

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline September 14, 2015 (John Robertson)

What's in a Name

Jehovah-Shammah = I Am Always Near

Our God meets our deepest needs. In fact, God gives Himself various descriptive names in the Bible that match every one of our deepest needs. Our understanding of God will affect every area of our life. If we have misconceptions about God, what He's really like – we're going to tend to worry about things we shouldn't be worrying about. We're going to tend to feel guilty over things God has no intention of us feeling guilty about. We're going to carry unnecessary burdens and fears and doubts and depressions all through life that God never intended for us to have.

God says if you want to put your hope in Me, you need to put it in My name. What does that mean? How do you put hope in a name?

When God chose to reveal Himself to the Hebrew nation, He used Hebrew terms to describe Himself, His character. Each one of those names is a promise to us. Ezekiel 48:35 – *“And the name of the city from that time on will be: Jehovah Shammah”*

Jehovah Shammah = “I am the God who is always there.”

This has profound implications on where you find hope. Hope is the anchor of the soul – three things that I can count on so that no matter what happens, I know that life is not hopeless.

His Presence Is Watching Over Me

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you.

I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

The good news is regardless of what happens, God will be with you.

Not only is He with you but the Bible says He watches over you and cares for you.

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you". Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

His Purpose Is Working In Me

No matter what's happening in my life – good, bad, or ugly – God's purpose is working in me.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 (NIV)

"We know" – hope is the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out.

"All things" – God works in all things for good.

“Those who love Him” – It’s a promise for those who love God and want to have a relationship with Him and who are trying to live according to His purpose.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

“I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

God Has a Place Waiting for Me

Jehovah Shammah has a final and eternal fulfilment. When things get unbearable in your life you remember that our ultimate hope is eternity with Jesus where no more pain or sorrow has effect (Revelation 21:4).

Jesus says that heaven is a place, not a state of mind (John 14:1-2). That gives us a reason for hope.

There’s only one place you can get that assurance and peace and it’s in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

When you are in that relationship with Jesus, you know that God is watching over you, His purpose is working in you, His place is waiting for you - you have hope.

Call on His Name

Give your hopeless situations to God. Call on His name to meet your deepest need. When you do, you will have a rebirth of living hope in your heart. You will go from no hope to new hope.

1. Remember the presence of God. That He is always with you and that you will never be without Him. He is watching over you and He cares for you. He can help. Jehovah Shammah – “I am the God who is always there.” You remember God’s presence. You will never go through anything alone.

2. Learn to receive from God’s people. Let other people support you. That’s why you need a church family.