

“SEEING JESUS...IN THE OLD TESTAMENT”

PART X: “Thoughts Of Peace”

Seeing Jesus In Jehovah-Shalom

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, October 14th, 2009

SPEAKER: Rev. George W. Tuten III

OPENING TEXT: Judges 2:1-10

- I. It had been more than 200 years since Jehovah had revealed Himself as “Jehovah M’ Kaddesh” (Jehovah Who SANCTIFIES). Furthermore, Joshua and all of his contemporaries had died – and in just ONE generation, Israel plunged headlong into Idolatry - AND the peace of God departed from them.
- II. The Book of Judges 1 : 19 - 37 lists 8 specific instances where Israel had failed to drive out those idolatrous NATIONS as God had commanded them. (2:1-3 records Gods consequent Judgment)
- III. By the time we get to Judges chapter 6, we are reading the record and report concerning the 4th of the “7 Cycles Of Apostasy” which comprises the greater part of the book of Judges.
- IV. At that particular time, God had delivered Israel into the hands of both the Midianites AND the Amalekites ! (Judges 6: 2 - 6)
- V. In His mercy, God both heard and responded to the cry of His people.
- VI. It was upon this occasion that He commissioned and sent forth a man by the name of Gideon to go forth and to deliver Israel.
- VII. As we carefully compare Scripture with Scripture, we begin to realize that the One Who is identified as “the Angel of the LORD” is in fact our pre-incarnate Jehovah - Jesus Christ Himself! (compare Judges 6:11-23 with Exodus 23:20-23; 33:14; and Isaiah 63:9)
- VIII. JUDGES 6: 24(a) is the key verse related to this particular name for God.
- IX. It is because Gideon recognized the LORD Jehovah as The TRUE PEACE of Israel that he named his altar “Jehovah - Shalom” -

- (literally, "Jehovah is Peace") - in confident anticipation of both victory AND peace!
- X. According to 6:25-27, though he was a man of great fear, Gideon - through his obedience ("...and did as the LORD had said unto him...") - exercised even greater and more overcoming faith.
- XI. Furthermore, through his reception of the double - confirmation by the Fleece that he had laid before the LORD (read Judges 6:36-40), Gideon was assured by God of victory over the hordes of Midianites and Amalekites that encamped against he and his people.
- XII. But Gideon was tested as to whether he would accomplish this miraculous feat HIS way - or God's way! And when God said that Gideon's army was too BIG - and reduced it from 32,000 members down to 300, Gideon's Faith did NOT waver!
- XIII. Instead of WEAPONS, God chose to use * LAMPS, *broken pitchers, * and trumpets to deliver Israel! (see Judges 7:1-25)
- XIV. And SURPRISE! SURPRISE! SURPRISE! ... GOD'S way was the right way in the end! (see Judges 8:28)
- XV. Israel's quietness and peace were vouchsafed in their "Jehovah - Shalom" - and this physical "picture" and foreshadowing symbolized for all people the peace that even Gentiles can truly experience in JESUS CHRIST! (see Ephesians 2: 13-15)

...DIGGING A LITTLE DEEPER...

- XVI. The word SHALOM (and its many derivatives) is one of the MOST IMPORTANT in the Bible!
- XVII. Notice some of the many words that are translated into the English from this ONE root word - each one telling yet another core aspect of the word itself:
1. "whole" - Deuteronomy 27:6
 2. "finished" - Daniel 5:26
 3. "full" - Genesis 15:16
 4. "make good" (restore/ repay) - Ex. 21:34; 22:5,6

5. "perfect (complete)" – I Kings 8:61

NOTE: Therefore, this one single Hebrew word represents a harmony of relationship or a reconciliation based on the completion of a transaction, the payment of a debt, and the giving of satisfaction. It is a word that is most appropriately translated as "peace" in some 170 cases and expresses the deepest desire and need in the human heart. What a tremendous and unspeakable blessing to also comprehend that he is our Source of peace in His Attitude toward us. (Jeremiah 29:11; "...thoughts of peace...")

XVIII. Gideon's name for Jehovah finds it's fullest expression and realization in the New Testament where it is often applied – both directly and indirectly – to The Lord Jesus Christ.

1. He, in his own Person, IS Perfect PEACE – (John 14:27; 16:33)
2. He is that "Prince of Peace" promised in the Old Testament (Isaiah 9:6) and was even recognized as such before his birth by Zacharias (Luke 1:78,79) – while AT His birth, innumerable angelic hosts sang "peace on earth" (Luke 2:14)
3. He both preached and promised peace (Eph. 2:17)
4. He accomplished that peace FOR us! (Romans 5:1)
5. The measure of our sanctification is the very measure of our peace. (Phil 4:7)
6. Through HIM we have peace with The Father.
7. Peace is everywhere spoken of in the New Testament as from God the Father AND from the Lord Jesus Christ. It may only be had by reconciliation with the Father THROUGH the Blood of Christ...WHO IS THE Jehovah – Shalom of the New Testament!!!

ADDITIONAL NOTES: