

#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?*

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

# Judges

“Israel’s ‘Dark Ages’”

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*"Gideon's Victories"*

Text: Judges 7 – 8

# THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL

JOSH. 13:8-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak



Source:  
Holman's  
Bible Atlas

# Spiritual Lessons from Judges 7

God tests our faith- 7:1-8

God encourages our faith- 7:9-15a

God honors our faith- 7:15b-25

#1

How many men were in the Midianite army? According to 7:2, what was God's problem with the number of Israel's fighters? Was His fear justified?

*The Midianites had 135,000 men.*

*The Israelites had mustered about 32,000 men (7:2). God said that the Israelite army was too large; that the people would declare that they had defeated the Midianites of their own ability.*

*Yes. After the Midianites were defeated, they ascribed the victory to Gideon (8:22).*

# God is not a God of Statistics

I Sam 14:6, Deut 32:30

Began 4 to 1 – 32,000

Then 13.5 to 1 – 10,000

Then **450 to 1 - 300**

**WHY?** Less than 1 per cent of original #?



“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.”

# God is not a God of Statistics

I Sam 14:6, Deut 32:30

“We must be humble and boast  
in the Lord and Him alone” (Judges 7:2).

What other examples are similar?

Moses worried – Deut 8:11-18, 31:20

Uzziah – 2 Chron 26: 15-16

King Saul – I Sam 15:17 -23

# Gideon

## Heb 11:32-33

Through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises.”

What made Gideon heroic?

Faith – which grew over time!

Humble (at first) – Judges 6:5, 8:23

Brave – odds 450 to 1

Careful – I John 4:1

Negotiator – diplomat – Tribe of Ephraim.

What lessons can be learned?

God plus one makes a majority!

God only wants fearless soldiers of faith (7:4-8).

Not new –Deut 20:8



God only wants those who are cautious, careful,  
and circumspect (Eph 5:15).

## What lessons can be learned?

God only wants fearless soldiers of faith (7:4-8).

We never know when God may be testing us  
in some ordinary experience of life.

“Make every occasion a great occasion,  
For you can never tell when somebody may be  
Taking your measure for a larger place.”

Matt 25: 21-23

#2

What do you think was God's primary goal here: rescue from the Midianites or spiritual salvation?

*As in any situation here on earth, the Lord's primary concern certainly is spiritual over earthly. But by saving them in the manner that He did, He was trying to demonstrate to that generation **His power and why they should rely on Him in their everyday affairs.** We would do well to learn the same lesson.*

#3

Gideon has now seen 3 signs from the LORD. Why do you think he still might be afraid (7:9-14)?

*From a human standpoint, Gideon's mission was purely suicidal. He had 300 men to fight against more than 100,000. Even the bravest of men would be queasy at attempting such a feat. Finally, God didn't express any disappointment in his fearfulness, so we shouldn't either.*

# #4

Briefly describe how the LORD was able to defeat the Midianite army with only 300 Israelite soldiers. (7:16-23).

A Trumpet to blow, a Jar to break, and a Torch to burn!

Faith sees the invisible and does the impossible!

*When the 300 men broke their pitchers and sounded their trumpets, the Midianite army became confused to the point that they began killing each other. Thrown into such disarray, they began fleeing towards Midian. The remaining Israelite soldiers pursued them*



*JUDG. 6-8*



City

Penuel ? City (uncertain location)



### The gathering of Gideon's army

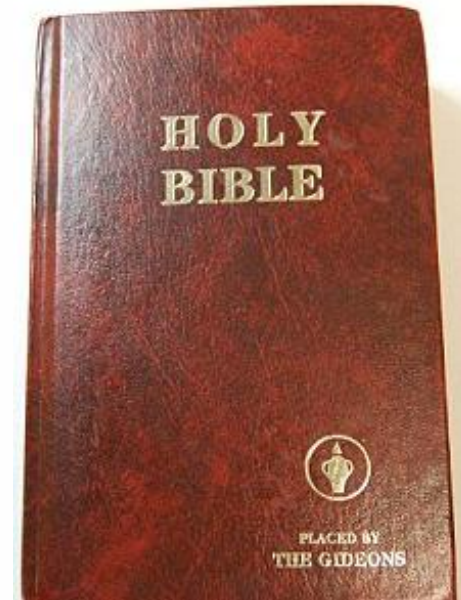
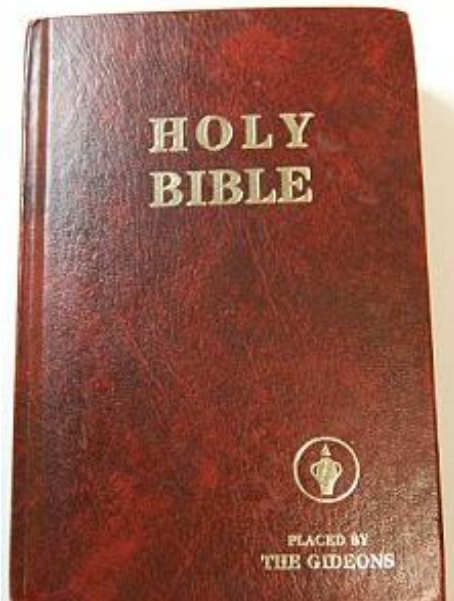


