

1. Intro

- Under Joshua’s command, the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, the land that God promised them (modern day Israel).
- The Canaanite people worshiped false gods and were exceedingly evil.
 - Because of their sinfulness, God chose to exercise just and Divine judgment on the Canaanites by causing the Israelites to defeat them in battle.
 - In time, and after Joshua died, the Israelites started worshipping the Canaanite’s false gods and committing the same sins, and God judged them as well.
- When the Israelites finally prayed to God for help, God raised up individuals to rescue Israel from their enemies. The Bible calls these individuals, “Judges”.
 - The Biblical “Judges” ruled in Israel for 300 years from 1350-1051BC.
- One of the “Judges” in the Bible was named Gideon.
 - Gideon was a fearful man who was insignificant and unimportant in his family and in society, but as he **stood strong** in obedience to the Lord, the Lord used him mightily to rescue Israel from their enemies.

2. Text: Judges 6-7

- **Judges 6:1-6** - As a result of the Israelites’ **evil sins**, the LORD **judged** them and allowed the Midianite people to mercilessly raid them for 7 years.
 - Baal worship included: burning children as sacrifices to Baal and engaging in sexual immorality, including ritual prostitution at the temples of Baal.
 - Finally, the Israelites **cried out** to the LORD for help!
- **Judges 6:11-16** - The Lord **chose** Gideon to rescue Israel from the raiders even though he was **insignificant** in his family and in society.
 - The angel of the LORD addressed Gideon as “**Mighty hero**”.
 - The LORD planned to do great things through Gideon even though Gideon didn’t think it was possible.

- **Judges 6:25-27** - Gideon obeyed the Lord’s command to destroy the idols, despite being afraid of what his family and community might do to him.
- **Judges 6:28-32** - Gideon’s actions inspired his dad to stand up against Baal worship.
 - When we stand strong for the truth in God’s Word, especially in difficult times, it will draw out others to do the same!
- **Judges 6:36-40** - The vast army of enemies was approaching and, in fear, Gideon asked the Lord for reassurance that he was really the one to rescue Israel.
 - The Lord had already promised that He was with Gideon and would defeat the enemy. Gideon didn’t need more assurance, but God, in His kindness and grace, gave him 2 more signs to reassure him.
- **Judges 7:1-8** - The LORD reduced Gideon’s army from 32,000 to 300 soldiers!
 - “All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on God being with them.” - Hudson Taylor
- **Judges 7:19-22** - Gideon obeyed and led the Israelites, but it was the LORD alone who won the battle!

3. Application

- Is there something the Lord has put on your mind to do, but you haven’t done it because you’re afraid? (Afraid of failing, afraid of the unknown, or afraid of what people may think, etc?)
 - We can’t let fear control us! Let’s obey the Lord and watch Him fight and get the victory! God absolutely uses fearful, timid people who step out and obey Him.
 - **Psalms 56:3-4** “But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. **4** I praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?”
 - **Proverbs 29:25** “Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.”