

GETTING TO KNOW

GOD

A study of His names & divine nature

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 6

Jehovah-Shalom

And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.”

But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.”

Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD is Peace.

– Judges 6:22-23 ESV

- **Last week:** *Jehovah-M’Keddesh* – “The LORD Your Sanctifier”
- **This week:** *Jehovah-Shalom* – “The LORD Is Peace”

So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes... The angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed them, and the angel of the LORD vanished. Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD is Peace. – Judges 6:19-24 ESV

- **Conquering Canaan**
 - What’s the context of Judges 6
 - Israel entered Canaan 40 years after the Exodus
 - Joshua led them faithfully but died at the age of 110 (Joshua 24:29)
 - After his death, Israel failed to fully conquer the land
 - This led to compromise and a generation that did not know the LORD

*And there arose another generation after them **who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.** – Joshua 2:7-10 ESV*

- They did not live up to their calling as God’s treasured possession
 - They forsook Jehovah
 - Worshiped Baal
 - Fell into idolatry

And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt...They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. – Judges 2:11-15 ESV

- The pattern repeats:
 - Israel’s story is one of turning from God, facing judgment, and receiving His mercy again
 - Sin → Judgment → Sorrow → Repentance → Salvation
 - Generation after generation
 - Judge after judge
- But **Jehovah** was **faithful**
 - In their unfaithfulness, God remained faithful

- **Gideon’s Call During Oppression**

The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. – Judges 6:1 ESV

- Midian devastated Israel:
 - Plundered their crops and livestock
 - Leaving the Israelites hungry and demoralized
 - Israel hid in caves, fearing for their lives
 - So they cried out to Yahweh for help

Israel was brought low because of Midian, and they cried out to the LORD. – Judges 6:6 ESV

- Did they truly return to God?
 - Or did they just want relief?
 - How often do we cry out for escape rather than transformation

*“I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery. And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹And I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ **But you have not obeyed my voice.**” – Judges 6:8-10 ESV*

- Midian was not Israel's real problem
 - o Their rebellion against God was
 - o Their oppression was a symptom of a deeper spiritual condition

Gideon was hiding, threshing wheat in a winepress...And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." – Judges 6:12 ESV

- God chose Gideon, but why?
 - o Gideon is anything but mighty
 - o The angel called him a "man of valor," yet he was:
 - Hiding, not fighting
 - Fearful, not courageous
 - Doubting, not trusting

- **A man with doubts and questions**

"Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." – Judges 6:13 ESV

- Sounds familiar

...they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" – Exodus 17:7 ESV

 - o Gideon doubts God's presence and faithfulness
 - His question is more than frustration – it's a heart issue
 - How often do we think the same?

"If God is good, why is my life falling apart?"

"If God is with me, why do I feel alone?"
 - o But God doesn't argue – He calls

*"Go in this **might of yours and save Israel** from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" – Judges 6:14 ESV*
 - o Gideon was not a proven warrior
 - He's a man hiding in a winepress
 - This almost feels ironic, but God sees something Gideon does not
 - Gideon thinks God has the wrong guy

"Please, LORD [Adonai], how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." – Judges 6:15 ESV

- God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called

- ~ The question isn't who Gideon is, but Who is with him
- ~ God's presence is what makes the difference

- God reassures His reluctant judge

And the LORD [Yahweh] said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." – Judges 6:16 ESV

- The ever-present "I AM" guaranteed to go with Gideon

- **A savior in need of a sign**

- God intended to use Gideon to save the people of Israel
- But Gideon had more doubts than courage

*"If now I have found favor in your eyes, then **show me a sign** that it is you who speak with me." – Judges 6:17 ESV*

- Gideon wanted **proof** of *Jehovah's* presence
 - He brings an offering of meat, unleavened cakes and broth
 - The angel instructs him to place it all on a rock
 - Then the angel touched it with his staff
 - Flames came from the rock and consumed the "offering"

- Gideon received proof, but it didn't bring peace
 - It brought fear

*Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the **LORD [Yahweh]**. And Gideon said, "Alas, O **Lord God!** For now I have seen the angel of the **LORD** face to face." – Judges 6:22 ESV*

- Gideon isn't celebrating – he's terrified
 - He fears for his life
 - He knew the weight of standing before a holy God
 - But *Jehovah* does not leave him in fear – He speaks peace
- "Peace be to you. Do not fear; **you shall not die.**" – Judges 6:23 ESV*

- God replaces panic with peace
- Gideon responds in worship
 - He builds an altar and names it *Jehovah-Shalom* – "The LORD is Peace"
 - Before the victory, before the battle, Gideon declares who God is
 - We often wait for peace after the battle, but Gideon worshiped before it even started
 - Do we trust God only after deliverance, or in the middle of uncertainty?

