

Old Testament Stories

"Gideon & His Fleece"

Judges 6

☞ What would you like to praise God for today?

☞ Pray for God's guidance as you study



1. What is one thing you are afraid of?

- a. snakes b. the dark c. sharks d. water e. other

2. In the seven years prior to Gideon's story, what had the situation in Israel been like? Why?

3. When the angel appears, he finds Gideon threshing wheat in a winepress. Why might Gideon be doing that and what clues does it give to his character?

Why does the angel address Gideon as a "mighty warrior"?

4. Gideon is quick with excuses for the angel. Write out the excuses and the angel's response.

Excuse #1: (6:13)

Response: (6:14)

Excuse #2: (6:15)

Response: (6:16)

Excuse #3: (6:17)

Response (6:18-21)

5. At what point does Gideon recognize the angel for who he is? Why not until then?

Why the thought of death? (See Ex. 33:20)

6. What is the significance of the altar that Gideon built (6:24-32)?

7. How do you account for Gideon's new found courage and name change?

How does Gideon still lack courage (6:27,30)?

8. Why might God choose someone who is so cowardly to lead the Jewish people into battle against their enemies? (1 Cor. 1:26-31).

9. Consider Judges 6:36-40. Have you ever used a “fleece” to seek direction from God?

How do you feel about asking the Lord for “signs”?

10. What is the hardest thing about doing God’s will?

- a. figuring out what it is
- b. choosing the many options God gives me
- c. taking risks
- d. explaining my actions to others
- e. doing it once I know what it is.

11. Look back at this chapter and write on the lines below all the reassurances God gives to Gideon.

Judges 6:12 _____

Judges 6:14 _____

Judges 6:16 _____

Judges 6:18 _____

Judges 6:22 _____

12. Where are you uncertain, afraid, or overly cautious of God’s call to you right now?

13. Gideon built an altar and tore one down overnight. What would you like to “tear down” in your life, if you could? And what would you like to “build up” to the glory of God? How can your small group help you get started in this project?

Prayer: For one another

LIFE GROUPS

A safe place to build friendships and grow spiritually.

- L** ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
- I** ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
- F** ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
- E** ♦ Evangelism..... reaching others with the hope of Christ



DID YOU KNOW?

The Midianites were an Arabian tribe descended from Midian, a son of Abraham.

They principally inhabited the desert north of the peninsula of Arabia. The peninsula of Sinai was the pasture-ground for their flocks. They were virtually the rulers of Arabia, being the dominant tribe.

Like all Arabians, they were a nomadic people. They early engaged in commercial pursuits. It was to one of their caravans that Joseph was sold (Gen. 37:28,36).

The next notice of them is in connection with Moses' flight from Egypt (Ex. 2:15-21). Here, in Midian, Moses became the servant, and afterwards the son-in-law, of Reul or Jethro, the Midian priest..

Several centuries after this, the Midianites had regained their ancient power, and in confederation with the Amalekites and the "children of the east" they made war against their old enemies the Israelites, whom for seven years they oppressed and held in subjection. They were at length assailed by Gideon in that ever-memorable battle in the great plain of Esdraelon, and utterly destroyed (Judges 6-7). Frequent allusions are afterwards made to this great victory (Psalm 83:10,12; Isa. 9:4; 10:6). The Midianites now wholly pass away from the page of history both sacred and profane.

---Christian Answers.net

"The whole burnt offering was an expression of complete consecration to God. That would certainly be true in this case. For seven years the Midianites and their allies had been invading the land, destroying the crops and livestock of Israel, but somehow Gideon's father had been successful in hiding and preserving the life of one bullock which had been born about the time the raids began. This highly prized bullock was the sacrifice God required Gideon to offer on the altar. It may have been the most valuable asset of the farm, but offering it to God in a burnt offering was in keeping with the true spirit of that kind of sacrifice."

--excerpt from History Makers of the Old Testament by Elmer Towns pg. 269

Ritualistic Baal worship, in sum, looked a little like this: Adults would gather around the altar of Baal. Infants would then be burned alive as a sacrificial offering to the deity. Amid horrific screams and the stench of charred human flesh, congregants – men and women alike – would engage in bisexual orgies. The ritual of convenience was intended to produce economic prosperity by prompting Baal to bring rain for the fertility of "mother earth." -- excerpt from *Baal Worship, then and Now* by Matt Barber