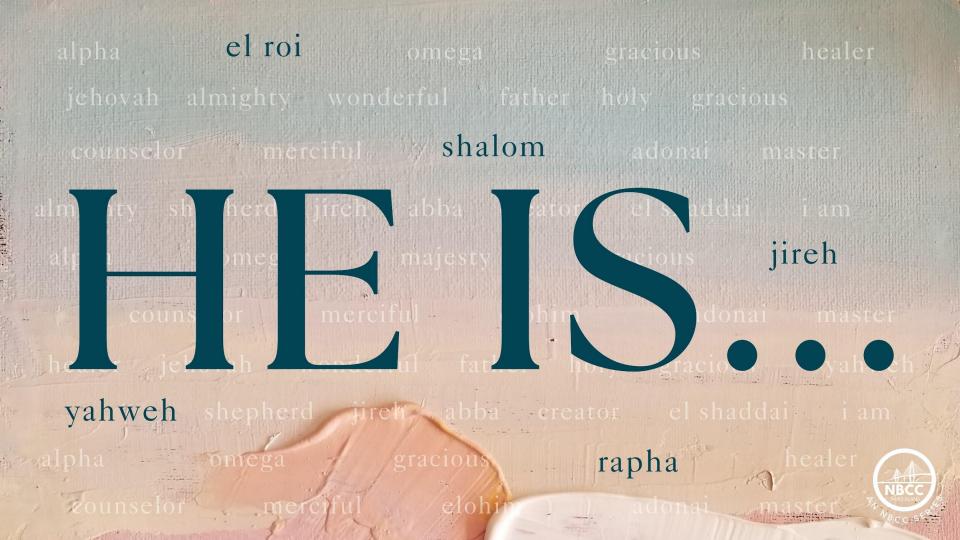
Judges 6:26 (NLT)

So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD commanded.

Judges 6:27 (NLT)

But he did it at night because he was afraid of the other members of his father's household and the people of the town.

Judges 6:27 (NLT)



For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called:

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

Wonderful Counselor Mighty God Everlasting Father <u>Prince of Peace</u>

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, <u>we have peace with God</u> because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Romans 5:1 (NLT)

Then <u>you will experience God's peace</u>, which exceeds anything we can understand.

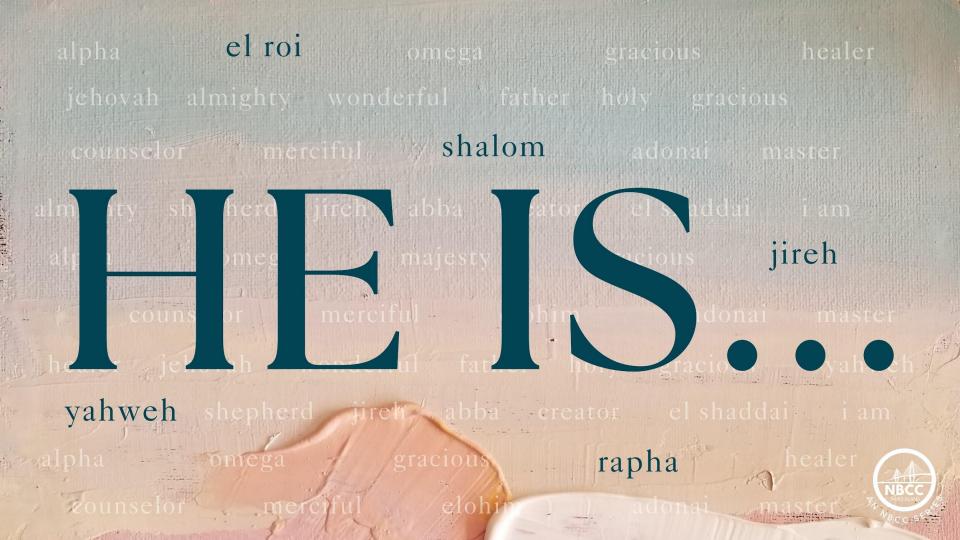
Philippians 4:7 (NLT)

<u>His peace will guard your hearts and minds</u> as you live in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 (NLT)

And <u>let the peace</u> that comes from Christ <u>rule in your hearts.</u>

Colossians 3:15 (NLT)



God is not a piece of your life; His peace is your life.

