

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

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2015: Shalam, Shabath, Shalah

Happy New Year to ALL! Or, I should say *Shalam, Shabath, and Shalah* to ALL!

Each year I ask the Lord for a word for the year, and He has been faithful to give me one each year since 2007. Sometimes I am not quite sure whether they are just for me and my wife or for the many. At any rate, I post them, for I believe there are some out there who need the encouragement (or, exhortation).

I thought I had only one word for 2015, but then the Lord gave me a second one, and as I began to write this, I realized He actually has given me three interconnected words, all dealing with peace, tranquility, completeness (fullness), and rest. In spite of what might or might not happen in the world around us in 2015, these three words are a mighty encouragement to all who cling to **the Love of their life, the Lord Jesus**. I purposely state it this way, but let me state it another way: **Do you know Jesus as the Lover of Your life?** I hope so!

Today, as I began to write, I realized that the first word came with a dream on **January 31, 2014**. In the dream, I was in a war, but it was not a typical one with people shooting at and killing one another. Strangely, it was called a **WAR OF PEACE**. Normally, we think of fighting a war *for* peace but not fighting a war *of* peace. In giving me interpretation of the dream and this war, the Lord spoke to me: **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God."** We are called to be peacemakers and to conquer through peace, through the Prince of Peace who has won peace for all mankind and creation. We win hearts through His peace; not through the carnal weapons of our flesh but through the spiritual sword, not the physical sword (i.e., guns). For more on this, see TUC #08-1409, February 14, 2014, *War of Peace!*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc606.pdf>

Now, the first word for 2015 comes from the Hebrew word **shalom** [H7965], which, according to *Strong's Concordance*, means: "**safe**, i.e., *well, happy, friendly; welfare*, i.e., health, prosperity, **peace**, such as **be at peace, rest, welfare, well.**" **Shalom** comes from the primitive root **shalam** [H7999], which means: "to **be safe** (in mind, body or estate); to **be completed; finish, full, make to be at peace.**" This is a "to be" (i.e., *being*) word.

Within the definitions are the concepts of **safety, peace, rest, and completeness** (i.e., finish, full). As we will see, these words connect to the other two words for 2015. The Lord is speaking peace to His people. We are safe and secure in Him, and in Him we are complete. After all; **it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness** [*pleroma* G4138; "completion, full, fullness"] **to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven** (Colossians 1:19-20). **For in Him all the fullness** [*pleroma* G4138] **of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete** [*pleroo* G4137], **and He is the head over all rule and authority** (Colossians 2:9-10). Although these words come from the Greek, take note of the words *fullness* and *complete*. From this position, we are to wage a war of peace in a world that knows so little of the reconciling peace of God.

The second word came on **October 26, 2014** while I was quietly seeking the Lord. The word is **Sabbath**. Many Christians continue to debate what the Sabbath means to the *ecclesia*, especially in regard to Saturday or Sunday worship. This is old covenant thinking; we need new covenant spiritual vision. Most know that the Israelites were called to rest on the weekly Sabbath and to let the land rest in the seven-year Sabbath. There is also the Jubilee, the 49/50-year Sabbath in which all debts were to be canceled or put away or put to rest. However, far fewer probably know that at the end of all the ages (eons) to come, God's ultimate rest is what some call the **Grand Jubilee of Creation**, when all debts are fully and finally cancelled for ALL.

What seems more relevant at *this* point in history is to have a vision of **the Lord's seventh-day shabbath of 1,000 years**, commonly called **the Kingdom or Tabernacles Age**, that Age to come. In that day, there will be peace and rest from war and all that frustrates man today. It is the Kingdom of Righteousness and Peace, **the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** (Revelation 11:15).

The Lord has revealed the end from the beginning, and He tells us right up front that He will have a seventh day, meaning He will *shabath* or rest once again: **Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested** [H7673 *shabath*] **on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it** (Genesis 2:1-3). Prophetically, this pointed to six, 1,000-year days for man (Man's Day), followed by a seventh, 1,000-year day for the Lord. For more on this, see article #45: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art45.pdf>. This is all quite relevant but actually not the heart of the message the Lord wants to convey through the word *Sabbath*.

The primitive root word from which *Sabbath* (*shabbath*) is derived is **shabath** (H7673), which, according to Strong, means: "to **repose, desist** from exertion; make to **cease**, make to **rest**." The Hebrew word *shabbath* (H7676, from H7673), means: "*intermission, the Sabbath*." Thus, at the heart of **shabath** is the word **rest**, meaning to put away or cease activity of some sort. This is not about a day of the week; it too is a "to be" (i.e., *being*) word.

The third word for the year came on **December 31, 2014** after I woke from a dream at **1:53 am**. The dream was quite significant, but that is a subject unto itself. By the way, the number **153** signifies **sons of God**. As I was journaling the dream, I saw and heard the word **shalah**, another "to be" (i.e., *being*) word.

The Hebrew word **shalah** (H7951) is a primitive root meaning "to be **tranquil**, i.e., secure or successful; be happy, prosper, be in safety." The Hebrew words *Shiloh* (H7886 and H7887) and *shelah* (H7954; "to be secure, at rest") come from this same root word. Notice the emphasis on the words *rest* and *tranquil*; the latter being defined by *Webster's Dictionary* as: "1. free from emotional disturbance or agitation; calm; serene; placid. 2. Quiet or motionless; even; steady." Adding to this, one of Webster's definitions of *peace* is: "*calm, quiet, tranquility*." Thus, the word *shalah* and its derivatives speak of *tranquility, rest, and peace*, similar to *shalam* and *shabath*.

Interestingly, the Lord could have given me the word *Shiloh*, and I would have understood. Instead, He wanted me to consider its primitive root, a word that appeared in my December 26, 2014 post, *Until Shiloh Comes*, <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc621.pdf>. There, in reference to the meaning of *Shiloh*, I quoted from *Fausset's Bible Encyclopedia and Dictionary*: "**Shiloh** means **the Peacemaker**," as it comes from the word *shalah*, meaning "to be at peace" or "to be tranquil or at rest." I also wrote: "Thus, prophetically speaking, *Shiloh* is the name of the **Prince of Peace** (Isaiah 9:6), which is in line with the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to establish His Kingdom of Peace and Righteousness as the King-Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5, 7). This seems to be the more appropriate meaning of *Shiloh*."

Putting all of this together, for the year 2015, we are to be encouraged with the root words that have similar and overlapping meanings: **Shalam, Shabath, and Shalah**. These are what I would call *being* words—**be at peace, be at rest, and be tranquil**. Better yet, **be full of Yeshua-Shiloh!** The Savior and the Peacemaker of ALL!

Dear brethren, the Father is calling us into His place of peace, security, safety, rest, calm, tranquility, and completeness or fullness. It is a place of *being*, not doing, for out of *being* comes the doing. There is only one place that we discover all of these, and it is in none other than God's Son, our Lord Jesus. These things will be lacking if we are living according to our flesh. We are being called to cease striving in our flesh, even "doing things for God," and to rest in the Lover of our life by His Spirit. The world, which has its ebb and flow of tumult, does not know Shiloh, the Peacemaker. But we do! And, we know that Shiloh must come to usher in the seventh 1,000-year day, a day of great peace, tranquility, and rest from striving after the wind and being tossed about by tumult. It is time to enter into the fullness of Christ, to be complete in Him, no longer living in the partiality but in the fullness of the Beloved Son of God, to be more and more like the Son as we press on toward the glory of sonship (number 153) in the Age to come. It is about *being*.

Until Shiloh comes, *Shalam, Shabath, Shalah!*