

# Topic: God Is Our Abba Father

(上帝是我們的阿爸父)

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**October 23, 2022**

## References:

1. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Abba-Father.html>
2. 10 Powerful Names of God (and What They Mean for Us Today), by [Debbie McDaniel](#), 09092022 <https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/10-powerful-names-of-god-and-what-they-mean-for-us-today.html>

## Scripture Reading:

- Romans 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you **slaves**, so that you **live in fear** again; rather, the **Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”**

## Memorization Scripture Verse:

- John 1:12 Yet to all **who did receive Him**, to those **who believed in His name**, **He gave the right to become children of God**.

# Outline

- Introduction: Blessed Life
- 1. The name “Abba Father” is **one of the most significant names of God** in understanding how *He relates to people*.
- 2. Because you are his sons, **God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts**, the Spirit who calls out, “**Abba, Father.**”
- 3. The range of meanings of the name Abba Father includes **those of** *authority and discipline*, but also **those of** *compassion, care, protection, and provision*.
- 4. **The right to be a child of God and call Him “Abba Father”** is something that *only born-again Christians have*.
- 5. Concluding Remarks

## Blessed Life (有福的人生)

- Blessed is the man who does not
- (1) walk in the counsel of the wicked or
- (2) stand in the way of sinners or
- (3) sit in the seat of \*mockers. (Psalms 1:1-2 詩篇第一篇 vv. 1-2)
- → ★Stay away from all evils and sins.
- 不從惡人的計謀，不站罪人的道路，不坐褻慢人的座位，
- \*mockers: to spoil something or stop it from happening

- But ★his delight is in the law of the LORD, and
- ★on His law he meditates day and night.
- 惟喜愛神的律法，晝夜思想，這人便為有福(blessed)！

# ◎◎◎The law of the LORD:

- Micah 6:8 <sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O mortal, **what is good**.  
And **what does the LORD require of you?**
- (1) To **act justly** and
- (2) to **love mercy**  
and
- (3) to **walk humbly with your God**.
- (1) Justice 公義、
- (2) Mercy 憐憫、
- (3) Humility 謙卑、

- Other attributes of God:
- (1) Integrity正直、
- (2) Wisdom智慧、
- (3) Omnipotent全能、
- (4) Omnipresence無所不在

1. The name “Abba Father” is **one of the most significant names of God** in understanding how **He relates to people**.

- Abba means “Father” – Abba is the most intimate form of God’s name, showing us **His character as our loving daddy**.
- He is
- (1) the One who **can be fully trusted**,
- (2) the One **we can lean on**,
- (3) the One who **cares about *all* that concerns us**.

