

Judges 6:1—7:25 **Gideon**

Seven years of oppression by Midian

¹ Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, ² and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains. ³ So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. ⁴ Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. ⁵ For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it. ⁶ So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.

Prophet of Yehowah came to Israel

⁷ And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites, ⁸ that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; ⁹ and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ Also I said to you, "I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not obeyed My voice.' "

Malak Yehowah appeared to Gideon

¹¹ Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

¹³ Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

¹⁴ Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

¹⁵ So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

¹⁷ Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. ¹⁸ Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back."

19 So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them.

20 The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. 21 Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

Yehowah spoke to Gideon – Altar at Ophrah

22 Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face." 23 Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die." 24 So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

At the Command of Yehowah, Gideon destroyed his father's altar of Baal

25 Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; 26 and build an altar to the LORD your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."

27 So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the LORD had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.

Men of the city seek to kill Gideon – Let Baal plead for himself

28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar which had been built. 29 So they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And when they had inquired and asked, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing." 30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it."

31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!" 32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar."

Midianites and Amalekites gather for war

33 Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.

Gideon calls for an army of Israel – Test of the Fleece

34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. 35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

³⁶ So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said-- ³⁷ look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said." ³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew." ⁴⁰ And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

Judges 7:1-25

Ready for war – Too many people – Reduced to 300

¹ Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

² And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' ³ "Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' " And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

⁴ But the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go."

⁵ So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink." ⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water. ⁷ Then the LORD said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place."

⁸ So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

Midianite dream

⁹ It happened on the same night that the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand. ¹⁰ But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant, ¹¹ and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp." Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp. ¹² Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude. ¹³ And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, "I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned,

and the tent collapsed." ¹⁴ Then his companion answered and said, "This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp."

Victory with 300 men

¹⁵ And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand." ¹⁶ Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: ¹⁸ When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!' "

¹⁹ So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. ²⁰ Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers--they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing--and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!" ²¹ And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. ²² When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

Israeli army joins the battle – Defeat of the Midianites – Ephraim called to help

²³ And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.

²⁴ Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan." Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan. ²⁵ And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Israel sinned – God delivered them into the hand of the enemy – Seven years of oppression

As the Scripture said:

Judges 2:19

¹⁹ And it came to pass, **when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.** NKJV

- ✧ Yehowah used other nations to punish His people for their sins, in this case He used **the Midianites** against Israel. [Judges 4:1-2]
- ✧ Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of Yehowah (the LORD). [Judges 6:1]
- ✧ So the **LORD** delivered them into the hand of **Midian** for **seven years**. [Judges 6:1-6]
 - ◇ The Children of Israel were driven into dens, caves, and mountain strongholds.

- ✧ The **Midianites, Amalekites, and people of the East** would come up against them and destroy the produce of the ground as far as Gaza, they came with their livestock and camels as numerous as locusts.
- ✧ Israel was left with no sustenance either sheep, ox, or donkey.
- ✧ So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to Yehowah (the LORD).

Prophet of Yehowah came to Israel

- ✧ The Children of Israel cried out to Yehowah (the LORD) because of the Midianites. [Judges 6:7]
- ✧ Yehowah sent a **prophet** to the Children of Israel, who reminded them of Yehowah's work of the past, His commandment, and His judgment of the present: [Judges 6:8-10]
 - ✧ "Thus says Yehowah Elohey (the LORD God of) Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. Also I said to you, "I am Yehowah Eloheykm (the LORD your God); do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." **But you have not obeyed My voice.**' "

Malak Yehowah appeared to Gideon

- ✧ Now **Malek Yehowah** (the Angel of the LORD) came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in **Ophrah**, which **belonged to Joash the Abiezrite**, while **his son Gideon** threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And Malek Yehowah (the Angel of the LORD) appeared to him, and said to him, "Yehowah (The LORD) is with you, you mighty man of valor!" [Judges 6:9-12]
- ✧ Gideon said to Him, "O **Adoney** (my lord), if **Yehowah** (the LORD) is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not **Yehowah** (the LORD) bring us up from Egypt?' But now **Yehowah** (the LORD) has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." [Judges 6:13]
 - ✧ Gideon addressed **Malek Yehowah** as **Adoney** (my Lord).
- ✧ Then **Yehowah** (the LORD) turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" [Judges 6:14]
 - ✧ The **Malek Yehowah** of verses 9-12 becomes **Yehowah** Himself in verses 13-14, & 16.
- ✧ **Yehowah** (the LORD) said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man." [Judges 6:16]
 - ✧ Here **Malek Yehowah** speaks in the first person, saying, "**Surely I will be with you**, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

