

Gideon the 1% Army

Judges 6–8

Pastor Phillip Fields, April 2024

Judges 6–8

The State of the Nation

Judges 6: 1 – 10

- The fifth cycle of rebellion
- Israel's attempts to make peace with Gators rather than remove them
- Evil: doing what is right in our own eyes
- Evil always looks beautiful before it turns ugly
- Cycles of rebellion for nations do not happen overnight
- God's method of correction is consistent
- God always turns His people over to their enemies
- The midnight to send it upon them like Locust at harvest time
- Don't cry for help until things get too bad



**WHEN YOU'RE UP TO YOUR REAR-END IN ALLIGATORS
IT'S EASY TO FORGET THAT THE ORIGINAL GOAL WAS TO
DRAIN THE SWAMP**

The Calling of Gideon

Judges 6:11 – 16

- **No means, no money, no status**
- **Nameless, faceless**
- **Why is all of this bad stuff happening to us?**
- **Gideon's identity issue**
- **Our identity is wrapped up in what we do**
- **Ask someone, who are you? And they will tell you what they do.**
- **Gideon is called to be a judge/deliverer**
- **His assignment is to purge the community of idolatry**

Gideons Encounter with God

Judges 6:17–24

- **Face-to-face with God**
- **The Old Testament version of anointing, when the Holy Spirit comes upon someone or covers a man like clothing**
- **The anointing gave him an ability to do miracles and to be exceptionally brave**

Gideon's First Assignment

Judges 6:25–32

- **Tear down the idols of Baal and Asherah**
- **Courageous obedience**
- **Let the gods defend themselves**
- **Syncretism: mixture of cultures until they are blended and unrecognizable**
- **Example: homosexuality normalized in Christian churches**

Gideon is Anointed by the Holy Spirit

Judges 6:33–40

- The fleece understandable but not necessary
- Gideon tested God two times
- Seeking signs is a symptom of insecurity
- Jesus made it clear that it was wrong to seek signs

God Tested Gideon

Judges 7:1–8

- Gideon started out with 32,000 men
- 22,000 men deserted him because they were afraid
- 10,000 remained and God sifted the group down to 300
- The brook test: those that lapped the water passed the test
- The remnant: 1 % of the forces remain to fight
- Their enemies 135,000 in number
- 400 to 1
- 465 million Arabs vs 15 million Jews in the world

Warfare Worship

Judges 7:9–25

- The prophetic dream
- Gideons worship
- A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!
- Worship created chaos for the enemy

Gideon's Leadership Attacked

Judges 8:1–21

Ephraimites: watched the battle unfold, but did not commit, that they were not being used enough, they wanted credit they didn't deserve

Sukkoth and Peniel: betrayed Gideon because they did not want to give up their comfort to be a part of the conflict

Gideons discipline: too harsh?

King Gideon?

Judges 8:22–28

- Gideon refused to allow the people to make him a king
- The Lord will rule over you
- The ephod (garment worn by priest) turns into an idol
- The man of God should guard himself from competing with God

The Lord's 1 % Army