

# Book of Hebrews Part 45: 11:32-33; Champions of the Faith: Barak and Gideon (2/29/2020)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/8x28jmg/book-of-hebrews-part-45>.

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are coming to the end of this Hall of Faith in chapter 11, and we have been going through all these amazing men and women who are on this list. These are men and women of renown. Men and women who have been inscribed for all time and who really serve as a template to show us what it takes to get into the kingdom of God.

If we want to make it in the faith, these are the men and women we need to look like; who we need to emulate. Their examples are what it looks like to walk by faith and not by sight.

Well, today we are going to continue in this list and it is interesting that the writer is going to change it up a little bit in his pattern of which we have become accustomed. He brings a person out, he mentions him/her, and he gives a brief commentary in regard to this person. Why? Because they belong on the list and they possess a beautiful faith. He is going to change it up. Now he is going to present us with a bunch of people all at once, and then he is going to comment. This will become clear as we look at it.

We will jump into Hebrews 11:32 and you will understand what I am saying. **“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell...”** I will stop right there. **“The time would fail me to tell...”** I do not have enough time to even get into it the deeper meaning of this statement. **“...to tell of Gideon and Barak, and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets.”**

So I love what the writer does, he brings all these amazing men to the table, and he sees something. He is making notice that all these men are conquerors. They conquered. Kingdoms fell before these men. Why? Because of faith. Through faith they subdued kingdoms. This is absolutely incredible.

You know, if you want to destroy the kingdoms the enemy has built against you, all the destructive holds he has built against you; whether it is pride, whether it is addiction, whether it is unforgiveness, bitterness, or fear, and we could go on. Whatever kingdoms you have around you, the way they are going to come down is by putting your faith and trust in the Lord. There is no other way. You know, we are to be more than conquerors in Him who loved us.

Well, we are going to dig into this list. We are obviously not going to be able to cover all these guys today. But we are going to look at the first two. Before we get into this, let us get the technical stuff out of the way. The writer is really bringing two groups in his mind- two thoughts- of people to the table. In

other words, let me help you with this. Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah are people he groups in one thought. And in a moment, you will understand why.

And then he goes on and says, "...also of David and Samuel and the prophets...." Hebrews 11:32. So he has these judges, and then in essence he groups David with the prophets and king; which David was both a prophet and king. He has these two groups.

Now, the only reason this is important is there is actually a structure here. Here we go again with the writer. He is borrowing a structure from somewhere. And when you see this, and you understand this, then it really gives you deep insight as to where the writer is coming from. Therefore, I want to show you where the writer is getting this structure.

So we are going to go to 1 Samuel 12:9, and we read, "And when they forgot the LORD their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them."

Now the backdrop here is Samuel is teaching Israel. It is interesting that, similarly to the writer in Hebrews chapter 11, Paul is going through this discourse reminding his brethren of the greats, what God has done, and the people He has used. Samuel is doing that here also. He is virtually doing the very thing the writer of Hebrews does in chapter eleven.

So this is amazing. Then he goes on to say in 1 Samuel 12:10, "Then they cried out to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.'"

Okay, so here is what is going on. You have Israel forgetting God. Then we read about them experiencing horrific trials and tribulation. All of a sudden God jars their memory, "Oh, now I am starting to remember Who God is." They come back, they cry out, they humble themselves, and then there is going to be victory. This is the template.

So we go to 1 Samuel 12:11, "And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety."

Well, there it is. This is where the writers draw from. Look at the names Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel. You might say, "Well, Daniel, that doesn't look like anything the writer of Hebrews played out. He has Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah. At first glance the only name I recognize is Jephthah." Well, here is what is interesting: most of you know Jerubbaal is in fact Gideon. He is called both in scripture.

