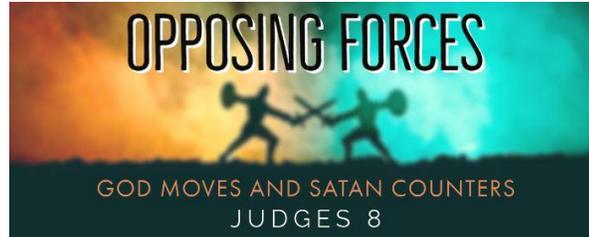


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: Judges – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Judges 8 – Cycle #4 (P3) – Gideon faces unexpected opposition, stumbles

Today's Message:

"Opposing Forces"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued the 4th of 7 cycles of sin found in Judges. After proving God and throwing down his father's altar to Baal, he received some surprising military instructions from God – too many soldiers! God tried the men, chose 300 men and ultimately, got the victory! Amen. Today, we will pick up in the story with the men of Ephraim after they brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb back to Gideon. Now, Gideon is still chasing two kings of Midian and **15,000** enemy soldiers. And just when we think that he should have the wind at his back with smooth sailing, we will find that his "mountain top" experience is short-lived! He will have trouble from several groups of men – including his **BRETHREN!** As usual, God will give us all the details so that we can learn from Gideon's life. The last trouble he will encounter will be his own home. For he will do some really **STUPID** things! Welcome to our lives...

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text Judges 8:1-35

#1. The Rebellion – the children of Israel did evil again in God's sight. (6:1)

#2. The Retribution – Israel was greatly impoverished by the Midianites. (6:2-6)

#3. The Restoration – God personally sought a man to deliver Israel. (6:7-8:27)

Review: The children of Israel cried unto the Lord... the LORD 1st sent a prophet...

Review: Then the Angel of the LORD came and sat... appeared unto Gideon...

Review: The LORD gave Gideon an opportunity to take a faith step that night...

Review: God intentionally reduced Gideon's army to 300 men...

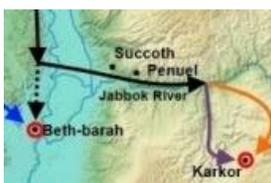
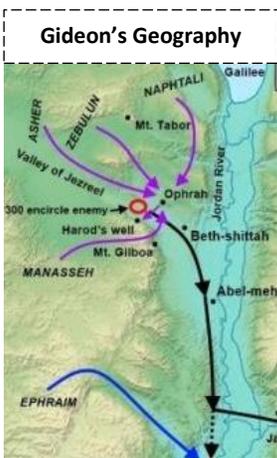
Review: The 300 men followed Gideon to victory with help from men of Ephraim...

➤ **The 1st "opposing force" Gideon encountered was THE MEN OF EPHRAIM...**

- ✓ The first recorded words coming out of their mouths were **negative!**
- ✓ They were **unconcerned** with Israel's **WELLBEING**. *Why hast thou... Jdg 12:1-6*
- ✓ They were **jealous** of Gideon's **LEADERSHIP**. *They did chide... Job 5:2; Ecc 4:4*
- ✓ They were **appeased** by **FLATTERY**. *What have I done... Ps36:2; 1Ths2:5; Jas4:6*
- ✓ They were **mad** at Gideon for **OBEYING** God. *Anger was abated... Amos 7:13*

NOTE Bible truth is that jealous, selfish brethren cause great harm to God's people!

2021 VISION: Faithful in Little Things!
Making disciples and caring for souls!



- **The 2nd “opposing force” Gideon encountered was THE MEN OF SUCCOTH ...**
 - ✓ Gideon’s men were in **NEED**; they refused! *Give, I pray you... Oba 1:12; 1Jo 3:17*
 - ✓ Gideon promised to **RETURN** and *teach* them; he did! *Therefore when... Pr19:29*

NOTE They did not ask these men to fight on the front lines, only support those who did.

- **The 3rd “opposing force” Gideon encountered was THE MEN OF PENUEL ...**
 - ✓ They were following the **CROWD** at Succoth! *As the men... Dan 5:20; 1Tim 3:6*
 - ✓ Gideon promised to destroy their **TOWER**; he did! *When I come again... Pr16:18*

NOTE In war times, these men scoffed and refused to help; their pride would be punished.

- **The 4th “opposing force” Gideon encountered was THE TWO KINGS ...**
 - ✓ God calls the kings by name **11** times! *“deprived of protection” Mt18:6; Lk17:2*
 - ✓ Gideon spared them, asked about **TABOR**, then *sley* them. *Jdg 4:6,12,14*

NOTE Here we learn “*the rest of the story*” –this warfare was very personal– his brothers!

- **The 5th “opposing force” Gideon encountered was THE MEN OF ISRAEL ...**
 - ✓ They asked Gideon to **RULE** over them and his sons. *Jdg 17:6; 1Sam 8:5-22*
 - ✓ Gideon rightly responded... *God shall rule over you. 1Sam 12:12; Rev 19:16*

NOTE The wiles of the devil are real – he is throwing every possible fiery dart at Gideon!

1 John 2:15-17
Love not the world,
neither the things
that are in the world...

For all that is in
the world...

The lust of the flesh
The lust of the eyes
The pride of life

- **The 6th “opposing force” Gideon encountered was THE MAN HIMSELF ...**
 - ✓ **EYES:** Gideon **DESIRED** the *golden earrings* of the spoils. *Ex 20:17; Rom 7:7*
 - ✓ **PRIDE:** Gideon *made an ephod* and *put it in his city*. *Ex 25:7; 28:4,31; 39:7*
 - *All Israel went thither a whoring after it. Ex 34:15; Lev 17:7; 20:5; Num 15:39*
 - It became a **SNARE** unto Gideon, *and to his house. Ex34:12; De7:16; Ps106:36*
 - ✓ **FLESH:** Gideon had **70** sons with *many wives*. *1Ki 11:3; 2Chr11:23*
 - ✓ Gideon had a son with a concubine in Shechem *called Abimelech...*

“Abimelech” means:
“my father is king”

NOTE In spite of Gideon’s faults, God ends the chapter with a very kind, gracious epitaph.

#4. The Rest – God gave rest to Israel for **40** years in the days of Gideon. (8:28)

- And it came to pass, *as soon as Gideon was dead...* *Jdg 8:33-35 (begins next cycle!)*

B. The Lessons (How can you apply this message to your life?)

1. *Opposing forces in spiritual warfare may make you **FAINT**; do not quit on Christ.*

❖ **Question:** *Are you weary in well doing? Keep pursuing! Jdg 8:4; Gal 6:9; 2Ths 3:13*

2. *Opposing forces in routine daily living may be a greater **TEST** of your character.*

❖ **Question:** *How is your routine daily living for Christ? Will you end well? Rom 8; Gal 5:16*

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