

The Meanings of Shalom

Introduction: “Peace” translates the Hebrew masculine noun “Shalom” (שָׁלוֹם), and the Greek noun “*Eirēnē*” (εἰρήνη). “Shalom” occurs over 230 times in the Hebrew Old Testament. “Shalom” may be used as a noun, verb, adjective, and adverb.

One of the names for God is “Jehovah-shalom” (יְהוָה שָׁלוֹם) (Judges 6:24). One of the names for Jesus is “Sar Shalom” (שָׂר שָׁלוֹם) “Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6).

- I. **Shalom Is Used as A Greeting and as A Farewell to mean “hello” and “goodbye” (cf. 1 Sam. 25:6; Dan. 10:19).**
 - A. **On Resurrection Sunday, Jesus greeted His disciples with the words: “Peace be unto you,” which in the Hebrew New Testament” is “Shalom Aleichem” (John 20:19, 21, 26).**
 1. The appropriate response to “Shalom Aleichem, peace be unto you” or “may you be well” is “Aleichem Shalom” – “Upon you be peace.”
 2. “Shalom Aleichem” and “Aleichem Shalom” go together.
 - B. **Some examples of “Shalom” as a greeting in the Old Testament: Gen. 29:6; Judges 19:20; 1 Chron. 12:18; Dan. 10:19.**
 - C. **Some examples of “Shalom” as a salutation of departure: Ex. 4:18; 1 Sam. 1:17; 20:42; 2 Sam. 15:9.**
 - D. **To ask how is one’s peace in Hebrew is equivalent to “How are you?” (cf. Gen. 43:27; Ex. 18:7).**
 - E. **The Greek noun translated “peace” is *eirēnē* (εἰρήνη).**
 1. *Eirēnē* occurs about 92 times in the Greek New Testament.
 2. **Some of the meanings of *eirēnē* are “harmony” (Matt. 10:34; Rom. 16:20), “tranquility” (Luke 2:29; 11:21; John 16:33; 1 Cor. 14:33; 1 Thess. 5:3), “rest” (Acts 9:31); “quietness” (Acts 24:2), “reconcile” (Acts 7:26, NKJV), “freedom from anxiety” (Rom. 15:13; Phil 4:6-7).**
 3. *Eirēnē* is used in the New Testament both as a greeting and as a farewell.
 - a. **The standard greeting and farewell in the New Testament is “Grace and peace.”**
 - b. **“Grace and peace” are in all the greetings in Paul’s letters from Romans to Philemon.**
 - c. *Eirēnē* is also used as a parting farewell (Mark 5:34; James 2:16).
 4. *Eirēnē* occurs in every book in the New Testament except First John.

- II. **“Shalom” Means “Peace, Tranquility” – “Absence of Discord or Conflict or Strife or War” or Harmonious Relationships Between People (Gen. 41:16; Lev. 26:6; Joshua 9:15; Judges 4:17; 2 Sam. 17:3; 1 Kings 2:5; 5:12; Ps. 120:7; Isa. 32:17; Jer. 12:5).**
- III. **“Shalom” Means “Completeness, “Perfectness.”**
 - A. **“Shalom” comes from the root verb “shalam,” which means, “completeness,” “perfect,” and “full.”**
 - B. **The state of a totality of a collection (Jer. 13:19).**
 - C. **All parts are in place; nothing is lacking; all basic needs are met.**
- IV. **“Shalom” Means “Contentment” – Satisfaction Because All Basic Needs Are Met (Ex. 18:23; Ps. 37:37).**
- V. **“Shalom” Means “Health, Welfare, Well-Being, Wholeness, Soundness of Body and Mind” (cf. Gen. 29:6; 37:14; 43:27-28; Ex. 4:18; 1 Sam. 25:6; 2 Sam. 11:7; 18:28; 20:9; 2 Kings 9:11, 17, 18, 19, 22; Ezra 9:12; Ps. 122:6; Prov. 3:2; Jer. 6:14).**
 - A. **State of lack of disease and a wholeness or wellbeing (Gen. 37:14).**
 - B. **In the Bible, prayers were to be offered for the wellbeing of cities, nations, and others (Ps. 122:6; Jer. 29:7).**
- VI. **“Shalom” Means “Physical Safety and Security” (cf. Gen 28:21; 43:23; Ps. 4:8).**
 - A. **Freedom from danger (Gen. 28:21; 43:23).**
 - B. **Physical safety and security (1 Sam. 25:6; Ps. 4:8).**
- VII. **“Shalom” Means “Material and Spiritual Prosperity” (Ps. 37:11; 147:14; Haggai 2:9).**
- VIII. **“Shalom” Means “Success” (1 Chron. 12:18).**
- IX. **“Shalom” Means “Victory in War” (Judges 8:9).**
- X. **Completing the Fullness of One’s Life (Gen. 15:15).**

Pastor-Teacher, Julius R. Malone