### Midianite retreat



### Ephraimite assistance

Source:  
Holman Bible Atlas



# The Gideons International

1908

2 Billion Bibles

#5

Once the Midianite army was on the run, what other tribes were requested to help? What did he ask the Ephraimites to do? (7:24-25).

*Help was requested from the tribes of Naphtali, Asher, and “all of Manasseh”. Since these tribes had already provided men (6:35), this may, in reality, have been Gideon employing his ‘reserves’.*

*Gideon requested that the Ephraimites secure the fords across the Jordan.*

#6

What was the complaint of the Ephraimites? What do you think was the meaning of Gideon's diplomatic response?

*The Ephraimites complained that they had not been summoned to help in the beginning (8:1).*

*Gideon was suggesting that they had the better part of the battle (they certainly had some good spoils having captured 2 of the kings) compared to his part.*

#7

What did Gideon request from the cities of Succoth and Penuel? What was their response? (8:4-12)

*Gideon asked these 2 cities for food (bread) for his 300 men (8:5, 8).*

*They told Gideon that they would provide him food after he had defeated the Midianites (8:6, 8).*

#8

Why do you think they gave the answer they did? What was Gideon's response?

*Although they were Israelites, their response was totally devoid of any faith in God and in His ability to assist Gideon in his mission. Here was a man engaged in driving out invaders and they are not willing to help him.*

*Gideon told the men of Succoth that he would flail them with thorns (8:7). He told the men of Penuel he would tear down their tower (8:9).*

#9

How did the Israelites respond to Gideon now that the Midianites had been overthrown? What was Gideon's answer? What do you conclude about the spiritual condition of the nation and Gideon from this exchange?

*They wanted to make him king.*

*That neither he nor his son would rule over them, but that God would (8:23).*

*Gideon certainly seemed to have some knowledge of the Old Law and its precepts, but the nation, as a whole seemed to be devoid of any such knowledge or faith in God.*

#10

What request did Gideon make of the Israelites? (8:22-28). How much in today's weight measurements can you find that this weighed? What did he do with it? How do you reconcile this with his answer in 8:23?

*Gideon asked for the earrings from the spoil that the army had taken (8:24).*

*This would have been about 42 or 43 lbs (2/5 ounce per shekel).*

*Gideon made an ephod with the gold (8:27).*

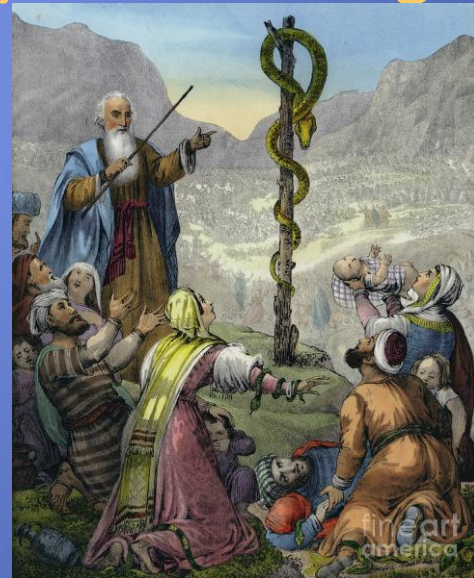
*This action by Gideon is difficult to reconcile with his response to Israel wanting to make him king.*



Continued on next slide

*On the one hand, he seemed to know that God had not authorized a king for Israel and that it would have been wrong to set one up. But he essentially is willing to have an idol built (for that is what it became, 8:27) with the gold.*

What is another  
example  
of worshipping a  
holy relic?



2 Kings 18:4

# Judges

“Israel’s ‘Dark Ages’”

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*"Response to Gideon's  
Victories"*

*"Gideon's Downfall"*

Text: Judges 8

# TRUE/FALSE

11. T F *Gideon was buried in the same tomb as his father. (8:32)*
12. T F *Gideon's concubine lived in Succoth. (8:31)*
13. T F *After the Midianites were defeated, Gideon went to live in his own house. (8:29)*
14. T F *Besides their purple robes, Gideon took the bands (or crescents) from the Midianite kings' horses. (8:21)*
15. T F *The name of Gideon's oldest son was Jether. (8:20)*

