

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH

THE LORD IS THERE

**PRAYING
THROUGH
THE NAMES
OF GOD**

by Faith Girl

BACKGROUND

Strictly speaking, Jehovah Shammah is a name for a city rather than a title of God. But it is so closely associated with God's presence and power that it has often been equated with a name for God.

The name in the New Testament that is most closely associated with it is Immanuel, "God with us," a name that was given to Jesus. Yahweh Shammah (yah-WEH SHAM-mah),

"The LORD is there," reminds us that we were created both to enjoy and to manifest God's presence.

British preacher Charles Spurgeon once said that "whenever it can be said of an assembly, 'The Lord is there,' unity will be created and fostered. Show me a church that quarrels, a church that is split up into cliques, a church that is divided with personal ambitions, contrary doctrines, and opposing schemes, and I am sure that the Lord is not there."

If someone asked you who said the most terrifying words in the Bible, how would you answer? Would you cite one of the prophets? Perhaps Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Ezekiel, who thundered on about fire, famine, conquest, doom, and calamity? Would you go back to the beginning, quoting God himself in Genesis' account of Adam and Eve's expulsion from Paradise?

It might not occur to you that the most terrifying words of all are spoken not in the Hebrew Scriptures but in the New Testament, and they are spoken not by some stern prophet but by Jesus himself: "Depart from me."

SCRIPTURE

"The city shall be
18,000 cubits round about;
and the name of the city
from that day shall be,
"The LORD is there"
[Jehovah Shammah]."
EZEKIEL 48: 35

"When you pass through
the waters, I will be with
you; and when you pass
through the rivers, they will
not sweep over you. When
you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned; the
flames will not set
you ablaze."
(Isaiah 43: 2)

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Three little words that sum up the worst of all fears. Why? Because they describe hell, define damnation. To be cast out of paradise with no hope of return is to be separated from God forever. Abandoning God, we find ourselves abandoned.

Instead of Jehovah Shammah, we hear “God is not there.” Instead of Immanuel (“God with us”), we hear, “God is not with you.” When we lose God, we lose hope, love, mercy, faith, kindness, beauty, joy, happiness, comfort, pleasure, strength, wonder, justice, goodness, friendship, peace, protection, understanding, tenderness. You can make up your own list of all the good things that would be subtracted from your life were there no trace of God in it.

But why entertain such thoughts? Because, to paraphrase the words of an old song, we don’t know what we’ve got ’til it’s gone. We don’t realize the benefits of air, for instance, until we are deprived of it for even a few seconds. If you want to grasp the importance of something, it may help to consider what life would be like without it.

Don’t take my word for it. Spend ten minutes today imagining even a day of your life without God in it. Then spend ten minutes calling to mind all the blessings of his presence you regularly take for granted.

Remember, too, that God’s presence in your life should overflow into the world around you. Do what you can while you can to feed the hungry, welcome strangers, clothe the poor, heal the sick, and care for those in prison. As you do, you will understand more deeply the words spoken by Ezekiel more than five hundred years before the birth of Christ: “And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.”

Prayer Suggestions

JEHOVAH SHAMMAR

THE LORD IS THERE

Jehovah Shammah, you live in a place I have never been. You have established the heavens above me, and they reach far beyond what I could ever know.

My finite mind cannot comprehend You in all of your majesty, seated there in the new Jerusalem— the place of your dwelling, the place of Jehovah Shammah.

Yet you are also equally here with me right now, and my praise is in your heart and in your ears.

You are my closest friend, and I praise you for all of your greatness.

Jehovah Shammah, cause my heart to fully feel the godly sorrow I should feel when I offend you.

You are Jehovah Shammah, there in the place of my eternal home, and yet I dismiss you so easily in my daily life here.

Help me know the sorrow tied to the sins I commit against you.

Forgive me for sometimes feeling that because you are Jehovah Shammah, you aren't close enough to me to give me the comfort and love I need as I navigate through this world.

Remind me again and again that you are my Jehovah Shammah.

Jehovah Shammah, you are high and lofty, and the train of your robe fills the temple of the new Jerusalem.

Thank you for preparing a place where we will dwell with you for eternity.

I know that though you are there, you are also here.

Your eye is on the world, but at the same time your eye is on the lowly sparrow.

You surround the universe, but you also surround me.

Thank you for being there and for being here in me at the same time.

Jehovah Shammah, I ask you to help me know that everything is going to be okay as I go through this day, this month, and this year. As long as YOU ARE THERE (with me) all will be well.

Prayer Suggestions

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH

THE LORD IS THERE

The challenges I face are often too much for me to bear. I am so grateful I can call on your name, Jehovah Shammah, as a reminder that you have gone before me and are already resting where I will one day be, in your presence and in your place.

Let that truth keep me in peace while I go through my daily life.

Give me a deeper awareness of your greatness, Jehovah Shammah.

Give me a glimpse of where you are— there.