

NAMES OF GOD SERIES

THE NAME OF GOD REVEALED TO GIDEON: JEHOVAH SHALOM and THE NAME OF GOD REVEALED TO DAVID: JEHOVAH RA'AH

The Name of God revealed to Gideon: Jehovah Shalom

Now lets look at the fourth revelation of God's name, and that is to a man named Gideon in the book of Judges. God was looking for a man to be a judge. Gideon is known for his band of three hundred. But behind that band of three hundred fighting men was the revelation of God's name as Jehovah Shalom to Gideon. It is a different revelation from Jehovah Nissi.

Judges 6:11-13 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 wine-press in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valour!" 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 our Lord bring us out from Egypt? But now the Lord has abandoned us and delivered us into the hand of the Midianites."

It is always like this. Whenever people run into a problem, they blame God. Here he is almost blaming God. If God is with us, why do these things happen? We forget the sins of our forefathers. We forget that present circumstances and societal woes may have their causes in the sins of the preceding generations. If the preceding generation was faithful, then the next generation gets blessed. If the preceding generation is sinful, the next generation suffers the consequences. However by the grace of God, the faith in God and the mercy of God, we can get out of whatever

predicament our forefathers have put us in.

We need to recognise this. We cannot blame God. Whenever the bible uses the permissive tense, it does not mean that God was the active cause. For example, you will find in the book of Chronicles that God killed Saul. We know that God didn't kill Saul but He allowed Saul to be killed as a consequence of his own disobedience. Or at the end of the book of Job it says God delivered Job and set Job free from all the captivity that God sent to him. We know in Job chapter one and two God was not the one who sent suffering to him. But the word *sent* was used in a permissive tense. It was permitted because of broken law. It may not be a law broken by a person who suffered the consequences. But in the dispensation of God a broken law allows sin, sickness and suffering to come in.

Here Gideon asks that if the Lord is with us where are all the miracles? He doesn't know that you can live in any generation, in any time, that you could have the same miracle if you have the same faith. God was trying to raise his faith level up. Then the Lord through the angel said, "O mighty man of valour, go in this might of yours. You shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" And Gideon was still very fearful. We undergo a transformation when we behold the face of God; when we know the names of God intimately, the glory of God will descend upon us. Judges 6: 15 Gideon said, "*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.*" That sounds a little bit like Saul. The only difference is Saul never had a revelation of God's name. He never built an altar to the Lord. He did build only one at the later stage of his reign. Judges 6: 16 *And the Lord said, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."*

And in Judges 6: 17 *Gideon replied, "If now I have found favour in your sight, then show me a sign that it is you who talk with me."* Now this is in the Old Testament. In the New Testament you could not ask for signs. If you ask for a sign, you may just get a sign board that says, "Read the Bible." This is the Old Testament where they do not have the Holy Spirit falling on them. They were not born again. They have not been washed in the redeemed Blood of the Lamb. So they were different. Gideon asks, "Give me a sign." Judges 6: 20-21 *And the Angel was gracious and 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 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.* It is wonderful to see all these things. If you have faith miracles can happen. But sadly a lot of people don't have faith. They have doubts, faith, doubts, faith, then end up

with doubts. They don't really know what faith is after all the teaching on faith. Understand that when you have faith in God, it is an immovable solid trust in God. That trust in God affects your inner being, your emotion, your conviction, your mind, your mouth, your eyes, your ears and your fellowship and as a result of that, your action is faith filled.

So all these signs were given to Gideon. When Gideon saw all these things, you will expect the mighty man of valour to say, "All right, let us go." But when Gideon saw the fire coming out and all these wonders, he actually said, "O Lord I am going to die now." Judges 6: 22 he says, "*Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face.*" Yet God has chosen this man to do international war. How is God going to transform his life? God knew how to transform this fearful and trembling little man. Imagine he was hiding in a winepress threshing wheat. God is going to transform this man by the revelation of His name. In Judges 6: 23, *Then the Lord said to him, "Peace be with you, do not fear. You shall not die."* And Gideon had a revelation of the peace of God. It looks like a small thing. But this man means what he said. He really thought that he was going to die. And God reveals that he is not going to die. To him it was like he had a new life. It was like he was given a new lease of life. God says peace to you. He knew that somehow he had that revelation and he was going to live by that revelation. Then the next verse is where the name is mentioned. Judges 6: 24, *So Gideon built an altar to the Lord and called it Jehovah Shalom.* But it is a powerful name. Peace is not weak. And as we have mentioned whatever name God revealed or whatever facet of His glory He reveals to a man, that is the manifestation that he will carry all the rest of his life. Gideon had only one revelation of God, Jehovah Shalom but that was enough to change him powerfully.

