

Homework - Week 3

Jehovah Shalom *The Lord is Peace*

In a world filled with increasing chaos, violence and noise, we find ourselves craving peace: peace in our homes, peace in our cities, peace in our relationships, and peace in our hearts and minds. Yet no matter where we look or what we try, there is only one Source of perfect peace. Let's spend some time looking at Jehovah Shalom and be encouraged that His peace can be our peace.

Observe It

Jehovah Shalom is found once in the Bible in Judges 6:24. Read Judges 6:1-24 and record your observations about the passage. Don't just skim through the verses, but take time to read and discover what it says.

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

What were the circumstances that made peace seem like an impossibility?

How was Gideon able to build an altar to Jehovah Shalom in Judges 6:24? Had his circumstances changed? What had changed?

While the specific name Jehovah Shalom is only mentioned once in the Old Testament, we see numerous references to God and Jesus being our source of peace throughout the New Testament. Read the following Scriptures and record what they say about peace:

John 14:25-27

John 16:31-33

Hebrews 13:20-21

Philippians 4:6-7

Experience It

In Judges 6, how do you think Gideon experienced God as Jehovah Shalom?

We often think of peace as the absence of trouble and conflict, yet in John 16:33 we read *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* Jesus promises that there is peace to be found in Him, yet also reminds us that we will have trouble. How can these two things coexist? Read Romans 15:33 and II Thessalonians 3:16 and record the common phrase repeated in both verses.

When we stand confidently on the truth that God is always with us, we can experience peace no matter what we face. Peace is found in His presence! Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced God as Jehovah Shalom? What did that look like?

Is there a specific area/circumstance in your life right now where you need to experience God as Jehovah Shalom? Explain.

Express It

What are one or two personal applications you can make in your life based on the Scriptures you have read about Jehovah Shalom? Be specific!

Peace is not just something that we receive from God, but also something we are to practice in our relationships. Read Matthew 5:9 and record who is referenced in this passage.

How can you be a peacemaker this week? Be specific! (See also Romans 12:18-21, Romans 14:19, Mark 9:50, II Cor. 13:11)

Pray It

Spend some time praying about what you learned in your study of Jehovah Shalom. Ask God to increase your understanding and experience of this part of His character.

Jehovah Sabaoth
The Lord of Hosts/The Lord of Powers

Observe It

The name Jehovah Sabaoth is found more than 270+ times in the Bible, most frequently in Jeremiah and Isaiah. However, the first mention of this name is in I Samuel 1:3 (see also verse 11).

Read I Samuel 1 and record your observations below:

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

Look at verses 7-8 and verses 18-19, and contrast below the differences in Hannah.

What did Hannah do between verses 9 and 18 to cause this change?

Another reference to Jehovah Sabaoth is found in the story of David and Goliath. Read I Samuel 17:45-48 and note below how David describes his God.

Read the following Scriptures and record additional details and insights they give to the name Jehovah Sabaoth:

Amos 4:13

Isaiah 6:3

Jeremiah 27:4-5

Jeremiah 31:35

The name Jehovah Sabaoth can be translated Lord of Hosts, Lord Almighty, the Lord who commands armies, and the Lord the Able One. It is often used in the context of warfare, armies and fighting, and the hosts can refer to a multitude of men, heavenly angels, or the starry hosts. The important thing to note is that Jehovah is Lord over all of it! It doesn't matter what battle we are facing, we can be confident that Jehovah Sabaoth is with us and all creation is under His control.

Experience It

In I Samuel 1, how did Hannah personally experience God as Jehovah Sabaoth?

In I Samuel 17, how did David experience God as Jehovah Sabaoth?

Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced God as Jehovah Sabaoth? In what specific ways did He deliver you?

Sammy Tippit tells a story about an experience he had in Romania where he came to know God as Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Hosts. He says, *“It’s when we feel so small and that our enemies are so strong that God reveals Himself to us as Jehovah-Sabaoth. It’s in those overwhelming moments that we come to know Him as the Sovereign God who rules over all the celestial armies of heaven. Draw near to Him in your day of weakness. He will be your strength because He is truly Jehovah-Sabaoth, the Lord of hosts.”* Is there a battle you are facing today? Maybe you are looking at some insurmountable odds or you are experiencing what seems like an unrelenting assault by the enemy. How do you need to experience God as Jehovah Sabaoth right now?

Express It

What are one or two personal applications you can make in your life based on the Scriptures you have read about Jehovah Sabaoth? Be specific!

While we may not have command of all the hosts like Jehovah, there are times that God calls us to fight for one another. We can stand in the gap for others through prayer and intercession (see Ezekiel 22:30, Isaiah 59:16, and James 5:16). There is also the story in Exodus 17, when Aaron and Hur held up Moses’ hands because he could no longer hold them up himself. Their willingness to stand in the gap for Moses resulted in the Israelites winning the battle that day. Who can you “stand in the gap” for today? Who do you know that is battle-weary and could use some reinforcements? Write down their name below and then pray, drop them a note, intercede, and be willing to hold up their hands!

Pray It

Spend some time praying about what you learned in your study of Jehovah Sabaoth. Ask God to increase your understanding and experience of this part of His character, and pray that He would give you wisdom to know how to express it to those around you.