

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH: THE LORD IS THERE

Introduction

The name "Jehovah-Shammah" signifies "The Lord is there," representing the profound awareness of God's constant presence. Throughout scripture, we observe that God is not only present among His creation but also sovereignly reigns from His throne in heaven. This sermon will explore the various dimensions of God's presence, particularly focusing on the heavenly throne, His faithfulness throughout history, and the profound implications of His presence in our lives today.

1. God on His Throne: The Blessed Presence in Heaven

In heaven, God is eternally seated on His throne, symbolizing His ultimate authority and presence. Revelation 4:2 (KJV) states, "**And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.**" This majestic depiction paints a picture of God's unshakeable reign. Those blessed beings in heaven, including angels, surround His throne in worship, acknowledging His glory and the fullness of His presence.

However, not all created beings remained in the favor of Jehovah-Shammah. **Isaiah 14:12-15** (KJV) describes the fall of Lucifer, the angel who became Satan: "**12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.**"

Satan desired to elevate himself to the place of God, but he was cast out, as noted in **Luke 10:18** (KJV): "**And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**" This fall reminds us of the gravity and consequences of rejecting the presence and authority of God. We must never take for granted the privilege of standing in the presence of the Almighty. The inhabitants of heaven are eternally blessed to be in the glorious presence of Jehovah-Shammah, while those who have rebelled against Him occupy a different fate.

2. The Faithfulness of God: A Journey with Israel

God's presence is not limited to heaven; He actively seeks out and journeys with His people. During the Israelites' time in Egypt, God recognized their suffering and desire for freedom. His promise was to deliver them, and as they journeyed toward the Promised Land, God's presence was undoubtedly with them. **Exodus 3:7-8 (KJV)** recounts how God spoke to Moses: **"7 And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; 8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey."**

Throughout their wandering in the wilderness, despite their challenges and complaints, God remained their faithful companion. **Exodus 33:15 (KJV)** illustrates Israel's recognition of God's presence: **"And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence."** This statement reveals the profound understanding that the presence of God was paramount for their journey; without Him, they dared not proceed. Even amidst their trials and repeated testing over 40 years, God remained "Jehovah-Shammah." His presence guided and protected them, showing undeserving mercy. As we reflect on this, we recognize that God is ever faithful, even in our moments of doubt and disobedience.

3. The Departure of God's Presence: Ichabod

However, there came a time when God's presence was withdrawn from Israel, marking a tragic turn in their story. This moment is poignantly captured in **1 Samuel 4:21-22 (KJV)**: **"21 And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father-in-law and her husband. 22 And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken."**

The Israelites had placed their trust not in God but in the Ark of the Covenant as a talisman of victory, disregarding their spiritual integrity. When they failed to honor God, they lost the very presence they had once taken for granted. Ichabod symbolizes a spiritual void, a lamentation for the absence of glory. This serves as a sobering reminder that the presence of God cannot be assumed or taken lightly. When we choose to live in disobedience or fail to uphold His commands, we risk losing that divine connection. Ichabod cautions us to earnestly seek and cherish God's presence in our lives, lest we find ourselves spiritually barren and devoid of His glory.

4. The Ultimate Revelation of Jehovah-Shammah: Jesus Christ

In the fullness of time, God manifested Himself in the flesh through His Son, Jesus Christ—truly the ultimate expression of Jehovah-Shammah. **1 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)** emphasizes this incredible truth: **"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."**

Jesus walked among us as the incarnate Word, bringing heaven to earth. Wherever He went, the reality of God's presence was apparent. He healed the sick, raised the dead, restored lives, and brought peace to the troubled. For example, in **Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)**, Jesus invites us: **"28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

In this call, we see His desire to dwell with us, lifting our burdens through His presence. The blessings of "Jehovah-Shammah" come forth in the compassion and grace of Christ, revealing that through Him, our relationship with God is restored and intimate. Jesus is not just a distant figure; He is the embodiment of God's relentless pursuit of humanity.

5. Jehovah-Shammah in the Church: His Presence Among Us

Today, as believers gather in His name, we experience Jehovah-Shammah in the community of the church. **Matthew 18:20 (KJV)** assures us, **"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."** This promise signifies that each time we come together for worship, prayer, and fellowship, we invite the manifest presence of God into our midst.

This gathering is not merely a social function; it is a sacred opportunity to encounter the divine. The church, when functioning as intended, becomes a home for the presence of God—a place where hearts are transformed and lives are changed. As we come together, we share testimonies of His goodness and grace, echoing the sentiments found in **Ephesians 2:19-22 (KJV)**: **"19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in**

the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Here, we see the profound reality that as the body of Christ, we are collectively a dwelling place for God's Spirit. It is within the church that we find refuge, strength, and unity, all under the auspices of Jehovah-Shammah.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the name "Jehovah-Shammah" encapsulates the enduring promise of God's presence throughout history and in our lives today. From His heavenly throne to His intimate relationship with Israel, to the ultimate revelation of His presence in Jesus Christ, and now in the gathering of His church, we are continually reminded that God is always with us. As we navigate life's challenges, let us never lose sight of the treasure we possess in God's presence. Whether in joy or in trials, we can stand firm in the assurance that "The Lord is there." Let us seek Him with our whole hearts, knowing that wherever we go, there is the potential to experience the fullness of His glory. As we embrace this truth, may we be diligent in drawing near to Him, cherishing the gift of His presence, and declaring to the world that "**Jehovah-Shammah, the Lord is there.**" Amen.