

# Judges

“Israel’s ‘Dark Ages’”

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## Lesson Seven

*"The Call of Gideon"*

Text: Judges 6

# The Three “C’s” of Gideon’s Life

He starts off a **coward** (Judges 6)

He becomes a **conqueror** (7:1 -8:21)

Ends his career as a **compromiser** (8:22-35)

More text dedicated to Gideon and the aftermath than any other judge! (Judges 6-8).

# Four doubts that plagued Gideon

Does God **really care** about us? (6:1-13)

Does God **know what He is doing**? (6:14-24)

Will God **take care of me**? (6:25-32)

Does **God keep His promises**? (6:33-40)

*“Not by might,  
nor by power,  
but by my Spirit,  
says the Lord of hosts.”  
- Zechariah 4:6*



#1

What do we know about Gideon and his family? (6:11, 15)

*Gideon was the youngest son of Joash and their family lived in Ophrah.*

*They were of the clan of Abiezrites within Manasseh and his family was poor (6:11, 15).*

**Why do you think God chose Gideon?**



#2

What are some of the ways that the writer of Judges describes life under Midianite rule (6:1-6)?

*They were forced to live in dens and caves*

*They were not able to keep their harvests – the Midianites and Amalekites would come and plunder them*

*They would have their livestock taken from them by the invaders*



#3

Of what facts does the Lord (through the prophet) put the people in remembrance? What “If/Then” argument does God then imply? (6: 7-10)

*He reminds them that it was He that brought them out of Egypt, out of slavery, preserved them, and defeated the inhabitants of Canaan so that they could take the land.*

*By inference, He indicates that since He had done these great things, they should obey Him and not the gods of the Amorites who were unable to defend the Amorites (6:10).*



#3

What is so important that the people understand about their current misery?

*The real problem is not the Midianites but their idolatry!*

*The gods of their enemies are not stronger than Jehovah even though it might appear so at the present.*

#4

What conclusions do you draw about Gideon with his first response to the LORD or His angel (6:11-16)?

*Gideon has received instruction from someone about Israel's history and, by inference, on the Old Law. His father was a Baal worshipper.*

*On the other hand, if he were well-schooled in the Old Law, he would have recognized that Israel was merely receiving what God had promised if Israel was not faithful to the Lord.*

*The faithfulness of a few is often not enough to spare a national judgment against the wicked.*



#4b

What was the first sign that Gideon asked for (6:17-24)?



Was this a lack of faith or a wise precaution to make sure he was not being deceived as happened with the Gibeonites?

What about “doubting Thomas”?

#5

Describe Gideon's first assignment.  
Judges 6: (6:25-27)

1. *Tear down the altar of Baal*
2. *Cut down the Asherah next to it*
3. *Build an altar to God*
4. *Offer one of the bulls as a sacrifice on the new altar*

Why do this? I thought the problem was the Midianites?

I Peter 4:17

#6

Why do you think the men were angry with Gideon? What argument did Joash employ in defense of Gideon?

*They were angry because their 'good-luck charm' had been destroyed; that there must have been something attractive about sacrificing to Baal to make them require the loss of life as payment for the loss of the altar and Asherim (6:30).*

*Joash said that if Baal needed defending, he could do it himself if he was, indeed a god (6:31).*

#7

How do you explain the contrast between 6:34 and Gideon's new requests for signs?

*Being “clothed” with the Spirit of the Lord (or having the Spirit come upon a person) does not take away a person's free will. From a human standpoint, it was perfectly reasonable to request reassurance that he had not ‘dreamed’ the visit from the angel.*

#8

What tribes did Gideon call out to fight the Midianites? Why do you think he summoned these?

*All of Manasseh (west of the Jordan?)*

*Asher*

*Zebulun*

*Naphtali (6:35)*

*All of these, along with Issachar, comprised the most northerly tribes of Israel and were neighboring tribes of Gideon's home town. (We are not told why Issachar was not summoned.) This was also the location of the Midianite army at this time (6:33).*

#9

Describe the final two signs.



*First, Gideon asked that a fleece of wool laid on the ground overnight be wet with dew the next morning while the surrounding ground is dry.*

*Next, he asked that the next night the same fleece be dry and the surrounding ground be wet with dew by morning (6:36-40).*



#9

Describe the final two signs.



*Can we “fleece” to determine God’s will today?*

*God has to do what I tell him to do before I will follow through and do His will?*

*Who are we to put God in a box and make Him meet our conditions?*

# TRUE/FALSE

10. **T F** *When the Midianites and their allies began their assault, they camped in the Jordan Valley. (6:33)*
11. **T F** *Gideon used one of his father's bulls (or bullocks) as a sacrifice to God. (6:26)*
12. **T F** *Gideon cut down the Asherah with help from servants. (6:27)*
13. **T F** *Gideon cut down the Asherah at night because he was afraid of his family. (6:27)*
14. **T F** *Gideon's 'present' to the Lord was a meal of flour, broth, and the meat of a young lamb. (6:19)*