Remember 2 Corinthians 3:17 and 18. As we see Him we are changed. The only blockage to you being transformed and renewed is your vision of God. It isn't necessary to have an open vision. But we can see Him. Blessed are the pure in spirit for they shall see God. Can you imagine the only blockage to you being transformed in spirit, soul and body into the image of God is not what you do but what you see? For when you see, then you can do. But what people want to do is they want to do before they can see. But you cannot do unless you see. I hope you see that that is the way of God. We need a revelation from God. The only thing that prevents you from doing all that God wants you to do in His perfect will is that you don't really see God. You don't see Him in His glory. You don't see Him in His fullness. You don't see Him in His power. And therefore we say we cannot do.

There are four major things that Gideon did. First of all, immediately

after getting the revelation of Jehovah Shalom, we see in Judges 6: 25-27 that he went and did what God told him to do. Here was this weak prawn of a man, going to the altar of Baal and breaking it to pieces and destroying it. He was a different man now. That was his first achievement.

His second major achievement is in Judges 7 where he led three hundred soldiers without weapons and they overcame the Midianites.

The third achievement was in Judges 8:1-5 when Gideon managed to pacify the Ephraimites who felt left out from joining the war against the Midianites. We may think it is a small incident but let me explain that if he did the wrong thing he could have led it to a civil war. The Israelites will be fighting among themselves. For the people who came after him was a fierce group of people, the men of Ephraim. And later on when you read about the civil war at the end of the book of Judges, you will find the Ephraimites involved. They were a fierce war like people. And Gideon could have caused a civil war if he did not know how to react. It was a major achievement in avoiding a civil war.

And in Judges 8: 22 to 24 when Gideon came back the men of Israel told him to rule over them. And he spent the rest of his years as a judge and ruler over Israel. There are four major achievements.

All the four areas that he achieved looked so diverse and different: destroying the altar, overcoming the Amalakites, avoiding civil war, and ruling over the Israelites. But they all revolved around one revelation that he had: Jehovah Shalom. For the war he fought also was different. All those achievements were the out working of Shalom or peace in his life. And these are the four different aspects of Shalom that worked in his life.

The first aspect of peace in Gideon's life was that peace protected him. What was he doing when he broke down his father's altar? Judges 6:25 *Now it came to pass the same night the Lord said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."* So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the Lord said to him. However Gideon was still growing in that revelation of Jehovah Shalom and he still feared his father's household. So in the daytime he hid himself but in the night he carried out the work (Judges 6: 27). The next morning when everybody went there, they found the altar destroyed. And

when they asked around and asked who did it, they said that Gideon did it (Judges 6: 29). And all of them wanted to come against Gideon. But in Judges 6: 31 his father *Joash said to all those who stood against him, "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!* Gideon's life was saved by the intervention of his own father. In other words, there was a protection on Gideon's life. Peace protects; Jehovah Shalom protected him.

A lot of people are afraid of tearing down altars because they are afraid that the spirits or the demons behind the altar would come against them. They have no revelation of Jehovah Shalom. They are afraid spirits will follow them and harm their family. And they forgot the God whom they serve. Jehovah Shalom means that peace is on your life and nothing, no demon, no human being, nothing in heaven or earth or underneath the earth can disrupt, remove and annihilate or cancel that peace that protects your life. Everything that Gideon did was because of the peace of God that he had received.

In Phil. 4:7 we are told by the apostle Paul about what peace could do. *And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your heart and mind through Christ Jesus.* The word *guard* means *garrison*. So we see first of all that peace is a peace that garrisons us. It guards us and protects us. The world around you can be in turmoil and can have economic recession, depression, suppression, but when you have Jehovah Shalom it will not cause you to worry. There will be peace that the world cannot give. It is something that holds you up. Things may happen in your family. Things may happen in your home. Or unexpected situations may occur. But there will be a peace that guards you. We are trying to show that everything that Gideon did came from his revelation of that one name. He was guarded because of Jehovah Shalom.

The second aspect of peace in Gideon's life was that peace crushed his enemies under his feet. In Judges 7 when he fought with the Midianites, he came down to three hundred choice people. And as he was ready to get into battle, God wanted to encourage Gideon to show him what He can do. In Judges 7: 9-11 *and it happened on the same night that the Lord said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand. But if you are afraid to go down, go down with your servant Purah and you shall hear what they say; and afterwards your hand shall be strengthened. So Gideon crept down to the camp.* And I want you to know it was a sight that would have frightened any other person. In Judges 7: 12 he saw *the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the east were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number as the sand by the seashore in multitudes.*

And over at his side Gideon saw that he had only three hundred untrained and unequipped foot soldiers without any horses or camels.