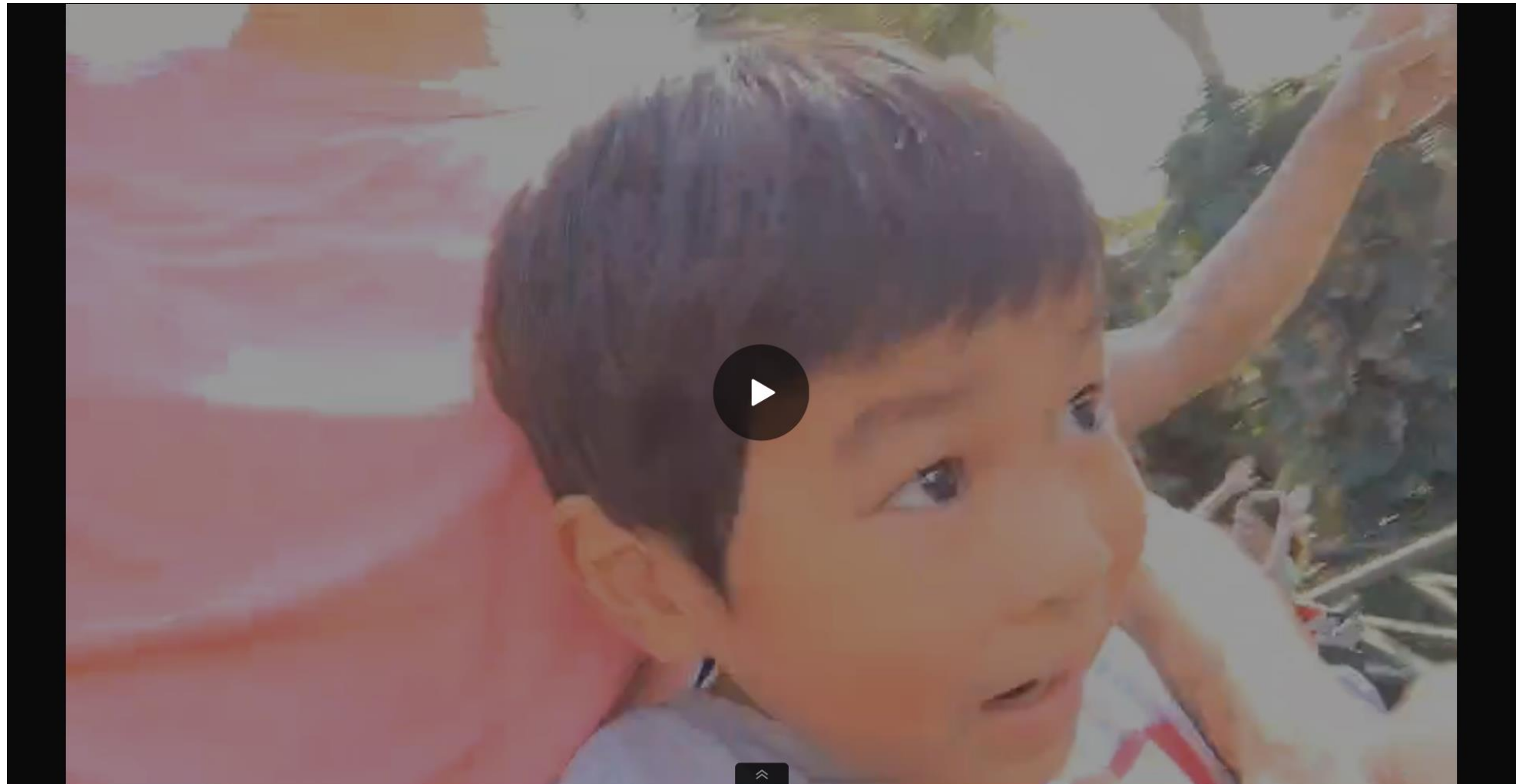
- Just as a **godly father's presence in our daily lives** is one of
- **(1) protection,**
- **(2) security, and**
- **(3) unconditional love,**
- **the constant presence of our heavenly Father** is what **gives** us the **strength and covering** we need **for this life's journey.**

- He gives us the **privilege of being called his own sons and daughters.** → son-ship, inheritance
- He provides the way for us to **call out to Him** and the assurance, beyond a doubt, that **He hears and will answer.** → prayers
- In our **most difficult to painful times in life**, we can crawl up into the lap of our heavenly Father, and know that **He is for us, and His arms will hold us secure.** → provides help, support, strengthen, equip, comfort

2. Because you are his sons, **God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts**, the Spirit who calls out, “**Abba, Father.**”

- [Galatians 4:6](#)
- *Abba* signifies the close, intimate relationship of a father and his child, as well as the childlike trust that a young child puts in his “daddy.”
- we are assured of **God’s care for His children.**

# Roller-Coaster Ride of Nicolas, dated October 18, 2022





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# Approach Him with boldness and confidence; and in full assurance of faith.

- we can
- (1) approach Him **with “boldness”** ([Hebrews 10:19](#)  
<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we
- (2) **have confidence** to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,) and
- (3) in **“full assurance of faith”** ([Hebrews 10:22](#) <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.).

Indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- The **Holy Spirit** “testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.
- Now **if we are children**, then **we are heirs**—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:16–17 <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God’s children**. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are **heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we **share in his sufferings** in order that we may also **share in his glory**.).

- Because of becoming a child of God, we have a ***new relationship with God and a new standing before Him.***
- Instead of **running from God and trying to hide our sin like Adam and Eve did**, we **run to Him, \*\*calling, “Abba, Father!”** and **finding forgiveness in Christ.**

# What does that mean by being an adopted child of God?

- **Being an adopted child of God** is
  - (1) the **source of our hope**,
  - (2) the **security of our future**, and
  - (3) the **motivation** to “live a life worthy of the calling you have received”
- 
- ([Ephesians 4:1](#) As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.).

## Inheritance kept in heaven

- Being children of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords calls us to a **higher standard, a different way of life, and, in the future, “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade”** ([1 Peter 1:4](#)<sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. **This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,**).
- Acts 26:17-18 <sup>17</sup>
- (1) I will **rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles.**
- (2) I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to **open their eyes** and
- (3) **turn them from darkness to light, and**
- (4) **from the power of Satan to God, so that**
- (5) they may **receive forgiveness of sins** and
- (6) **a place** among those who are **sanctified by faith in me.**

## American Standard Version

- <sup>17</sup> delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom I send thee, <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that **they may receive**
- **(5) remission (the fact of *being forgiven* for breaking religious laws or rules) of sins and**
- **(6) an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in me.**

- When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He began with the words ***Our Father.***
- There is much truth in those two words alone.
- (1) The **holy and righteous God**, who
- (2) **created and sustains all things**, who
- (3) is **all-powerful**,
- (4) **all-knowing**, and
- (5) **ever-present**,
- ***not only allows us but encourages us to call Him “Father.”***

## Cry of “Abba, Father!”

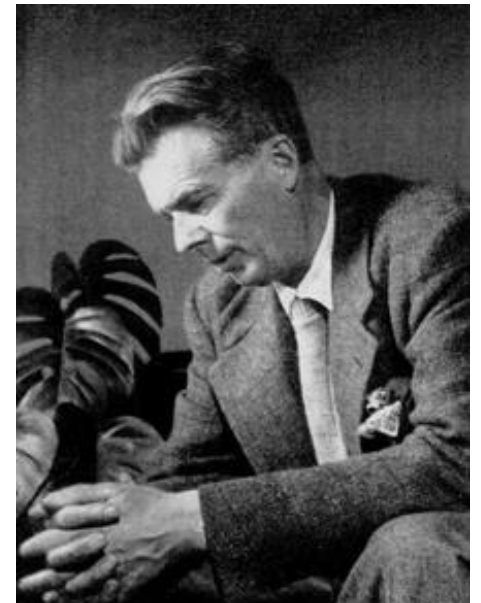
- (1) What a **privilege** is ours.
- (2) What **amazing grace** that **God would love us so**, that
- (3) **Jesus would sacrifice Himself for us**, and that
- (4) the *Holy Spirit* would **indwell us** and **prompt our intimate cry of “Abba, Father!”** → **enlighten and empower us**

- Ephesians 2:14 <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who **has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier**, the **dividing wall of hostility**,
- Colossians 2:13-14 <sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God
- (1) **made you alive with Christ.**
- (2) **He forgave us all our sins**, <sup>14</sup> having
- (3) **canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness**, which stood against us and condemned us;
- (4) ***He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.***

**3. The range of meanings of the name Abba Father** includes **those of authority and discipline**, but also **those of compassion, care, protection, and provision**.

