

The Hebrew Names of God

Lesson 8: Yahweh Shalom

The historical setting: The Lord was given the name Yahweh Shalom after He encountered Gideon face-to-face as he lived under the debilitating and oppressive domination of the Midianites—*Judges 6:1–24*.

- I. **Midianite domination:** The Midianites impoverished the Israelites living in the central part of Canaan by pillaging their agricultural resources and driving them to the point of despair—*Judges 6:1–6*.
- II. **Prophetic explanation:** A divinely commissioned prophet explained that the Midianite domination was the direct consequence for Israel's failure to fulfill her covenantal responsibility to abstain from idolatry (cp. Deuteronomy 28:47–51)—*Judges 6:7–10*.
- III. **Personal commission:** The Angel of Yahweh countered Gideon's intimidation and confusion by commissioning him to overthrow the yoke of the Midianites—*Judges 6:11–14*.

"The Angel of the Lord" is an appearance of the second Person of the Trinity before His incarnation in the womb of Mary of Nazareth.
- IV. **Divine resolution:** The Angel of Yahweh addressed Gideon's acknowledged inadequacy by guaranteeing him victory with the assurance of God's presence—*Judges 6:15–16*.
- V. **Definitive confirmation:** The Angel of Yahweh validated His identity and confirmed His call on Gideon by sparing his life and transforming his meal into a divine sacrifice (cp. Leviticus 9:23–24; Exodus 33:20)—*Judges 6:17–22*.
- VI. **Appropriate attestation:** Gideon marked the occasion of being commissioned by the One Who addressed his inadequacy by naming Him Yahweh Shalom—*Judges 6:23–24*.

The meaning of Yahweh Shalom: Yahweh Shalom is derived from two Hebrew words. The first—*Yahweh*—stresses the Lord's personal, relational side. The second word—*shalom*—is a word translated "peace", which refers to more than the absence of conflict, whether external or internal, and includes a state of completeness, wholeness, and well-being. Yahweh Shalom means that He is the One Who meets us at the point of our need and transforms our fear, weakness, and inadequacy into a state of well-being and wholeness.

Observations: Gideon was marked by fear of others (*Judges 6:11*), himself (*6:15*), and God (*6:23*).

Implications:	A rock (where we meet with God) . . .	<i>can become . . .</i>	an altar.
	A meal (what we bring to God) . . .	<i>can become . . .</i>	an offering or sacrifice.
	Our weakness (what we feel inside) . . .	<i>can lead to . . .</i>	wholeness.
	A scared boy (how we see ourselves) . . .	<i>can become . . .</i>	a valiant warrior.