

If you have your Bibles...turn to the back of Ezekiel.....To the very last words
→ **THE LORD IS THERE**.....

Such is in fact.....yet another Hebrew Name for God.....**Jehovah Shammah**

- **Ezekiel.....**the prophet who wrote.....was not a refugee....for he had not chosen
But his situation was similar

He was a casualty of war.....destined to spend his whole life.....in a foreign land

For when Nebuchadnezzar had originally subdued Jerusalem....

he had proclaimed his power.....by dragging away 10,000 of the best

Publicly humiliating Israel's population....he snatched them away from family...home
...and especially away from Zion...

- **Ezekiel was already destined** as a priest when he was forcibly taken away
But what was the future of a Priest.....away from the Temple that was his life

He was taken away in 597BC

In 597BC.....he was 30 years old.....a married man.....when God visited him ...vision
and appointed him to be His priest and prophet.....to God's errant people.

For the next 7 years.....Ezekiel faithfully shared.....the harsh.....heart rendering.....
hope crushing word of divine judgment

That the city of Jerusalem would fall,,,,,,,,, **The Temple**....destroyed

Towards the end of those 7 years.....in Ezekiel 24.....the Lord informed....undersiege
He was also told that his beloved wife would die.....

In 586 BC Jerusalem was destroyed.... the rest of the people were exiled to Babylon

And they were a shattered Nation

With Jerusalem gone....the Temple in ruins.....they believed God was no longer with...

Psalm 137 came out of this period of immense despair 137:1-6.....

- **Yet with the news of the final destruction.....**

The message that God gave Ezekiel.....changed dramatically

From a message of judgment.....it became one of restoration and hope

Prophecies that looked forward to a time....of revival...restoration....glorious future

When as the redeemed....they would inhabit the perfected kingdom of God

- **Those prophecies.....not easy to understand**

Many seem to still wait a future complete fulfillment

Commentators are divided over which should be taken literally.....spiritually...or both..

Partic is this so for the final vision that God gave.....contained in chapters 40-48

Of a new Temple within a New City....reminding ... final vision found in Revelation

Of the New Jerusalem....

- **Whatever the specific meaning**.....was for the people in Ezekiel's Day
The message from God for them as expressed in this special Name for that city
Jehovah Shammah ...→**Was very clear**

- **That the time** would come.....When they would know without any doubt
That the Lord would be there.....for them and with them....

Of course the Lord was already with them in exile

He had punished them....but He never left them.....Never let them go

But because of their sin...they were unable to experience Him as one day they would
Unable to be certain of His presence.....as their Lord....Saviour....Redeemer.....Father

This prophecy gave them hope.....of a coming Day....when the Lord would be there in
AS HE HAD NEVER BEEN BEFORE

- **It was the expression** of this name.....Jehovah Shammah →The Lord is there
Which matched in with another prophecy given at a similar time

By a man called Isaiah

Who prophesied about One who would one day be born of a virgin →**Isaiah 7:14**

**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child
and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.**

And as we so well know.....the time did indeed come.....when Christ was born...

And as Jesus of....He declared Himself to be....And God confirmed.....by raising Him

And as Paul declares in Colossians 1:15-20.....

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**God is indeed present with us.....in such a unique way....
that the angels note with amazement.....Look.....God is there !!**

The wonderful thing is that God's presence with us...has been consistently increasing
In terms of personal relationship.....power....ever since the time of Adam

That passage from Isaiah 45.....sets out how God has indeed been with His people
From creation onwards

- **In v18** we are told how He formed the earth to be inhabited
- **Then in v19**.....how he told Jacob's inhabitants to seek Him,and that there seeking.....not be in vain
- **In v21** He declares that there is no God apart from Him
- **And then in v22**....He invites all the peoples....to turn to Him for Salvation
- **While in v23** He speaks of a time.....also predicted in the NT...when every knee

In other words God was there in the OT with His people

- **That increased** dramatically with the birth of Jesus....when He took on flesh

Then came the amazing promises of Jesus in Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

And even a more incredible promise in John 14:23

**"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our home with him".**

But the very best fulfillment of Jehovah Shammah....is still to come...**Rev 21:1-4** says

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Now we look at those verses from Revelation.....And then look back to Ezekiel
Where this Name for God is first mentioned.....**And** we can see the connection

- **This Name for God.....The Lord is There.....Does indeed give us.....
Great Assurance** for the Future.....**BUT it** also gives us a challenge for today
A CHALLENGE THAT I KNOW THE LORD WANTS US TO HEAR

And the reason I am so sure about that....is this→

2 weeks ago I felt.....that this would be the Name.....be speaking on today
but last Tuesday I wasn't quite sure....what direction to take....**Wasn't** even certain

So I looked up a sermon....by Spurgeon.....But I found nothing there
Except the Bible reading.....I decided thenthat I would use part.....18-25

So I went home Tuesday night....still not convinced

- **Wednesday morning** I turned to one of my regular Bible Reading notes
Title.....He's There All the Time.....The bible reading set.....Isaiah 45:18-25

The story the notes contained.....was about writer going to Chicago's Union Station
to pick up....**She** wasn't where he thought.....Then he looked...hallway....baggage area
There she was...luggage at....**SHE** was right where she was supposed to be

- **He went on to say.....It's that way with God**
And when we have trouble finding God.....It's often because.....been looking in all

Are you having trouble finding God in the situation you are going through
The problem.....The disaster that fills your mind.....The direction....The future...
He says.....I am the Lord who is there.....Seek me through obedience
Confession.....Give it over to me...and walk with me

But perhaps today that's not the issue you face

For you life is going reasonably well.....**You** have become comfortable...**Complacent**

The Challenge for you is.....Can others look at you....and say.....**The Lord** is there

The Lord is seen as present in your life.....**in** how you act.....home....office.....school

- **The Lord is obviously there**.....as seen in how you serve Him....What you do for

Next Sunday....Steve will show the Presence of the Lord there...in his life

**How will you show this week....
that the Presence of the Lord is there...in yours?**