- **Hebrews 12:7 <sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline**; God is treating you as his children. For **what children are not disciplined by their father?** → **Olympic champion**: **highly disciplined physically** along with **mental stability and maturity**

- Huxley said, “★An ordinary person tends to be mediocre;”  
one ought to do difficult things.
- 赫胥黎說：「大眾的傾向是平庸的。」總要做困難的事。Aldous Huxley,  
an English writer and philosopher; wrote nearly 50 books



- **Why didn't the Israelites get to the Promised Land in *two weeks*; rather, they did it until *forty years* after they began their trip?**
- **Reference: Integrity** – The Courage to Meet the Demands of Reality – ***How Six Essential Qualities Determine Your Success in Business***, by Henry Cloud, Collins, 2006

# Leadership Inside – Then Outside

- Numbers 32:13 <sup>13</sup> The LORD's anger burned against Israel and **he made them wander in the wilderness forty years**, until the whole generation of those who had done evil in his sight was gone.
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- **The first person you lead is you – and you ★ cannot lead effectively without *self-discipline*.**
- If only the Israelites had remembered this lesson! **For forty years the Israelites wondered around in the desert.**
- Why didn't they get to the Promised Land more quickly? Not because it lay so far away – **they could have made the trip in two weeks.**
- The real reason boils down to **★preparation**. **The people simply weren't ready for God's blessing until forty years after they began their trip.**
- 
- **★Discipline**: the ability to control, even in difficult situations

- How about you? How is your self-discipline? Plato said, “The first and best victory is to conquer self.”
- If you want to be ★★leader with self-discipline, follow these action points:
- Develop and follow your **priorities**.
- Make a **disciplined lifestyle** your goal.
- **Challenge** your excuses.
- Remove rewards until you **finish the job**.
- **Stay focused** on results.

- Matthew 28:18-20 <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said,
- (1) “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** <sup>19</sup> Therefore
- (2) **go and make disciples of all nations,**
- (2a) **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and
- (2b) **teaching them** to obey *everything* I have commanded you.
- (3) And **surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

- 2 Thessalonians 3 <sup>3</sup> But the **Lord is faithful**, and **he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.**
- Psalm 33:9 <sup>9</sup> **For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood *firm*.**
- Hebrews 13:8 <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is ***the same yesterday and today and forever.***

# Jehovah-jireh: In the mount of Jehovah it shall be provided

- Genesis 22:14
- NIV So Abraham called that place **The LORD Will Provide**. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”
- ASV And Abraham called the name of that place **Jehovah-jireh**: as it is said to this day, **In the mount of Jehovah it shall be provided**.

# Yahweh Nissi means “The Lord Is My Banner”

- Yahweh Nissi means “**The Lord Is My Banner**” – This is the name of God that proclaims His
- (1) protection,
- (2) leadership, and
- (3) deliverance for His people.
- Just as God brought divine protection for the Israelites against their enemy, the Amalekites, **He offers us protection and deliverance *today* from the enemies we may face in this life.**

- Exodus 17:15
- NIV Moses built an altar and **called it The LORD is my Banner.**
- ASV And Moses built an altar, and **called the name of it Jehovah-nissi;**

## Jehovah Rapha means "Healer, the Lord who heals you"

- Jehovah Rapha means "Healer, the Lord who heals you" – This name brings so much **comfort and hope** to many of us who have **prayed for**
- **healing and deliverance from**
- (1) disease, illness,
- (2) brokenness, or
- (3) painful circumstances.
- It reminds us that **God knows we're in need of help, He understands we're in need of healing, and He promises to redeem every broken place in our lives.** He never leaves us on our own to fend for ourselves.

