

Gideon a Hero of Faith

Objective

- 🕒 To learn about Gideon and his story in the Old Testament.
- 🕒 To learn that God can change the weak person into a strong mighty man and the doubt into certainty.
- 🕒 To learn that God gives victory to His children
- 🕒 God can win with a small number of people

Memory Verse

“Surely, I will be with you” (Judges 6:16)

References

- 🕒 “The Book of Judges” By father Tadros Y. Malaty
- 🕒 “The Book of Judges” The New Open Bible

Introduction

After King David and his son king Solomon died, Judges guided the Israelites. A Judge was someone with wisdom, courage and guided by the spirit of God to lead and judge among the Jews at that time. Samson, Gideon and Deborah were the most famous judges. In this lesson we will learn about Gideon and how he met with God.

Lesson Outlines

After getting into the Promised Land the Israelites forgot the great things that God did for them. They started worshipping idols and statues. Even, Gideon’s father had an altar to Baal and a wooden image beside it to worship it. So, their enemies (the Midianites) stole their land, animals and crops. The children of Israel asked God for help to save them from their enemies. Surely, God would never turn down His children’s request and He would rush to help them.

One day God came and sat under a tree in the land of Gideon’s father (Joash). Gideon was working on their wheat in the winepress place. He was hiding his father’s crop from their enemies. God appeared to Gideon and greeted him and said: “The Lord is with you, you mighty man” and Gideon said to Him: “if the Lord is with us why then has all this happened to us?” (Judges 6:12-13). God told Gideon that he would be the man to save his people from their enemies. He encouraged him and told him “Surely, I will be with you”.

Gideon wanted to be sure that this is a message from God so he asked God to wait until he brings him something to eat. Gideon prepared a young goat and unleavened bread. When he brought the goat and the bread to the Lord to eat, the Lord instructed him to put the meat and the bread on a rock. Then, the Lord touched the meat and the bread with a staff that He had in His hand and fire rose from the rock and consumed the meat and the bread. The Lord also disappeared instantly. So, Gideon was amazed and was sure that he had seen God. Gideon built an altar to the Lord in this place.

The Lord had asked Gideon to destroy Baal's altar and the wooden image in his father's house. He also asked him to take a bull and to offer it as a sacrifice. In the same night Gideon took ten men with him and broke Baal's altar, burned the wooden image and sacrificed the bull as God told him. In the morning when people woke up and found out what he did, they wanted to kill him. But his father defended him and told them that if it is a true God, he should defend himself. So, all the enemies of Israel gathered together against Gideon and his people because he broke the altar of Baal. Gideon sounded the trumpet and gathered the tribes of Israel with him to go in war against the enemies.

Gideon wanted to be sure that God is with him and He will help him to win the war against the enemy. He asked God to show him a sign. He placed a fleece of wool outside and asked that God would make it wet when all the ground around it would be dry. So, it happened just as he requested. Then he asked God again to make the fleece of the wool dry when all the ground around it would be wet. So, in the morning the fleece of wool was dry when all the ground around it was covered with dew. Then, Gideon was sure that God is with him and will save Israel with his hand.

When God saw that there were too many people gathering around Gideon for the war, He told Gideon that He need to decrease the number so they would know that God is the one who helped them to win not their own large number or power. Gideon asked anyone who is afraid to return back to his home. So, twenty-two thousands of the people returned. Yet, God thought that the people left is still too many so He told Gideon to take them down to the water to drink and then said to him, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink. And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water. Then the Lord said to Gideon: By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place".

Note: The people who lapped ie stayed standing and simply lapped the water with their hands and raised it to their mouth symbolises the Christian who remains watchful. Those on their knees have limited vision as their faces look downwards, however those standing can see the enemy coming and can therefore fight him.

And it happened on the same night that the Lord said to him, "Arise; go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand. But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant, and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp. Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp. Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude. And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said: I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed. Then his companion answered and said: This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp." And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said: Arise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand".

Gideon gave every man of the three hundred a trumpet and a torch inside an empty pitcher. They all surrounded the camp of the enemy. Then Gideon blew the trumpet in his hand and all the men below the trumpet and broke the pitchers and they cried “The sword of the Lord and Gideon. Their enemy got scared and they fled. So Gideon won the war just as the Lord told him.

Conclusion

- 🕒 God came immediately to the help of His children the Israelites once they asked for His help.
- 🕒 This is the same way that He treats us. If we ask for His help, He will always be there to help us and save us from all evil things.
- 🕒 God is the one who gives triumph and victory to his children. He chose Gideon and was with him all the way till he won the war with very small number of fighters, only 300 men.