

Pueblo Christian Center
Bible Study Series – Deliverance from Chaos – Pastor Steve

Part 4 – God Gives Strategy and Victory for the Nation
Book of Judges – Chapter 6:33-40 7:1-25

Introduction:

Last week we studied **Part 3 – “God Called and Anointed Gideon to be a Deliverer.”** We looked at how God responded to the heart cry of the people for deliverance. First, He sent them a prophet. Then He showed up personally to meet with Gideon and call him to be a ‘Judge’ or Deliverer for the Nation. God instructed Gideon to begin deliverance at home by tearing down the idols in his father’s house. God still responds to the heart cry of His people when they turn to Him. He still visits people personally and calls them into service for His Kingdom purposes!

This week we will look at how God anointed Gideon and gave him specific instructions on what to do in battle. As Gideon followed God’s Divine plan, there was complete victory over the enemy and peace was restored in the land all the days of Gideon’s life.

Judges 6:33-40

I. The Enemy OUTNUMBERED Israel

Vs 33 “Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other Eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the valley of Jezreel. 7:12 “...had settled in the valley thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.”

*When **God showed up** to call and anoint Gideon, the enemy went into **WAR MODE**. When God is at work, this is when the enemy pulls out all the stops!

*When **things get really intense** and the **enemy is furious**, it is **because God is moving** and working! The **enemy is the one who is afraid!**

*Most often, the enemy has God’s people **physically outnumbered!** But, God’s people always **NEED TO REMEMBER** that **there are MORE WITH US** than with the enemy. 2 Kings 6:16,17

*Always remember if **GOD IS FOR YOU** who can be **AGAINST YOU?**

II. God Anointed Gideon for the Battle

Vs 34 “Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he blew a trumpet summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.”

God anointed Gideon because:

*He **was divinely called**.

*He **placed his faith in God** and what God spoke to him!

*He was **willing to put his life on the line** to obey God’s instructions.

*The **Spirit of the Lord upon Gideon** and **his calling made all the difference**. He wasn’t going into this battle on his own strength or in his own wisdom. God was **present WITH HIM!**

III. God helped Gideon even though he Struggled with Doubt

Vs 36-40 “if you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised...I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is only dew on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand as you have said.” Vs 38 “...and that is what happened.

Vs 39 “...let me make one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece...”Vs 40 “God did so.”

*Even after meeting with the 'Angel of the Lord' and seeing the sacrifice supernaturally consumed and The Angel disappearing, Gideon still asked for a 'confirmation' of God's word to him.

*God understands the frailty of our human makeup and mind. He responds to our desire to be sure about important matters.

James 1:5,6 – Tells us, if we lack wisdom, let us ask God, who gives to us generously...But ask in faith, expecting to receive His wisdom!

Judges 7:1-8

IV. God gives Gideon Instructions on building his army

Vs 3 "...anyone **who trembles in fear** may turn back and leave Mt. Gilead. So 22,000 left and 10,000 remained." Vs 4 "But the Lord said to Gideon, 'there are still too many men. Take them down to the water and I will sift them for you there.'"

Vs 6 "**Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouth...** Vs 7 "the Lord said, "**I will deliver you with the 300 men that lapped** and I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands."

*God knew this would be an **intimidating battle scene**. The enemy numbered 135,000 troops (8:10)

*Gideon and his men were **RIDICULOUSLY OUTNUMBERED!**

*Gideon had to **send home** all the men who were fearful!

*Gideon had to **send home** all the men who were **self-absorbed** and not alert for the battle.

*God **promised to deliver Gideon and 300 man army** because of their **courage** and **alertness**.

***When you are in a battle**, you don't need warm bodies to fill a role. You need **fearless, courageous and alert fellow-soldiers** who know how to follow instructions!

V. God gave more confirmation to Gideon – 7:9-15

Vs 9 "**During the night the Lord said** to Gideon, 'Get up and go down against the camp because **I am going to give it into your hands.**' Vs 10 **If you are afraid to attack**, go down to the camp with your servant Purah and **listen** to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp."

Vs 13 "Gideon arrived just as a man was telling his dream, '**I had a dream,**' he was saying. 'A round loaf of **barley bread** came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent **overturned and collapsed.**' Vs 14 'This can be none other than **the sword of Gideon** son of Joash, the Israelite. **God has given Midian and the whole camp into his hands.**' Vs 15 **When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, He worshiped God.** He returned to the camp of Israel and called out 'Get up!' The Lord has given the Midian camp into your hands."

