**"AN OLD NAME FOR A NEW YEAR"**

**(JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH - THE LORD IS THERE)**

TEXT: Ezekiel 48:35

THESIS: To use the name Jehovah-Shammah to teach the significance of the Lord's presence with us throughout our lives as believers.

INTRO:

A. The phrase in our text "THE LORD IS THERE" is "JEHOVAH SHAMMAH" in Hebrew. It is "AN OLD NAME FOR A NEW YEAR"! It speaks of the Lord's presence. Ignoring His presence breeds sin, impurity and spiritual poverty. Be- ing constantly aware of His presence produces holiness, power and spiritual fruit.

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

B. We believe in the omnipresence of God...that He is everywhere (not part here and part there); not in pantheism...that God is in everything (the error which confuses the Creator with His creation).

QUOTE: Thiessen “God's Being penetrates the universe yet is not exhausted by the universe."

C. But our text speaks not of God's omnipresence, but of His Special Presence, i.e. God is uniquely present in certain times and places. His Special Presence always glorifies the place...

I. HIS SPECIAL PRESENCE PAST:

A. His Presence in Eden Made It Paradise:

1. He did not place man in the Garden to dress it till He had first visited it and made the roses to bloom and the fruit to ripen.

2. Man's first home was furnished with every delight to the senses and every creature to bring Him pleasure.

3. What made Eden Paradise was "the Lord was there" and walked with Adam daily!

B. His Presence on Sinai Displayed His Power:

1. Fallen man had to face an awesome and terrible God where Moses said "I do exceed-ingly fear and quake" amidst the "thunders, lightnings, darkness and death."

2. The warning from God was that no man or beast touch the holy mount; for the Lord was there as an offended Deity.

C. His Presence in the Tabernacle Spoke of Fellowship:

1. It was God's Meeting Place with man on earth.

2. The Lord was there visibly in the cloud and pillar as well as between the wings of the Cherubim in the Most Holy Place.

D. His Presence in the Temple Displayed Redemption:

1. When Solomon dedicated the Temple God's presence and glory was there.

2. The Temple was God's dwelling place where He displayed both His wrath on sin which demanded constant bloody sacrifices.

E. His Presence in Christ Revealed His Person and His Love:

1. Christ's Incarnation was the ultimate display of God's presence.

2. The invisible God became visible.

3. The almighty God became limited.

4. The incomprehensible God became understandable.

5. The wrath of God on sin and the love of God for sinners was displayed on the cross.

ILLUS: If there was any place or any time when God was there, it was on Calvary!

6. His Name was Immanuel: "God with us"; the NEW TESTAMENT equiv. to "Jehovah-Shammah"..."The Lord is there."

II. HIS SPECIAL PRESENCE PRESENT:

A. His Presence in the Believer's Body Speaks of His Comfort:

1. It is true that God was manifest in Christ's Body, but also that He manifests Himself in our bodies!

2. We are to show His love, concern, compassion and redemption to the world.

3. We are to be a source of comfort to the world around us, because of the Comforter Who lives within us.

ILLUS: When we are in pain, or experiencing sorrow we are to manifest His comfort and testify of His grace which is sufficient to the believer who abides in His presence.

QUOTE: Spurgeon: "...wheresoever the chosen of God lift up holy hands and worship Him, whether it be in a cathedral or in barn, beneath the blue sky or beneath a thatched roof, anywhere and everywhere when the heart is right and the soul adores the living Lord, this is the special glory of the place, 'Jehovah-Shammah, the Lord is there.'"

B. His Presence in the Church Presents a Witness:

1. While we cannot separate the believer from the church (God never does!) the corporate Body presents a collective witness.

ILLUS: Except the Lord be present in the local church, no power on earth can keep it from the frostbite which numbs and kills. Except the Lord be there, growth, life, warmth...all are impossible and the members are holy icicles. But where His presence is there a church is a little heaven, a special haven, the resort of angels, a witness to the world and the Temple of God on earth!

2. We are to be the salt of the earth holding back the corruption of sin and the light of the world exposing the wickedness of man.

ILLUS: Did you ever wonder why we irritate the unsaved when we live openly and boldly for Him? Salt irritates and light exposes! Has your salt lost its savor and is your light hid under a bushel? Do people wince at your witness and hide their sin in the light of your presence?

III. HIS SPECIAL PRESENCE FUTURE:

A. His Presence in the Rapture Speaks of Deliverance:

NOTE: The future begins NOW! The next instant is the future and it could also be the time of His return for His own. "O joy, O delight, should we go without dying; no sickness, no sadness, no dread or no crying! Caught up thru the clouds with the Lord into glory...when Jesus receiveth His own!" The Lord will be there...in Person!

B. His Presence in the Tribulation is for Judgment:

1. All who have rejected Him in this age of grace will enter the age of judgment and wrath.

2. The Lord will be there to pour out His wrath upon a sinful planet and its population.

C. His Presence in the Millennium Will be to Resume His Reign:

1. Man has rejected His reign beginning in the Garden and throughout the world's history.

2. His reign will be forced upon man at the close of the Tribulation because only believers will survive the holocaust of the Tribulation.

NOTE: This is the context of our text! The Lord will be there as King of righteousness and King of Peace.

D. His Presence in Heaven Will Restore Paradise Lost:

NOTE: God will again dwell with man in the "new heavens and the new earth" which will be another Eden...Paradise in the ultimate sense.

CONCL: We need this "OLD NAME FOR THE NEW YEAR... JEHOVAH SHAM-MAH... THE LORD IS THERE (HERE!)" We need His presence in our church, our lives our homes. Is He THERE?