- Exodus 15:26
- NIV He said,
- (1) “If you *listen* carefully to the LORD your God and *do* what is *right in his eyes*,
- (2) if you *pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees*,  
*I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.*”

- Immediately after the Lord “healed” the waters of Marah, He identified Himself to them as *Jehovah-Rapha*: “I am the Lord, who heals you” ([Exodus 15:26](#)). He doesn’t just heal water; He heals people. The healing of the waters was a demonstration of God’s power to overcome any impurity, contamination, or corruption. This power was going to work on behalf of the Israelites, God’s chosen people, as the Lord brought them to the [Promised Land](#).  
(<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jehovah-Rapha.html>)



## ISRAEL'S EXODUS FROM EGYPT AND ENTRY INTO CANAAN

## MAP 2



- **Exodus 34:6** <sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,  
“The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to  
anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,
- **American Standard Version**
- <sup>6</sup> And Jehovah passed by before him, and proclaimed,  
Jehovah, Jehovah,
- (1) a God **merciful and gracious,**
- (2) **slow to anger,** and
- (3) **abundant in lovingkindness and truth;**

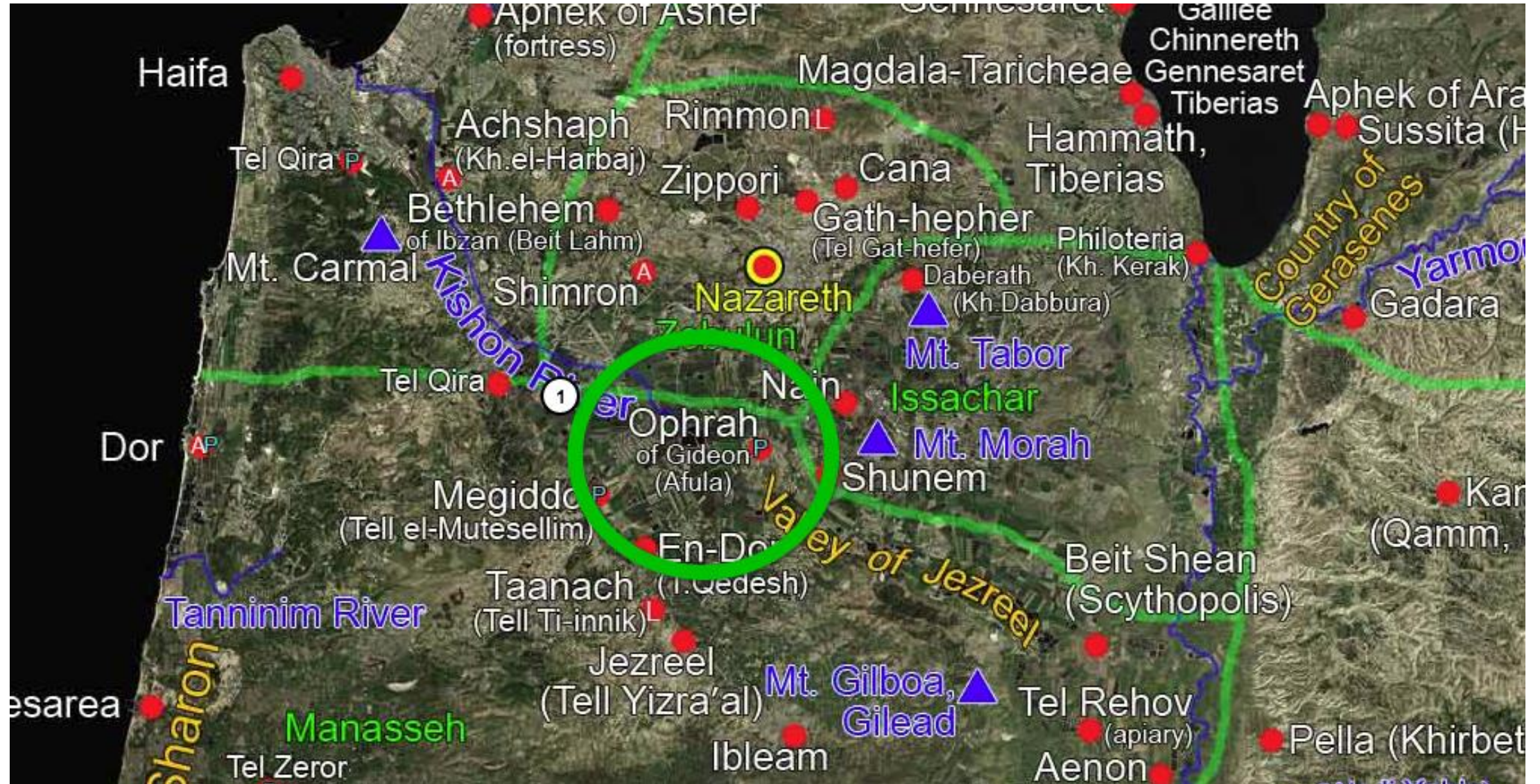
- Psalm 121:7-8 <sup>7</sup> The LORD will **keep you from all harm—**  
he will **watch over your life;**  
<sup>8</sup> the LORD will **watch over your coming and going**  
*both now and forevermore.*
- → ***scope and duration*** of His protection and of His care (all;  
over your life; *both now and forevermore*)

