













What does the word "PEACE" mean???

It's the word "SHALOM" in Hebrew; and it's a rich, full, incredible word.

SHALOM means...

WHOLENESS...TOTALITY...COMPLETENESS...PERFECT PEACE

It's "The Way Life is Supposed to Be!"



So, now we are ready to dive into the story that will lead us to the altar that Gideon gave the name "The LORD is Peace."

Before we see the power and beauty and force of PEACE and SHALOM in our God...the story first takes us the opposite direction...to the way of anti-shalom

THE PULL AWAY FROM SHALOM

Israel enters a whirlwind –

They reap the consequence of their bad choice of anti-shalom

Judges 6:1-5

6 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. 2 Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. 3 Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. 4 They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. 5 They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it.

THE PULL AWAY FROM SHALOM

Israel cries out for rescue – they finally seek shalom

Judges 6:6-8a

6 Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help. 7 When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, 8 he sent them a prophet,

THE PULL AWAY FROM SHALOM

Israel receives a wakeup call

Judges 6:8-10 (NIV)

8 he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 9 I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' **But you have not listened to me.**"

THE PULL AWAY FROM SHALOM

The LORD reminds them of all the ways he had helped them throughout history...but they had instead pulled away from his SHALOM and had traded him in for man-made, man-controlled gods.

Repeated mantra from Moses: Deut 5:15, 16:12; 24:22: 25:17

"Remember that you were slaves in Egypt"

Repeated emphasis in the Psalms

Is it a repeated emphasis from our generation?

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH SHALOM

Under the old oak tree

Judges 6:11-12

11 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

It's a THEOPHANY! – a pre-incarnate manifestation of Jesus

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH SHALOM

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Gideon is hiding right now! He doesn't seem mighty nor does he seem like a warrior! But, here's the beauty, God doesn't just see who we are in the moment...but who we can be...and who we are meant to be!

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH SHALOM

Anti-shalom infects us with Cynicism, Insecurity, and Doubt



ANTI-SHALOM INFECTION:
Cynicism & accusations against God

Judges 6:13-14

13 "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." 14 The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

ANTI-SHALOM INFECTION:
Cynicism & accusations against God

Where are all the wonders of the past? Where are the new verses to those old songs we've heard? Where are the new chapters to those old stories we've been told?

- Old verse: did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?
- New verse: crickets...

Have you been here to his raw place before???

ANTI-SHALOM INFECTION:
Cynicism & accusations against God

Gideon associated silence with abandonment...which was a big mistake

- God was ALWAYS PRESENT – Deut 31:7-8 (Moses to Joshua) "Be strong and courageous...the LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you..."
- It was Israel who had chosen to turn away from God and choose a different anti-shalom path

ANTI-SHALOM INFECTION:
Cynicism & accusations against God

The LORD exposes and explodes the anti-shalom of cynicism –
just listen to the LORD's reassuring words –
I AM SENDING YOU NOW TO WRITE A NEW VERSE!

Judges 6:14

14 The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

ANTI-SHALOM INFECTION:
Insecurities and excuses galore

Judges 6:15-16

15 "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!" 16 The LORD said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

Gideon, like Moses, has the plan all mixed up
He thinks the saving is dependent on him and his standing/abilities
Notice all the pronouns "I" & "My"

ANTI-SHALOM INFECTION:
Insecurities and excuses galore

Anti-shalom takes us to a place where we focus on ourselves

It's a teeter-totter problem – either falling into the trap of focusing on all of our limitations or shortcomings...or the opposite trap of being consumed with how great we are

We need to balance the teeter totter – it's that sweet spot where we turn our focus completely to the strength that comes from the LORD.

ANTI-SHALOM INFECTION:

Insecurities and excuses galore

Once again, the LORD exposes and explodes the anti-shalom of insecurities – just listen to his answer to all of Gideon’s excuses –
“I WILL BE WITH YOU!”

Judges 6:16

¹⁶ The LORD said to him, “I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.”

ANTI-SHALOM INFECTION:

Doubt and silly requests

Judges 6:17-18

¹⁷ Gideon replied, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. ¹⁸ Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.”
And the Lord said, “I will wait until you return.”

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH SHALOM

A flaming offering to remember

Judges 6:20-21

²⁰ The angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And Gideon did so. ²¹ Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH SHALOM
A flaming offering to remember

Judges 6:22
22 When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

Finally Gideon's memory is jolted; I can imagine these words jumped to the front of his mind...

"For the LORD your God is a CONSUMING FIRE, a jealous God"
- Deut 4:24

THE LORD IS SHALOM
God's special command: SHALOM!!!

Judges 6:23
23 But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."

THE LORD IS SHALOM
Gideon's special name for this spot: the LORD is Shalom/Peace

Judges 6:24
24 So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

What's in a name? And what's so special about this name?
Gideon uses this as a time to put a spotlight on the very character and essence of the LORD

THE LORD IS SHALOM

What is the deep meaning of this special name?

This is core to the LORD's very essence and character;
it describes and defines him

The LORD is SHALOM...he is whole...he is totality...he is
completeness...he is the absolutely fullness of peace

Jesus is the "PRINCE OF PEACE"

SHALOM: THE WAY LIFE IS SUPPOSED TO BE

As people made in God's image, we are meant to experience and live
in SHALOM!!! He says "PEACE!" to us, just as he said to Gideon!

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you
as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not
be afraid.

SHALOM: THE WAY LIFE IS SUPPOSED TO BE

So, how do we get this SHALOM? How do we get to this place of
being WHOLE?

We experience SHALOM by truly and fully living in
the presence and control of the LORD!
He is the life source of SHALOM!!!

Romans 8:5-6 – 5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature
think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy
Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6 So letting your
sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the
Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.


