

Judges 6:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not:
thou shalt not die.

Analysis

The LORD speaks peace to Gideon's terror: 'Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.' The Hebrew shalom (שָׁלוֹם, 'peace') encompasses wholeness, well-being, and reconciliation—not merely absence of hostility. God's reassurance addresses both physical fear (death) and spiritual fear (guilt before holiness). This grace-filled promise prefigures Christ's post-resurrection words to terrified disciples: 'Peace be unto you' (Luke 24:36, John 20:19). That sinful Gideon survives divine encounter demonstrates covenant grace—God condescends to meet His people without consuming them.

Historical Context

Divine assurances 'fear not' appear throughout Scripture at theophanies and angelic visitations (Genesis 15:1, 26:24, Daniel 10:12, Luke 1:30, 2:10). These words acknowledge appropriate fear while providing divine reassurance. That God speaks directly after the Angel departed suggests the Angel was Yahweh Himself in visible form—a theophany rather than a created angel serving as mere messenger.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'peace be unto you' demonstrate His grace in approaching sinful humanity?
2. What does Christ's use of identical words ('Peace be unto you') after His resurrection reveal about His divine identity?
3. How can believers experience peace in God's presence despite awareness of personal sin?

Interlinear Text

לֵּוֹ יְיָ אָמַר יְהוָה שָׁלֹוֹם אֵל לְךָ תִּיכָּ אֵל
said H0 And the LORD unto him Peace H0 H408 be unto thee fear
H559 H3068 H7965 H3372

לֹא תָמוּת: תָּמוּת:
H3808 not thou shalt not die
H4191

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 10:19 (Peace): And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

Genesis 43:23 (Peace): And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them.

John 20:26 (Peace): And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.