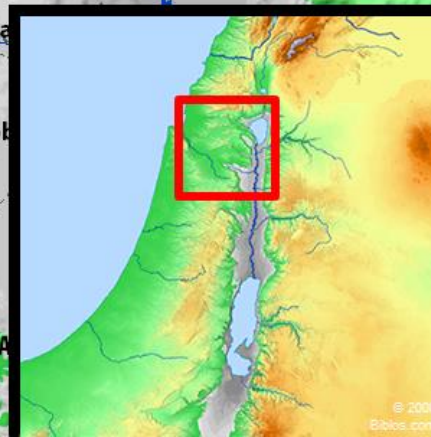
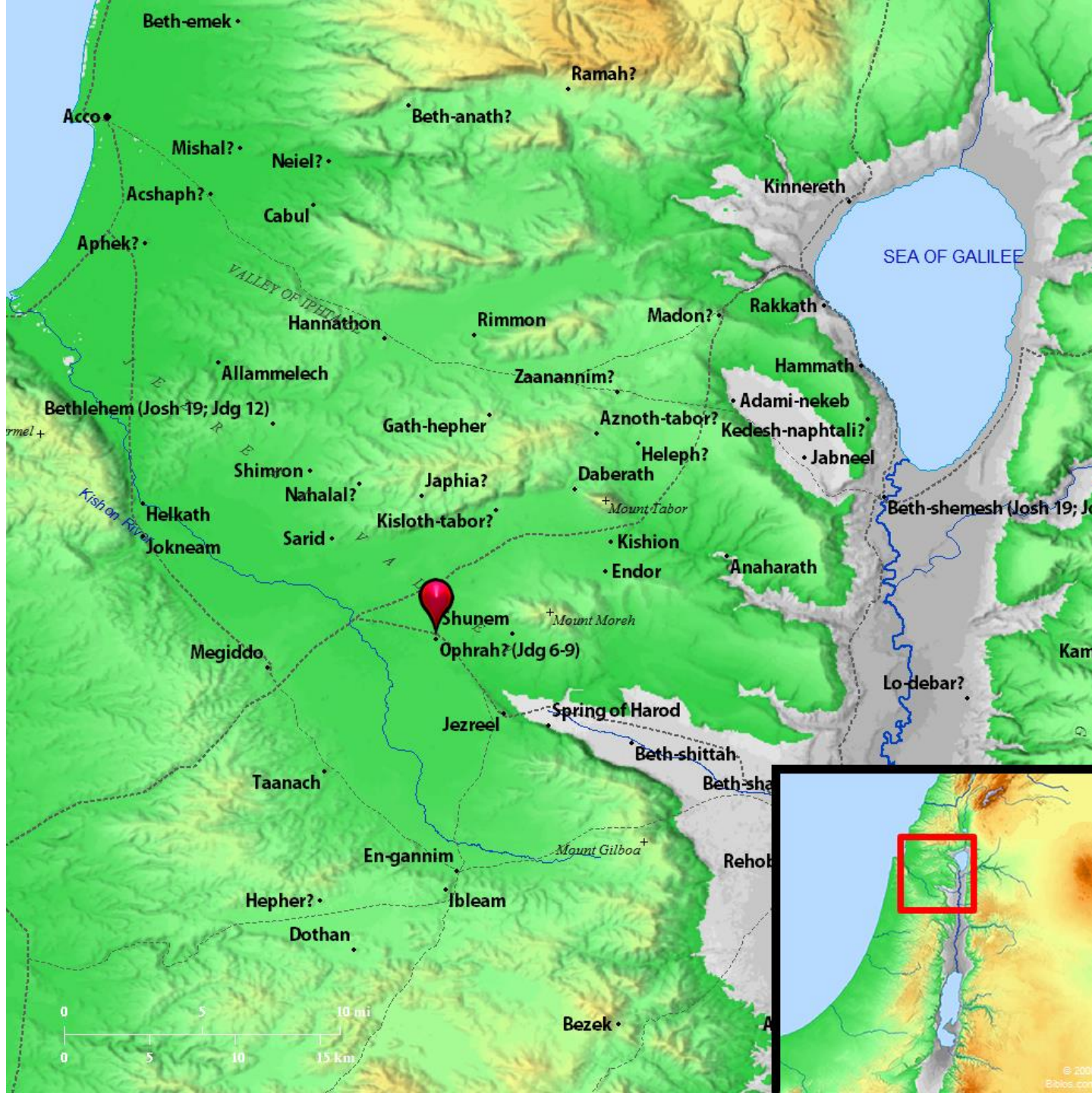
# Yahweh Shalom means “The Lord Is Peace”

