

11-2017

Jehovah-Shalom

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Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "Jehovah-Shalom" (2017). *The Three-in-One File*. 16.
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ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE: SHALOM, THE THIRD COMPOUND NAME OF JEHOVAH

"I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety" (Psa. 4:8, NKJV).

"The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace" (Psa. 29:11, NKJV).

- The definition of peace:

Shalom is the Hebrew word for peace. Unlike the worldly kind, Jehovah's peace is *not* the absence of a storm, but rather assurance *in* the storm!

Few songs have captured this heavenly "confidence in calamity" theme more than W. C. Martin's great hymn, *My Anchor Holds*:

*Though the angry surges roll
On my tempest-driven soul,
I am peaceful, for I know,
Wildly though the winds may blow,
I've an anchor safe and sure,
That can evermore endure.*

Refrain:

*And it holds, my anchor holds:
Blow your wildest, then, O gale,
On my bark so small and frail;
By His grace I shall not fail,
For my anchor holds, my anchor holds.*

*Mighty tides about me sweep,
Perils lurk within the deep,
Angry clouds o'ershade the sky,
And the tempest rises high;
Still I stand the tempest's shock,
For my anchor grips the rock.*

*I can feel the anchor fast
As I meet each sudden blast,
And the cable, though unseen,
Bears the heavy strain between;
Through the storm I safely ride,
Till the turning of the tide.*

*Troubles almost 'whelm the soul;
Griefs like billows o'er me roll;*

*Tempters seek to lure astray;
Storms obscure the light of day:
But in Christ I can be bold,
I've an anchor that shall hold.*

- Unknown to the wicked:

“There is no peace,’ says the LORD, ‘for the wicked’” (Isa. 48:22, NKJV).

“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

“There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked’” (Isa. 57:20, 21, NKJV).

- Jesus is both the Person and Provider of this peace:

A. He is the Person of peace:

1. In Genesis 49, the dying Jacob is seen giving his twelve sons a prophetic blessing. When he came to Judah, his fourth son, the old patriarch said, *“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people”* (Gen. 49:10, NKJV).

Both Hebrew and Christian scholars have long felt this *Shiloh* (peace) found here was a prediction of the coming Messiah. The oldest translation of the word *Shiloh* is rendered, *“whose it is,”* or *“to whom it belongs,”* a reference to His future reign.

2. Centuries later, Isaiah the prophet, picks up this theme:

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6, NKJV).

3. Moving into the New Testament we hear the words of angels as they announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds:

“And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth” (Lk. 1:14, NKJV).

Theologically, this might be rendered, *“peace is now on earth.”*

4. Finally, the Apostle Paul summarizes all this:

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father” (Eph. 2:13-18, NKJV).

B. He is the Provider of peace:

This is seen by Jesus' words—

1. In the upper room during the Last Supper

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (Jn. 14:27, NKJV).

2. En route to Gethsemane

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33, NKJV).

3. During the first Sunday night to the disciples following His resurrection

"Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, 'Peace to you'" (Lk. 24:36, NKJV).

"Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you'" (Jn. 20:19-21, NKJV).

4. During the second Sunday night following His resurrection

"And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, 'Peace to you!'" (Jn. 20:26, NKJV).

- The two kinds of peace

A. There is the peace *with* God

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1, NKJV).

This is given to all believers, regardless of their spiritual state.

B. There is the peace *of* God

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7, NKJV).

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Col. 3:15, NKJV).

This is given to all (but only) Spirit-filled believers.

- The relationship between *grace* and *peace*

The Apostle Paul begins each of his thirteen New Testament epistles with the following words: *"Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."* The careful reader will note that God's peace is always preceded by His grace. The reason is simple: There can be no peace apart from God's grace. Thus, in one sense of the word, grace can be thought of as the mother of peace.

- This article began as it will end—with an appropriate hymn, both of which aptly summarize the material in musical fashion:

Peace, Peace, Wonderful Peace

*Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
In celestial strains it unceasingly falls
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.*

Refrain:

*Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above!
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray
In fathomless billows of love!*

*What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace,
Buried deep in the heart of my soul,
So secure that no power can mine it away,
While the years of eternity roll!*

*I am resting tonight in this wonderful peace,
Resting sweetly in Jesus' control;
For I'm kept from all danger by night and by day,
And His glory is flooding my soul!*

*And I think when I rise to that city of peace,
Where the Anchor of peace I shall see,
That one strain of the song which the ransomed will sing
In that heavenly kingdom will be:*

*Ah, soul! are you here without comfort and rest,
Marching down the rough pathway of time?
Make Jesus your Friend ere the shadows grow dark;
O accept of this peace so sublime!*