As he looked at the numerous army encamped against him, it was like the story of David and Goliath all over again. The story of David and Goliath was real. The story of Gideon is real. The story of your life is real. Why don't we have the same kind of faith that they had? Everything in the natural looks impossible. But he had a revelation of God. It is not what you can do. It is whom you serve. It is not what the natural eye can see but what revelation that you see in God. So Gideon crept down to the camp and he overheard a conversation. In Judges 7: 13-14 he heard a man talking to his companion, *"I just had a dream. To my surprise a loaf of barley bread tumble into the camp of Midian it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned and the tent collapsed. And the companion interpreted the dream. This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel. For into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp."* When Gideon heard it he was very happy. Now who had ever heard of a loaf of bread destroying a camp? What does that loaf of bread mean? Why not the sword? It was because when Gideon overcame the Midianites, he was trusting, not in Jehovah Nissi which is a different revelation but in Jehovah Shalom. If you have a revelation of Jehovah Nissi, you have to fight. But here was a different type of battle. With only three hundred foot soldiers against a multitude, you don't expect it to be normal battle. It has to be something special. It was Jehovah Shalom, the God of peace who crushed his enemies under his feet. In the book of Romans 16:20, Paul wrote *and the God of peace will crush satan under your feet*. Peace is powerful. The loaf of bread represents the God of peace manifesting in Gideon's life crushing the enemy. He didn't have to do much. Gideon trusted in the God of peace and He brought the enemy under his feet.

In the battle Gideon and his people blew the trumpet in verse 20. And they all cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." And every man stood in his place all round the camp. And whole army ran. Verse 22 Gideon's army didn't fight much. The Lord set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp. They just killed one and another. All they did was trusting in the God of peace. It was not like Moses and Jehovah Nissi. Here they just said the sword of the Lord and of Gideon. And suddenly the enemies started fighting one another and killing one and another. This is a different battle all together. It is the God of peace.

The third aspect of peace in Gideon's life was that he spoke peace. In Judges 8:1 when the battle had already been fought, the men of Ephraim came to him looking for a quarrel. Just like some people do when you have finished

everything. They ask, "Why didn't you call me?" But when you call them earlier they don't want to come. Gideon had called everybody to fight. In the natural sense these people just want to partake of the spoil and the glory. They don't want to be part of the hard dirty work. Maybe they were afraid of losing. But when they knew they are going to win, they want to join. Some people are like the men of Ephraim. When you speak about something of the Lord, they say I am not sure it is going to succeed. But when you are three quarter way, and they know you cannot fail but only succeed, they will come. The Bible says that they reprimanded him sharply.

Now Gideon could have chosen to quarrel with them. He could have given eye for eye for after all he was living in the Old Testament. But he had the revelation of Jehovah Shalom, the God of peace. And so he became a man of peace. Judges 8: 2 So he said to them, *"What have I done now in comparison with you?"* He spoke words that cooled down their anger. *"Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer."* And in notice in Judges 8: 3 *Then their anger towards him subsided when he said that.* Only the one who had the revelation of Jehovah Shalom can say those words and avoid a civil war. How did he get that strength to do it? Peace guards the lips. It was still peace working. Ephesians 4:3 *Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* And involved in keeping the peace is the ability to say words filled with grace, as in Ephesians 4: 29, *let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth but what is good for necessary edification that it may impart grace to the hearers.* So Gideon seeks to guard the bond of peace among the Israelites. And he did it by humbling himself and he succeeded in chapter 8.

And finally, the fourth aspect of peace in Gideon's life was that peace rules. In Judges 8:22 when Gideon came back the men of Israel said to Gideon, *"Rule over us for you have delivered us out of the hands of the Midians."* And Gideon was very good. He says, *"I will not rule over you. Nor shall my son rule over you. But the Lord shall rule over you."* One of the workings of peace is that peace rule. Col. 3: 15 *And let the peace of God rule in your heart to which also you will call in one body and be thankful.* One of the aspects of peace is it rules. Gideon was transformed as he saw Jehovah Shalom and became the manifestation of peace ruling; hence the people wanted him to rule.

We have shown in just one life that the revelation of the name of God transforms a person accordingly. And his entire life became a manifestation of Jehovah Shalom. It is powerful when we understand what the name of God is like.

The Name of God revealed to David : Jehovah Ra'ah

There is one revelation given to David in Psalms 23. Ps. 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. *Jehovah Ra'ah* means The Lord is my shepherd. Some translations call it *Jehovah Rohi* but the exact Hebrew word is *Ra'ah*.