- Peace isn't the absence of conflict – it's the presence of God
 - Gideon's situation hadn't changed, but his heart had
 - God calls us forward – even when we don't feel ready
 - Faith isn't waiting for a sign
 - It's trusting that He is already with us

- **The meaning of the name**
 - *Jehovah* – the personal name of God
 - "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14)
 - Used 6,800x in the OT
 - God is self-existent, unchanging, and sovereign
 - *Shalom* – peace
 - Wholeness and completeness – lacking nothing
 - Harmony and well-being – life as it was meant to be
 - Safety and security – not just physically but spiritually
 - Confidence in God's sovereignty – knowing He is in control
 - *Jehovah-Shalom* only appears in Judges 6:24 – Why is this significant?
 - The Midianites are still a problem
 - No battles have been fought
 - No victories have been won
 - No peace exists
 - Yet, Gideon worships
 - ~ He does not wait for victory before he worships God

"Gideon would learn that Yahweh's peace wasn't a vaccine that could inoculate him from trouble... Peace is not the absence of conflict but the assurance of God's presence and power. God had told Gideon that He would be with Him, and it was that promise that was to bring Gideon peace." – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Names of God*

- Real peace is not circumstantial – it is rooted in God's presence
 - If peace was just about external security, Gideon would have nothing to be peaceful about
 - Gideon's circumstances did not dictate his worship, Jehovah did
 - Yet, before the battle, before the victory, he worships
 - This is where real peace is found
 - How often do we wait for God to fix everything before we trust Him?
 - *God, I'll trust you when my finances are stable*
 - *I'll follow you when life calms down*
 - *I'll have faith when this situation changes*

- But peace is not what happens when the storm stops
- Peace is knowing Who is in the boat with you
- If you are waiting for everything in your life to settle before you trust God, you are not looking for peace – you are looking for control
 - Gideon was still being oppressed
 - The enemy was still there
 - Yet, he built an altar and declared, “The LORD is Peace”
 - Peace is not about circumstances changing
 - Peace is about knowing God is already there

- **The altar still stands**

To this day it still stands at Ophrah... - Judges 6:24 ESV

- Gideon’s altar showed peace is not found in victory, but surrender
- Our altar still stands as well
 - The cross is our altar
 - The Lamb of God was our sacrifice
 - Jehovah-Shalom has provided us with peace – even in the midst of battle

