

## **THE SIGN OF A PEACE OFFERING**

Last week we studied how the Angel of the Lord (theophany) came and sat under the Oak at Ophrah. After Gideon finished beating wheat in the winepress to save it from the Midianites, the angel of the Lord addressed Gideon as “O Valiant Warrior.” (6:11-12)

He called Gideon this because he was being called as the 5<sup>th</sup> Judge to deliver Israel from the Midianites (6:14-16).

Gideon responded by asking the Angel of the Lord for a sign (oth / ) to prove that this message was from God (6:17).

Then Gideon requested permission to present him with an offering (minchah) (6:18).

Today’s lesson will reveal how Gideon’s offering to the Angel of the Lord became the Sign of the Peace Offering. “And the Lord said to him, peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die. Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it, the Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” (6:23-24)

<b>This lesson will study SIX aspects of Gideon’s offering becoming the SIGN of the PEACE OFFERING.</b>
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### **1. It started with Gideon offering the Angel of the Lord a special hospitality offering (6:18-19).**

“Then Gideon went and prepared a kid and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour; he put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, and brought them out to him under the Oak, and presented them.” (6:19)

This entire offering was extravagant. It showed an enormous sacrifice on the part of Gideon especially after the hardship due to seven years of the type of warfare by the Midianites.

Abraham had a similar hospitality experience at the Oaks at Mamre (Gen.18: 1-8).

### **2. The Angel of the Lord took Gideon’s self-sacrificing gift of hospitality and turned it into a Peace Offering.**

“And the Angel of the Lord said to him, ‘take (laqach / kal impv) the meat and the unleavened bread and lay (nuach / hiphil impv) them on the rock, and pour out (shaphak / kal impv) the broth.’ And he did it.”

“Then the Angel of the Lord put out (shalach / piel impf) the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched (naga / kal impf) the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire sprang (alah / hiphil impf) up from the rock and consumed (akal / kal impf) the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the Angel of the Lord vanished (halak / kal pf) from his sight.” (6:20-21)

### **3. What Gideon suspected about the Angel of the Lord became confirmed in faith. He was truly the Lord God (Adoni Yahweh).**

“When Gideon saw (raah / kal impf) that he was the Angel of the Lord, he said, ‘alas, O Lord God (adoni Yahweh)! For now I have seen (raah / kal pf) the Angel of the Lord face to face.’”

**4. Once Gideon confirmed it was the Lord God, he became fearful of death (6:23).**

“And the Lord said to him, ‘Peace (shalom) to you, do not fear (lo yare / kal impf); you shall not die (lo muth / kal impf).’”

“To see God’s face was believed to bring death (Gen.32: 30; Ex.33: 20).” (NIV, Gen.16:13)

“So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.’” (Gen.32: 30)

“Then Moses said, ‘Now show me your glory.’ And the Lord said, ‘I will cause My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But, he said, ‘you cannot see My face, for no one can see Me and live.’” (Ex.33:18-20)

“In a sense, Moses prayer was finally answered on the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:30-32), where he shared a vision – however – brief - of the Lord’s glory with Elijah and three of Jesus’ disciples.” (NIV, Ex.33:18)

Samson’s parents were afraid of the same thing in Judges 13:19-24.

**5. At the conclusion of this spiritual encounter, Gideon built an altar and named it – “The Lord is Peace (Yahweh shalom).”**

“Then Gideon built (banah / kal impf) an altar there to the Lord and named (qara / kal impf) it. The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” (6:24)

This is how we know that Gideon understood that his hospitality offering was converted by the angel of the Lord to a Peace Offering.

**6. Let me explain three important facts about the Levitical Peace Offering that help us understand the significant of it to our story (Lev.3: 1-17; 7:11-18; 17:5-9).**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Communion** - “Of all the sacrifices the peace offering retains most clearly the characteristics of the ancient communion sacrifice, since God and the worshippers were thought to share a common meal.” (World Book of the Bible, pg.207)

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Shadow Christology** – It reflected the doctrine of reconciliation in shadow Christology. It emphasized the gospel removal of the barrier of Adam’s original sin (AOS) (Heb.9: 22-28; 10:1-3, 12-14).

“Now may the God of Peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord.” (Heb.13:20) (1 Thess.5:23; 2 Cor.5:18-21; Eph.2:12-18; Col.1:20-22).

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Praise** – it was also a praise offering because of the believer’s grace status of Peace with God (Ps.22: 25-26).

**“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
(Rom.5:1) (Rom.14:17)**