

JUDGES

It was mentioned in last weeks bible study that God loves to take weak people in difficult situations and works through them to turn everything around!

Why do you think God chooses the weakest person rather than the strongest person????

Well...think about it if God chose someone who thinks they "know it all" do you think that person is going to acknowledge that it was God's work or their own work? Of course they're going to think it was them on their own!

God loves to take the weak because they and everybody around them know for certain that it was divine intervention! So, that in the end all the GLORY is the LORD'S!!!!!!

We saw that when it came time to deliver Israel from the hand of Midian, God went to the smallest tribe, to the least family within that tribe, and chose the youngest member of that family... namely, our hero Gideon. This weeks study is on Judges **Chapter 7**, which focuses on Gideon's unique victory over Midian.

We see that this is not going to be an ordinary fight! Gideon has rounded up all the men he can find and they are still woefully short on numbers. In all 32,000 men are willing to put their lives on the line in order to help deliver Israel. Whilst, Midian had 135,000 fighting men, so each Israelite would have to take out roughly four Midianites for there to be victory. You would think Gideon has reason to be more than a little anxious!



Monday: Let the Battle Begin!

1.) Complete the verse "The Lord said to Gideon, 'the people who are with you are too _____ for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim _____ for itself against _____. Saying my _____ hand has saved me.'"

Can you imagine Gideon's facial expression when the Lord asks him to do this! It sounds absurd- who while hopelessly outnumbered goes forth to cut the numbers down yet again?

- 2.) How many Men were fearful , afraid and left? _____.
- 3.) How many Men stayed to fight? _____.
- 4.) The Lord said "the people are _____ too _____"
- 5.) How did the Lord choose who will proceed to fight? (Hint: Has something to do with water!)



Tuesday: Would You Be One Of The few chosen to fight?

6.) In the end how many men did the Lord allow to fight in the battle? _____.

You might be questioning WHY would God want to make weak Israel even weaker??? It just doesn't make sense!

>>>**GOD loves to prove His STRENGTH when the ODDS are the GREATEST & HOPE is the SMALLEST**<<<

God does this so that He can reveal more of Himself -His POWER, His work on our behalf! So that we become more reliant upon Him, and learn to completely TRUST Him AND to prevent us from stealing His GLORY!!!!

7.) Describe the dream that Gideon overheard?

- 8.) What did every man on the battlefield have in their right hands? (Hint: its an nstrument!)_____.
- 9.) They were shouting "The _____ of the lord and Gideon"
- 10.) What did they have in their left hand? (Hint: look at picture)_____.

After winning a great victory, we must always beware of temptation; for Satan attacks us when we least expect it. The key to destroy ingus is Pride. Satan will do his best to plant PRIDE in our hearts because *"Pride goes before destruction"* - (Proverbs 15:33) We will see this when we study **Chapter 8!**

Wednesday: Victory

- 1.) Complete the verse *"God has delivered into your hands the _____ of _____, Oreb & _____."*

- 2.) Who were the two people Gideon was pursuing? (Hint: They are Kings!)

- 3.) What did Gideon ask from the men of Succoth & Penuel? (Hint: food)

- 4.) What was their response?

- 5.) What threats did Gideon say to them?

- 6.) How many men of the east had already fallen?

- 7.) How many were remaining?

- 8.) What did Gideon do when he had the two kings in his hands? (Hint: has to do with the tower)

- 9.) Gideon had a personal reason for wanting to kill the kings! What had they done in the past?

Thursday: Gideon's Ephod

- 1.) The nation asked Gideon to become their king and to establish a royal family! What was Gideon's response to them?

 - 2.) What does Gideon ask from them instead?

 - 3.) What was the weight of the Gold earrings?

 - 4.) To whom did most of the material possessions previously belong to?

- The PROBLEM with this was that these golden trinkets were associated with idol worship. Read Gen. 35:1-4 for the association between earrings and idolatry.

Friday: The DEATH of Gideon!

- 1.) What did Gideon make with the possessions? _____
- 2.) How many sons did Gideon have? _____
- 3.) What was the name of his son from his concubine? _____
- 4.) What did Gideon die from? _____

What is an ephod?

The original ephod was an ornate ceremonial garment worn by the high priest!



However, Gideon made one from metal and unfortunately the people worshipped it!!!! It is sad to see the man who overthrew Baal's altar now setting up an idol of his own! Unfortunately, the whole nation forsook God and worshipped the new god (27). When Gideon died, the nation went right back to Baal (vs. 33)!