If there was any man in the Old Testament who had that revelation that the Lord is my Shepherd, it was David. And have you noticed everything that David did revolved around that revelation he had of God, Jehovah Ra'ah? Before God chose him, his early profession was a shepherd. And in the end he became a shepherd over the whole of Israel. His whole life breathed of Jehovah Ra'ah. Notice what God said to him in second Samuel. He wanted to build God a house. Even at the climax, the highest point of his ministry in God in chapter 7 of second Samuel, God reminded him that he was still a shepherd. He had fought many wars. He had served King Saul. He was a musician. All because he had seen Jehovah Ra'ah. Everything he did was because of the shepherd's revelation.

2 Samuel 7: 8 now therefore thus shall you say to my servant David; thus says the Lord of the Host I took you from the sheepfold from following the sheep to be ruler over my people.

From ruling over sheep to ruling over Israel, God reminded him that he was still a shepherd. That was his main revelation. David had one revelation. Gideon had one revelation.

The revelation of Jehovah Ra'ah in 2 Samuel 7: 8 involved the following:

First, Jehovah Ra'ah gave the anointing to David be a leader over Israel.

Second, Jehovah Ra'ah gave His presence to David as a Shepherd. 2 Samuel 7: 9 *and I have been with you wherever you have gone.* That is a shepherd's presence. God was with him. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Third, I have cut off your enemies before you.

Fourth, I have made you a great name like the name of the great men who are on the earth. That is the shepherd's anointing.

The first three are easy to understand. But many people find it hard to accept the fourth because they don't understand that the glory of God and the

honour of God are different. Do you know that God honour people? In the early days of my ministry I confuse the difference between honour and glory. Glory belongs to the Lord. Honour comes from the Lord. And when I did anything, I tried not to put my name out. Then the Lord began to deal with my life to show the difference between glory and honour. He said that just as my hands are tools, my eyes are tools, He says a person's name is also a tool of God. God can choose to use a person's name. He can use it as a dividing line for people. That was when God began to deal with my heart.

I was going to write books and put the author as an unknown Christian. I found that I would have legal problems too. First of all anyone can claim the authorship and some people can try to duplicate. Then God began to deal with my heart and said, "When you go to a bookstore and buy books, do you have time to read through all the books and decide which one to buy? I said no. How do you buy your books? I said I look for the authors. So He began to deal with my life and said why are you ashamed? Remember this, when God honours a name there will also be people who dishonour it. When you get into public limelight you will have your share of blessings and curses. The Lord asked, "Would you just let me use your name as a tool?"

Then God began to show me scriptures like the book of Joshua. As he was about to launch into his conquest in Joshua 3:7 *this day I will begin to magnify you in the sight of all Israel*. Was God sharing His glory? He was not, but He was giving honour. And I never understood that until God began to show me that a name could be used as a tool to reveal the hearts of people. How do I know whether someone is opened to the revelation of the faith message? All I have to do is mention, "Have you read any of Kenneth E. Hagin's books. If he replies, "No, never, his works are heretical," then I know he has chosen not to accept the revelation of the Faith Movement. See people go by name. Every person carries a certain revelation in his or her life. When we reject a person who carries a certain revelation, we actually are rejecting that message. And the Holy Spirit stops working up to that point in that person's life.

And I began to see the association that has to do with a shepherd's anointing. God puts His honour on a person's name not because He wants to put His glory there, but because that name becomes a dividing force. God is going to ask, "How did you respond to that message?" And that message is embodied in a person. Let's say if a person is not open to charismatic movement and you ask him, "What do you think of Katherine Kuhlman? He replies, "No way." See they have made a choice by their mouth and by their confession they have cut themselves off

from the charismatic move of the Holy Spirit. But when someone says he has been touched by the charismatic move, he has read their books and he cried etc, then you know that he has opened his heart to the move of God.

And it takes some sacrifice to let God use your name in that way. You don't want to see your own name being dragged down. But yet when God says to you, "Let me use your name as a tool", you have to be willing. It takes much humility to allow God to use your name. In the early days of my ministry, I never understood people like Billy Graham. He has a ministry called Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. I didn't understand why he should put his name there. Later I understood his name has become a dividing line. When you speak of Billy Graham people begin to choose which side they are going to be. They are either fundamentalist or liberal. And the liberal theologians still go against him today. Even before Billy Graham had his great crusade in Singapore, there were leaflets sent out by the liberals. They tried to prove that Billy Graham has gone astray. One day when we are at the judgement seat of Jesus for the giving out of rewards, we will understand this thing: that God uses a name. The difference between honour and glory is this. Glory has to do with worship. Honour has to do with it being used as a signboard to something else.

. David did many things in his entire life and ministry. He brought all of Israel together. He instituted priestly worship in Israel. When you hear the name David, you know what God has done. People magnify what God has done. All because he had that one revelation Jehovah Ra'ah.