

Judges 6:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Analysis

In gratitude and worship, Gideon builds an altar and names it Jehovah-shalom ('The LORD is Peace'). The Hebrew Yahweh-shalom (יהוה שָׁלוֹם) commemorates God's gracious promise in verse 23. Building altars marked significant divine encounters throughout Scripture (Genesis 12:7, 13:18, 35:7), serving both as worship sites and memorial witnesses. The note 'unto this day' indicates the altar's continued existence when Judges was written, providing historical validation. That it stood 'in Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites' shows this became a recognized worship site for Gideon's clan.

Historical Context

Personal altars built by individuals at sites of divine encounter were common before temple centralization under Solomon. These altars served local worship until Deuteronomic reform centralized worship in Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 12, 2 Kings 23). The name Jehovah-shalom joined other memorial names: Jehovah-jireh ('The LORD will provide,' Genesis 22:14), Jehovah-nissi ('The LORD is my banner,' Exodus 17:15), Jehovah-rophe ('The LORD who heals,' Exodus 15:26).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does naming the altar Jehovah-shalom express Gideon's theological understanding of his encounter?
2. What 'altars' or memorials help you remember God's faithfulness and grace?
3. How does the LORD being peace resolve the tension between God's holiness and human sinfulness?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------------|-------|-------------|-------|----------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------|--------|---------------|-------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| built | H8033 | Then Gideon | H1439 | an altar | H4196 | מִזְבֵּחַ | מִזְבֵּחַ | עַל | יְהוָה | יְהוָה | לְ | וְיִזְבְּאָה | וְיִזְבְּאָה | |
| H1129 | | | H1439 | | H4196 | | | | H3068 | | | H0 | | H7121 |
| there unto the LORD | H3068 | | H7965 | | H5704 | | unto this day | H3117 | | unto this day | H2088 | | unto this day | H5750 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| it is yet in Ophrah | H6084 | | H0 | | H33 | | בְּעֵפֶר תְּ | | | בְּעֵפֶר תְּ | | | | |
| | | | | | | | בְּעֵפֶר תְּ | | | בְּעֵפֶר תְּ | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 17:15 (Sacrifice): And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi:

Genesis 22:14 (References Lord): And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Judges 8:32 (Parallel theme): And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Ezekiel 48:35 (References Lord): It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.

Jeremiah 23:6 (References Lord): In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jeremiah 33:16 (References Lord): In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

Genesis 33:20 (Sacrifice): And he erected there an altar, and called it El-elohe-Israel.

Joshua 22:10 (Sacrifice): And when they came unto the borders of Jordan, that are in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by Jordan, a great altar to see to.

Judges 21:4 (Sacrifice): And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

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