

I. A Rookie Altar-Builder (19-24)

A. It began with obedience from Gideon (19-20) - “So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. 20 And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so.”

B. It contained a response from Heaven (21-23) - “Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. 22 Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” 23 But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.”

C. It ended with a heart-shift within Gideon (24) - “Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.”

II. An Ordained Altar-Toppler (25-26)

A. God’s immediate communication (25a) - “That night the LORD said to him...”

Build God an altar in your life and you will begin to hear Him speak

B. God’s intimidating commission (25b) - “Take your father’s bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it.”

Gideon honored God by building a private altar (vs.24) but now it was time for a public stand!

C. God’s inspiring consecration (26) - “Build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of the stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down.” Some altars we build in spontaneous worship. Other altars we build by obedience to God’s directions.

III. A Courageous Altar-Loyalist (27-28)

Where have you erected an altar of allegiance that requires unwavering courage?

A. Gideon’s reverent response (27a) - “So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had told him...”

B. Gideon’s growing courage (27b) - “...but because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night.”

C. Gideon’s point of no return (28) - “When the men of the town rose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah beside it was cut down, and the second bull was offered on the altar that had been built.”

Fear of God delivers from the fear of man, and we become empowered to fulfil the mission of God

III. A Favored Altar-Empowerment (29-32)

A. Kingdom shifts generate friction (29-30) - “And they said to one another, “Who has done this thing?” And after they had searched and inquired, they said, “Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing.” 30 Then the men of the town said to Joash, “Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has broken down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah beside it.”

B. New moves refine believers (31) - “But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoever contends for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down.” Maybe Baal wasn’t worth serving if he could not defend himself!

C. Renewed altars establish legacies (32) - “Therefore on that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, that is to say, “Let Baal contend against him,” because he broke down his altar.” Jerubbaal - Everywhere Gideon went, he would be associated with a stand for righteousness

From a fledgling altar-builder, Gideon became a renowned national leader & hero and is enshrined in the Hebrews Hall of Faith