

Gideon

Judges 6-8

- The Midianite Oppression. Judges 6:1-10
 - Caused by Israel's sin. 6:1
 - Magnitude of destruction. 6:1-6; 7:12
 - God's prophet – People wouldn't listen. 6:7-10

- Gideon's background. Judges 6:11, 15
 - A son of Joash of the family of Abiezer, a Manassite.
 - Lived in the village of Ophrah.
 - A farmer (6:11) whom God calls a "*mighty man of valor*" 6:12

- Gideon's call. Judges 6
 - Gideon visited by an angel. 6:11
 - If the Lord is with us, why then why has all this happened to us? 6:13
 - God promised to be with Gideon and by him save Israel from the Midianites. 6:14
 - Gideon's humility. 6:15
 - Gideon asked for a sign and built an altar. 6:17-24
 - Gideon destroyed the altar of Baal & Asherah and is called "Jerubbaal" 6:25-35

Lessons For Our Learning:

- Even the least in the kingdom of God are of use to Him (1 Corinthians 12:14-26).
- God blesses those who obey Him and withholds the blessing from those who sin. Deuteronomy 28-30
- Idolatry is a bankrupt system of belief. False gods can do nothing. Judges 6:26-32; Psalms 115; Isaiah 44

- Gideon Defeated The Midianites
Judges 7:1-8:21
 - Gideon's army is reduced (7:1-8)
 - A Midianite's dream reassures Gideon (7:9-15)
 - Gideon's battle strategy and victory (7:16-25)
cf. Ezek. 22:30
 - Men of Ephraim help, men of Succoth and Penuel refuse (7:24-8:21)
 - Zebah and Zalmunna kings of Midian, killed! (8:21)

Lessons For Our Learning:

- God does not depend upon large numbers of people to accomplish His goals. Deuteronomy 7:6-8
- All spiritual victories occur because of God's power, not our power (2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Ephesians 6:10-13).
- We should always be ready to help those who are fighting the Lord's battles (3 John 5-8).

■ The People Want To Crown Gideon

Judges 8:22-35

- "Jehovah shall rule over you" (8:23)
- Gideon's ephod (8:24-27) Idolatrous cultic garment.
- Relief from the Midianites (8:28)
- The sons of Gideon (8:29-32)
- Unfaithful and forgetful Israel (8:33-35)

■ Lessons For Our Learning:

- God rules (cf. Pharaoh Exodus 14:4) (cf. Daniel 4-5); Ezekiel "*ye shall know that I am Jehovah*" (63 times)
- Men have a tendency to worship religious objects (cf. 2 Kings 18:4 "Nehushtan"); (Acts 17:22-23).
- People often forget God (Deuteronomy 6:10-15; Joshua – Judges; Jeremiah 2:32).

THE CHARACTER OF GIDEON

Hebrews 11:32-33

- Gideon and the winepress (6:11, 15)
(Humble, industrious)
- Gideon and the altar (6:25-27)
(God-fearing)
- Gideon and the fleece (6:36-40)
(Careful assurance of God's will)
- Gideon at the water (7:4-8)
(Courageous faith)
- Gideon refuses to rule
(God shall rule over you)
- "Subdued kingdoms"
Hebrews 11:32-33