The sign that it certainly is Yehowah speaking to Gideon

- ✧ Gideon asked Yehowah to stay until Gideon could offer a sacrifice, and then request a sign. Yehowah agreed to wait. [Judges 6:17-18]
- ✧ Gideon prepared an offering and presented it before Yehowah. [Judges 6:19]
- ✧ Yehowah instructed Gideon to place the offering on the rock and pour the broth over it. [Judges 6:20]
- ✧ Then **Malek Yehowah** (the Angel of the LORD) put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And **Malek Yehowah** (the Angel of the LORD) **departed out of his sight**. [Judges 6:21]
 - ✧ Here **Yehowah** is again called **Malek Yehowah** (the Angel of the Lord)

Yehowah spoke to Gideon – Altar at Ophrah [Judges 6:22-24]

- ✧ Gideon perceived that He was Malek Yehowah (the Angel of the LORD).

- ✧ So Gideon said, "Alas, O **Adoney Yehowah** (Lord GOD)! For I have seen **Malek Yehowah** (the Angel of the LORD) face to face."
- ✧ Then **Yehowah** (the LORD) said to him, "**Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.**"
- ✧ So Gideon built an altar there to **Yehowah** (the LORD), and called it **Yehowah Shalom** (The-LORD-Is-Peace). To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.
 - ✧ Some guess that Ophrah of the Abiezrites was located about 6 miles SW of Shechem. It was Gideon's birth place and home.

At the Command of Yehowah, Gideon destroyed his father's altar of Baal [Judges 6:25-27]

- ✧ The command from Yehowah was:
 - ✧ "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; and build an altar to **Yehowah Eloheyk** (the LORD your God) on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."
- ✧ So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as Yehowah (the LORD) had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.

Men of the city seek to kill Gideon – Let Baal plead for himself [Judges 6:28-32]

- ✧ Gideon's fear of the men of the city was justified, because when they learned about it, they wanted to kill him.
- ✧ Gideon's father stood up for Gideon and said; "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!"
- ✧ Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar."

Midianites and Amalekites gather for war

- ✧ Then all the **Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East**, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. [Judges 6:33]

Gideon calls for an army of Israel – Test of the Fleece [Judges 6:34-40]

- ✧ But **Ruach Yehowah** (the Spirit of the LORD) came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. [Judges 6:34]
 - ✧ The Abiezrites were Gideon's clan.
- ✧ And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them. [Judges 6:35]
 - ✧ Manasseh was Gideon's tribe in Israel.
 - ✧ Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali were near-by tribes of Israel.
- ✧ Gideon sought confirmation that Yehowah would indeed give the Israelites victory, by twice using the fleece. [Judges 6:36-40]

Judges 7:1-25

Ready for war – Too many people – Reduced to 300 [Judges 7:1-8]

- ✧ Gideon and the armies of Israel were located at the foot of Mount Gilboa on the South side of the Jezreel Valley. The Midianite armies were encamped on the North side of the Jezreel Valley at the foot of the hill of Moreh.
- ✧ Gideon had an army of 32,000

- ✧ Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as **numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude.**
- ✧ The difference in number would require a miracle of God for Israel to be victorious.
- ✧ **Yehowah wanted this to be an obvious miracle so the Children of Israel would know without a shadow of a doubt that it was done by Yehowah Himself and not by the strength of man.**
- ✧ At the command of Yehowah, they sent all who were fearful to their homes and lost 22,000 men leaving only 10,000 still with Gideon.
- ✧ At the test of the water drinking, they sent another 9,700 men home leaving only 300 which was all Yehowah needed for the war was Yehowah's.

Midianite dream [Judges 7:9-14]

- ✧ To encourage Gideon, Yehowah sent him to the edge of the camp of the Midianites to hear about a dream and its interpretation from the enemy.

Victory with 300 men [Judges 7:15-22]

- ✧ And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Arise, for Yehowah (the LORD) has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand." [Judges 7:15]
- ✧ The 300 men divided into three companies of 100 each and stationed around the camp of the enemy with trumpets torches and pitchers in hand, in the middle of the night, they blew the trumpets, broke the pitchers, and held the torches in the left hand and the trumpets in the right hand, they blew the trumpets and cried out, "The Sword of Yehowah and of Gideon!"
- ✧ Yehowah put panic in the hearts of the enemy and they in confusion were killing each other while Gideon and his forces stood still all around their camp.
- ✧ The Midianite armies fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

Israeli army joins the battle – Defeat of the Midianites – Ephraim called to help [Judges 7:23-25]

- ✧ And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites. [Judges 7:23]
- ✧ Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan." Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan. [Judges 7:24]
- ✧ And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan. [Judges 7:25]