- Yahweh Shalom means “**The Lord Is Peace**” – God is the only One able to give us the **peace** that passes all of our own understanding.  
↔ **doubts, fears, uncertainties, worries** (Things don't always (80%~90%) work out as you think. “人生不如意事十有八九” )
- Gideon knew this well from a time that **he and his people were surrounded by a fierce enemy**. There was **nothing** about that time that seemed “peaceful.”
- And yet, **God showed up strong on their behalf; He was faithful and brought deliverance straight through fear-filled days.**

- Judges 6:24
- NIV So **Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace.** To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites (a city of Manasseh, 6 miles (10 km) southwest of Shechem, the residence of Gideon).
- NOG So Gideon built an altar there to ***Yahweh***. He called it ***Yahweh Shalom***. To this day it is still in Ophrah, which belongs to Abiezer's family.

# Ophrah of the Abiezrites





4. The right to be a child of God and call Him “Abba Father” is something that **only born-again Christians have** (John 1:12–13).

- Many claim that all people are “children of God,” but the Bible reveals quite a different truth.
- We are
- (1) **all His creations** and
- (2) **under His authority and lordship**, and
- (3) **all will be judged by Him**, but
- (4) **the right to be a child of God and call Him “Abba Father”** is something that **only born-again Christians have** (John 1:12–13).

## John 1:12–13

- <sup>12</sup> Yet
- (1) to all who **did receive him**,
- (2) to those who **believed in his name** (believe: think that something is *true, correct, or real*), → **trust and obey (thought + realization)**
- **He gave the right to become children of God**— <sup>13</sup> children
- (1) **born not of natural descent**,
- (2) **nor of human decision or a husband's will**, but
- (3) **born of God**.

## Concluding Remarks

- **Blessed** is the man who *stays away from all evil and sin*; his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.
- The name “Abba Father” is **one of the most significant names of God.** → **He relates to people.**
- **Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts – calling out “Abba, Father.”**
- **The range of meanings of the name Abba Father** includes **authority and discipline**, but also **compassion, care, protection, and provision.**
- **The right to be a child of God and call Him “Abba Father” is only for the born-again Christians.**

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**END**