

JUDGES 6:36-7:1

JESUS AS THE BETTER FLEECE

I. A SIGN OF ASSURANCE (vv. 36-38)

A. Even though the Spirit had come upon him (v.34), Gideon still struggled with faith.

1. Gideon basically says as much, “**IF** you will save Israel... as you have promised”

B. Confession: My initial reaction is “what?!” “what could you possibly need another sign for” - remember the Lord had already consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes

1. Anyone else?

2. **But what is God’s response?**

C. God condescends himself for Gideon through a fleece

1. A fleece!

2. This is where careful Bible study is important

a) Some would try and convince us that this is a prescriptive approach to discerning God’s will

b) But God’s positive response to Gideon’s repeated experiment with the fleece was *a gracious concession to his weak faith **rather than** an indication that God was pleased with him for seeking reassurance in this way*

3. Why? To assure his people of his promise to deliver them

D. God condescends himself for us through Jesus

1. Philippians 2:5-13

*** Notice in vv. 12-13 that God is doing a work in us that is for his good pleasure - Such was also intended to be the case for the Israelites. It was there disobedience to living that call that has them in this place as it is. ***

II. A SIGN BY AUTHORITY (vv. 39-40)

- A. God demonstrates his authority over the forces of nature to Gideon through the fleece.
 - 1. A fleece!
 - 2. 1st → Wet fleece/Dry ground
 - 3. 2nd → Dry fleece/Wet ground
 - a) This was the greater miracle as it defies nature
 - b) Palestine is known for its heavy dew
 - (1) The fleece would've gathered a great amount and the ground could've dried
 - (2) But the fact that the fleece was dry and the ground was wet was truly remarkable
 - 4. God is NOT one of the forces of nature
 - a) i.e. This is what other people believed about their gods
 - b) Pantheism (All is God) or Panentheism (God is in All)
 - 5. He has complete rule and dominion over nature
 - a) He is Creator/We are his creation
- B. God demonstrates his authority over the forces of Hell to us through Jesus
 - 1. Matthew 28:18-20
 - 2. Christ - Colossians 1:15-23

III. A SIGN FOR ACCORDANCE (v. 7:1)

- A. Gideon's intent
 - 1. He wasn't asking for a "little sign" to know God's will
 - 2. He was asking for divine revelation to show him who God really is
 - 3. OT way this done
 - a) 1 Kings 22:6-28 - Jehoshaphat (4th King of Judah) inquires of more prophets
 - b) Hebrews 1:1-2
 - 4. NT way
 - a) Matthew 12:39-40
 - (1) Don't need other signs - we have the Bible. Don't need other revelation - we have the Spirit.

5. Gideon's request was to build his faith

a) Notice v. 39, "let not your anger burn against me..."

b) Mark 9:24

c) God responded twice to Gideon → For us he points once and for all to Jesus

B. Gideon's response

1. Obedience (v.7:1)

2. "Rose early" = confidence

*** We can have confidence because of Jesus ***