

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

Scripture(s) for Today: Judges 7 – Cycle #4 (Part 2) – God prepares Gideon to take on the enemy

Today's Message:

**"300 Men"**



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began the 4<sup>th</sup> of 7 cycles of sin found in Judges. The children of Israel did evil again in God's sight and were overrun by the Midianites. After seven years, they cried out to God, and He came down to raise up Gideon. After some tough questions for God and proving Him, Gideon threw down his father's altar to Baal, cut down the groves and worshipped God! Today, we will once again listen to God as He **SPEAKS** to Gideon. He will tell Gideon that he has too many soldiers! God will try the men and choose **300** men for His military strategy. The ensuing events and victory have become some of the most beloved stories in the holy Bible. For God will use a **DREAM** and some campfire stories to bring down the Midianites who were like grasshoppers for multitude. The 300 will blow their trumpets, break their pitchers, hold their lamps and yell, "*The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!*" What a story!

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### A. The Text Judges 7:1-25

**#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. (6:7-7:25)

*Review: The children of Israel cried unto the Lord... the LORD 1<sup>st</sup> 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...*

➤ **Gideon and all the people with him pitched beside the well of Harod ...**

✓ God calls Gideon the name his father gave... "**Jerubbaal**" – *Jdg 6:32; 1 Sam 12:11*

✓ The Midianites were north in "**Valley of Jezreel**" – *Jdg 6:33; 1Ki 21:23; Hos 1:5,11*

➤ **God said, "The people that are with thee are too MANY" ...**

✓ God knows that Israel would **vaunt themselves against Him**. *Deut 8:17; Zec 12:7*

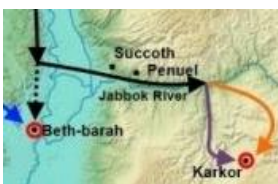
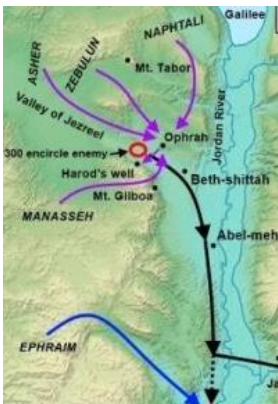
✓ **The Numbers:** The host of the Midianites totaled ... **135,000** men! *Jdg 8:10*

✓ **The Numbers:** Assembled army of Gideon totaled ... **32,000** men! *Jdg 7:3*

**NOTE** God is intentionally going to **REDUCE** the "**odds**" (4:1) for His glory! *Zech 4:6*

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*Making disciples and caring for souls!*

Gideon's Geography



➤ **God said, “Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return” ...**

- ✓ Mount Gilead is **east** of Jordan River – where Jacob fled from Laban! **Gen 31:21**
- ✓ **The Numbers:** 22,000 men **QUIT** and returned! Remaining ... **10,000** men!

**NOTE** At this point, God has reduced Gideon’s earthly disadvantage which is now **14 to 1!**

➤ **God said, “The people are yet too many” ...**

- ✓ God said He would **try the men** – bring to **WATER!** **Pr 17:3; Isa 48:10; Jer 17:10**
- ✓ **300 lapped like a dog; 9,700 bowed down** upon knees to the water **FACE** first!
- ✓ God picks the men who didn’t lose their head; tells everyone else to go home!

**NOTE** God finally has Gideon and the team where He needs them; size is now **450 to 1!**

➤ **God said, “Arise, get thee down unto the host... But if thou fear to go down” ...**

- ✓ God gave 2 options – **Option A = Go now; Option B = Take Phurah, and LISTEN!**
- ✓ Gideon chose the second option (of course) and went down with Phurah.
- ✓ Upon arrival, behold, a man is telling his **DREAM!** \*87 times in KJV; **Num 12:6**
- ✓ His fellow then boldly interprets the dream as the **SWORD** of Gideon! **Jdg 6:15**
- ✓ Gideon’s response to both – he **WORSHIPPED** God! **Gen24:26; Ex12:27; Neh8:6**

**God warns in dreams:**

**Gen 20:3** – Abimelech  
**Gen 31:24** – Laban  
**Gen 41:25** – Pharaoh  
**Dan 2:3** – king of Babylon

**NOTE** Gideon is so confident now, he returns and tells the men, **ARISE, the LORD has this!**

**Every man’s hand:**

**1 – TRUMPET**  
*Sound out God’s judgment (1Thess 1:8)*

**2 – PITCHER**  
*Earthen vessel to be broken (2 Cor 4:7)*

**3 – LAMP**  
*To shine light (Mt 5:16)*

➤ **And he divided the three hundred men into three companies ...**

- ✓ Gideon equipped the men with 3 things: a **TRUMPET**, a **PITCHER**, and a **LAMP**.
- ✓ They did as Gideon said and cried, **“The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!”**
- ✓ The enemies response: **“And all the host ran, and cried, and fled.”**
- ✓ **The LORD set every man’s sword against his fellow – all the host – and fled!**
- ✓ **Men of Israel gathered themselves together – Naphtali, Asher, all Manasseh!**
- ✓ **Gideon sent for help from Ephraim – they slew them; brought 2 prince heads!**

**NOTE** God wrought a great victory with 300 men willing to trust, obey, go, stand for Him!

#### #4. The Rest – God had a plan to use Gideon to bring rest to His people.

- God will ultimately bring rest to Israel for 40 years in the days of Gideon. **Jdg 8:28**

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

1. God has chosen to use the **HUMBLE** and weak things of this world for His glory!

❖ **Question:** Are you humble today? Weak in fleshly strength? **1 Cor 1:26-31; Zech 4:6**

2. Sometimes God gives you **MORE** than you can handle so He alone gets all glory!

❖ **Question:** Why not let go and let God today? **Joel 3:10; Mt 11:28; 2Cor 12:10; 1Pet 5:7**

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