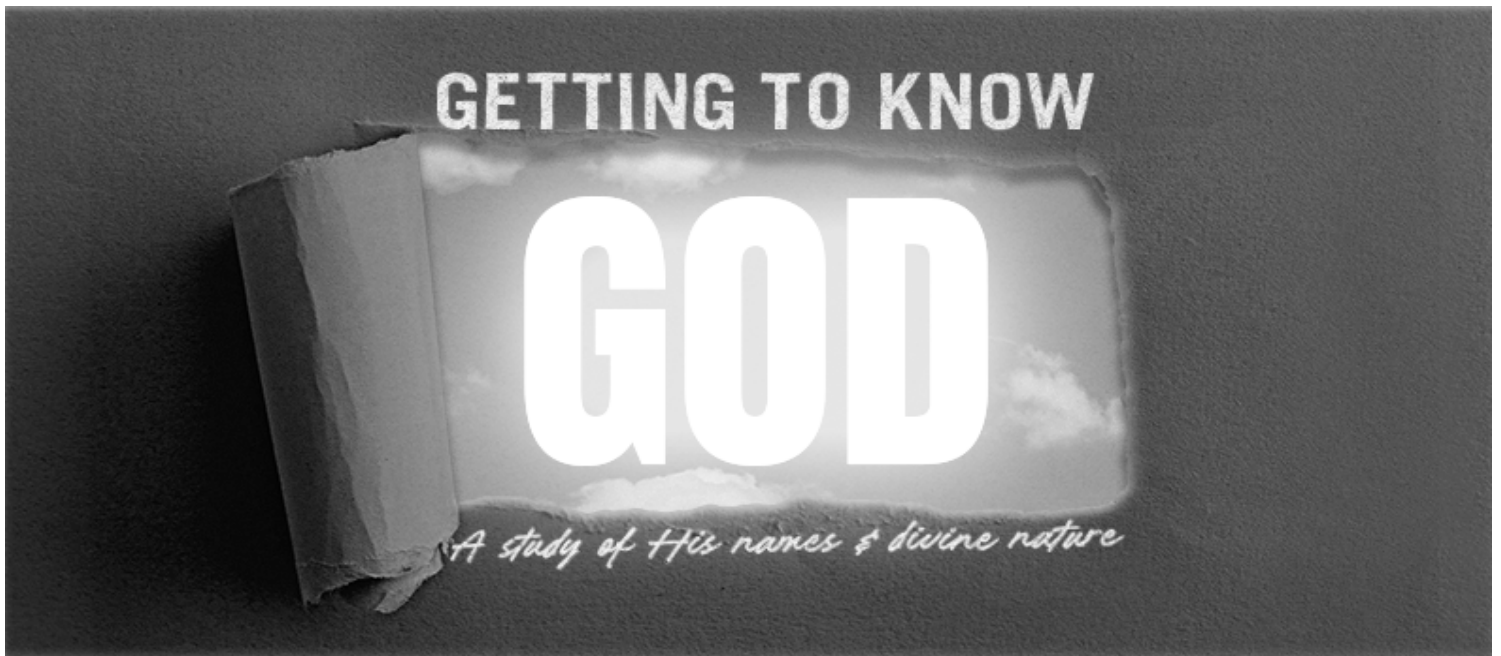
“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” – John 14:27-29 NLT

- **Discussion Questions**

What’s stopping you from trusting God before you see the victory? Where in your life do you need to declare ‘The LORD is Peace’—even before things change?

When you pray in hard times, are you asking God to change your situation, or are you willing to let Him change you?

Have you ever doubted God’s presence or faithfulness because of what you were going through? What did that season reveal about your heart?



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SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 7 HOMEWORK

WEEK 7 – *Jehovah-Bara: The LORD the Creator*

Jehovah-Bara highlights God's role as the Creator. **Bara** means "to create" or "to shape," and it is frequently used in the Old Testament to describe God's creation of the universe, life, and everything within it. It indicates the idea of creation ex nihilo (creation "out of nothing"), showing God's power to bring things into existence by His will and word. **Jehovah-Bara** literally translates to "The LORD (Jehovah) Who Creates." This name emphasizes the creative power and authority of God in bringing about the universe and all life within it. It highlights God's sovereign role in shaping the world and His ability to create something from nothing. **Jehovah-Bara** reflects God as the Creator who shapes and brings into existence all things, and it emphasizes His power, sovereignty, and the purposeful nature of His creative acts.

- Read pages 83-88 of Ken's Devotionary™ on the names of God. Write down any key thoughts or insights you got from considering the name ***Jehovah-Bara***.

- Read Isaiah 40. Write down all the attributes or characteristics or attributes of Jehovah you find in this passage. Look closely for anything that links back God and His role in the creation of the universe.

- What do verses 10-11 say about Jehovah that should bring us comfort?
- How does Jehovah’s creative power described in verses 12-17 give us reason to trust Him with our lives and the world in which we live?

Jehovah doesn’t need advice, isn’t lacking understanding, or deficient in any way, so why should bring us comfort when facing difficulties in life?

When you read, “Behold, that nations are like a drop from a buck, and are accounted as the dust on the scales,” how does that make you feel?

Why should the statement, “All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness” keep us from worrying about the state of world affairs?

- In verses 18-20, Jehovah is described as incomparable. He is without equal. Why is this important for us to understand?
- Do verses 21-24 give you a sense of peace? If so, why? If not, explain.

Why would Jehovah’s sovereign control over all things, including kings and kingdoms, produce hope even when things are not going well in our world?

- What is Jehovah trying to tell us about Himself in verses 25-26?
- Finally, look at verses 27-31 again. What do you think Jehovah is saying about the people of Israel in verse 27?

According the rest of the passage, what is the antidote for feeling like Jehovah doesn’t see our condition or seems unconcerned about the state of the world?