



THE JUDGE of Judges

6



Yes & No

1. As a young person, I was known as a daredevil.
2. If I were traveling to a dangerous country, I'd feel safer in a large group, rather than traveling alone.
3. When working on a project, if I sense that most people are not supporting it, I set it aside and work on something else.
4. God does not need me to prove anything to Him.
5. God **needs** to take the credit for all of the victories in my life.

Dive Deeper:

‡ What is one of the most frightening moments of your life, and how did God interact at that time--or did He seem distant?

» READ Judges 7:1-8 (NIV)

Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. 2 The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'" 3 Now announce to the army, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

4 But the Lord said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink." 6 Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

7 The Lord said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home." 8 So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

‡ THE SETTING:

Δ Jerub-Baal: [Let Baal contend with him] Gideon means to cut to pieces, scatter.

Δ The spring of Harod: [חָרֹד - tremble] spring of trembling.

‡ GOD ASKS GIDEON FOR THREE SIGNS:

Δ FIRST: The Sign of Courage - "Anyone who trembles with fear..."

† 2/3 of the men are trembling and "fly" home.

† This is not the first time God has ordered this (Deut. 20:8).

† Out of 32,000 men, 22,000 return home, leaving 10,000 men to face the 135,000 Midianites.

NOTES...

» **READ Judges 7:12 (NIV) to understand why grown men trembled with fear:**

The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.

Δ **SECOND: The Sign of Commitment - “Separate those who lap...from those who kneel...”**

† There is much debate about the significance of these two postures. But one thing we must acknowledge--God does not act without a reason.

» What reasons have you heard that God would choose those lapping water, over those who knelt to drink?

» The Jewish interpretation, communicated by Raschi:

Δ **THIRD: The Sign of Conviction - “Let all the others go home...”**

† From 32,000 to 300. That creates the odds of 350:1 in favor of the Midianites.

» Why do you think that God requires us to provide the signs of courage, commitment and conviction **before** He will intervene in our personal battles?

† Does that mean that if we live in fear that God will not intervene and give us victories?

» Why does God need the credit for our victories? Doesn't He want us to be able to stand on our own?

» What does this story tell us about God's character?

My Prayers This Week...

1. What is causing me to spiritually tremble with fear?
2. What signs has God been asking me to show Him?
3. How does this section of Scripture help me see more of God's character?