*God knew that this would be a **massive undertaking for Gideon and his men**.

*God is able to **see our struggles** and have our point of view.

*God **showed Gideon the true nature of his enemy** – The enemy was afraid!

*God was able to **cause Gideon to be full of faith** and **confidence** through a **prophetic dream**.

VI. God gave Gideon supernatural Strategy of Warfare

Vs 16 "**Dividing the 300 men into 3 companies**, he placed **trumpets** and **empty jars** in the hands of them, **with torches inside.**" Vs 17 Watch me, **follow my lead**. When I get to the edge of the camp, **do exactly as I do**. Vs 18 "When I and all who are with me **blow our trumpets**, then from all around the camp blow yours and **shout, 'for the Lord and for Gideon.'**" Vs 21 "Each man held his position around the camp."

- *Being **outnumbered 450-1** is very long odds AND **Gideon tells his Army to DIVIDE into 3 Groups!**
- *Gideon gives each man a **TRUMPET**, a clay **PITCHER**, and a **TORCH**.
- *Gideon tells them to **follow his example**
- *Gideon **leads** by **BLOWING HIS TRUMPET**, **SMASHING THE PITCHER**, and **HOLDING OUT THE TORCH**
- ***Trumpet: Declaration of God's Kingdom Power**
- *The **Broken Pitcher: Human vessels** that are '**broken**' and submitted to God's power
- *The **Flaming Torch: The power of the Holy Spirit** on the **inside of the Believer**
- ***Each man held his position** around the camp!

***New Testament:** Apostle Paul declares that the **power of God** to defeat the powers of darkness is **available to every believer** who is **broken before God** and allows the Holy Spirit to fill with His power!

2 Corinthians 4:6 *"For God, who said 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the **One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 'But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.'**"*

VII. The Lord gave Gideon and his 300 men SUPERNATURAL VICTORY

*Vs 22 "When the 300 trumpets sounded, the Lord cause the men throughout the camp to **TURN ON EACH OTHER** with their own swords. **The army fled...**" 8:10 "... a 120,000 swordsmen had fallen."
Vs 12 "...he pursued them and **captured their entire army.**" 8:28 "Thus **Midian was subdued** before the Israelites and **did not raise its head again. During Gideon's lifetime, the land enjoyed peace 40 years.**"*

- ***God was with Gideon to Confuse** the Enemy.
- *The enemy **TURNED ON EACH OTHER**.
- ***Satan** and his dark realm **CANNOT** ultimately prevail against **God and His people, IF we stand and fight** the fight of faith.
- *Gideon and his army was given **COMPLETE VICTORY - PEACE WAS RESTORED** in the land as long as Gideon led Israel.
- *God wants to give **GREAT VICTORIES** to **ALL BELIEVERS** who **FOLLOW HIM** and **fight** the fight of faith.

Main Truths:

- ***Satan's primary weapons** are **Fear** and **Lies** (psychological warfare) causing you to self-destruct
- *When **you are outnumbered** in the natural- you still have **MORE ON YOUR SIDE!** The Lord of Hosts!
- *God helped Gideon **prepare** for Battle
- *God gave Gideon **supernatural confirmations** – in spite of his doubts
- *God gave Gideon **supernatural (spirit-led) strategy**- not human engineered strategy
- *God gave Gideon **supernatural victory** – (complete victory) this was amazing grace and mercy
- *God **restored Peace in the land** through a small **remnant** of devoted believers
- ***God is the God of HOPE**, even in the midst of seeming hopeless situations.
- *The **story of Israel and Gideon** should **inspire FAITH, HOPE, LOVE** and **COURAGE** to make a difference in **OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE!**
- ***Each of us is to have the 'Flaming Torch' of the Holy Spirit** burning inside us and we should be '**broken**' and humble, **Standing in our Place** around the camp of the enemy!

Discussion Questions:

Q. When you feel **outnumbered** and overwhelmed **how do you deal with that?**

Q. God anointed Gideon for a specific purpose. **Do you understand your God-given purpose?**
If not, will you seek the Lord to show you more of what He has for you?

Q. **When God calls you to step out of your comfort zone,** will you **respond** with a willing yes?
After you say yes, THEN God anoints you with ANOINTING to do what He calls you.

***Great TESTS produce great TESTIMONIES!**

The Church and this world need MORE COURAGEOUS GIDEONS! (both men and women)