



GIDEON LED ISRAEL



Judges 6:1-6,11-25,33-40; 7:4-8,15-23

The Israelites continued to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord. So, the Lord handed them over to the Midianites, who destroyed the Israelites' crops and took their livestock. God's people cried out to the Lord.

The angel of the Lord appeared to a man named Gideon. The angel said, "The Lord is with you, brave warrior. I am sending you to rescue My people from Midian."

"But how can I do that?", asked Gideon. "I am from the weakest family in Israel, and I am the youngest man in my family."

God said, "I will be with you, and you will have victory." God also told him to tear down places of worship to two false gods: Baal and Asherah.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew the ram's horn and God's people came to meet him and fight the Midianites. Gideon said to God, "I will put a wool fleece on the ground. If in the morning, there is dew on the fleece, but the ground is dry, then I will know that you will give Israel victory." When he woke, the fleece was wet, and the ground was dry.

Again, Gideon said to God, "Don't be angry with me, but let me make one more test. This time, let the fleece be dry and the ground be wet." That night, God did as Gideon requested. The fleece was dry, and the ground was wet with dew. So, the army went to fight the Midianites.

Before Israel began to fight, **the Lord said to Gideon. "You have too many troops. If you fight with this many people, Israel will think they defeated the Midianites on their own. They need to know that I am the One who gives them victory." So, Gideon told anyone who was fearful of the battle to go home. Twenty-two thousand troops left, and ten thousand remained.**

The Lord said, "There are still too many troops. Take them down to the water, and everyone who laps water like a dog will stay to fight the battle." After this test, only three hundred troops remained.

Then **the Israelites** surrounded the Midianite camp. They blew their trumpets and **made a great noise, shouting, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" The Midianites** were confused and scared; they **turned on each other with their swords. God's people won the battle..**



Christ Connection: *Gideon could have never won the battle without God's power. Victory came from God alone. We cannot save ourselves from sin. Only Jesus can save us from our sin.*