But this gets even better, the writer is not drawing from the Masoretic text. He is not drawing from the Hebrew Old Testament. He is drawing from the Septuagint, the Greek version of the The Old Testament. This is what we find in the Septuagint. It is literally identical to what the writer of Hebrews is laying out: Jerubbaal, Barak, Jephthah, and Samson. And so the first thing I want you to understand is the writer is drawing from The Septuagint.

Well, that is less important to me than for you to understand the backdrop, and understand Samuel's discourse, and where he is coming from. What he wanted to do was remind Israel of God's great

deliverance. These are the men he brings to the table. This is exactly what the writer of Hebrews is doing right now. He is bringing these men to the table. So that is a beautiful thing.

Now today, I actually want to begin by looking at Barak. I would probably argue, as far as all the people on the list goes in regard to being included (even over Rahab), Barak would probably be the most controversial to make it in the Hall of Faith. If you have ever read the story in Judges 4 and 5, you read the story of Barak. He spoke to Deborah saying something like, 'I am not going to war. I am not going to go out, Deborah, unless you go with me.' She was judging Israel at the time.

There are different commentaries you can read on this and a lot of people look at this as if he was weak. In fact, Deborah tells him, 'Okay, when you go out to this war, guess what's going to happen? There will be no glory for you, because the LORD is going to give Sisera into the hand of a woman.'

And so you look at this at face value and think 'why'. When I think of men of faith, I am not necessarily going to Barak. Where is the writer of Hebrews coming from on this? Well, I am going to show you one passage, and you will understand. I understand exactly why the writer of Hebrews would include him. Number one, the LORD did use him to defeat the enemy while they were on route.

So let us just go and look at Judges 4:14. We are not going to spend a ton of time looking at this, and we don't need to, but this is what it says, "Then Deborah said to Barak, '(Come) Up! (stand, arise) for this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand.'" And he was the commander of the Canaanite army for Jabin. She says, "Has not the LORD gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him."

Now here is the thing, Barak did not physically see the LORD literally descend and go out before him. The only way Barak can possibly go to war is if he believes the word of the LORD. There is no-other way. He has to believe in the word of the LORD. He knows Deborah has spoken the word of the LORD, but he has to believe it. This can only happen by faith, and this is what the writer sees. It is completely, entirely, a movement of faith. He walks by faith not by sight.

Well with that said, I want to move on to our next guy who also bares a little bit of controversy, and you will understand this as we get deeper into it, but it is none other than Gideon. I am going to tell you, this is like last week. This is a really powerful story. This is a story I suspect is going to minister to you in many ways.

So I want to take you back to Judges. We are going to spend the rest of today looking at his story. In Judges 6:11, it says, "Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree, which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites."

Now one thing you will recognize, if you back up to verse one, is the Midianites were totally picking apart and shredding Israel. Anything in regard to what they would grow, Midianites would come in and destroy it. They totally impoverished Israel.

In fact, the correct way to think of their situation, in context, is so vital. If you are going to get anything out of the story, you have to understand this context. It would be like going back to World War II and looking at the Jewish ghettos where the Jewish people were completely stripped of everything. They were starving. They were stripped of all their personal property, totally impoverished, and had horrific

living conditions. Understand, this is the ancient version of that. If you don't see this, you are going to miss a lot in the story. It is a living hell for Israel right now.

We move on to Judges 6:12, “And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor! Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?” You cannot be serious. Gideon is like, “are you kidding me? Look at the living conditions. It is a living hell and you are telling us God is with us. How is that possible when all these things are taking place?”

I want you to ask yourself a question, can you relate to Gideon in any way, as your life gets flipped upside down with some turmoil that comes in with tragedy and despair? With these trials and tribulation, the fear is crippling. You are suffocating from anxiety. Some of you are actually having anxiety attacks. When this happens, you are saying the same thing as Gideon. You are like, “you know what, I struggle Daniel to see the Lord in any of this. I have been trying to serve Him the best I can and all heck has broken loose in my life. Everything is upside down.”

I think of Israel. God sends Moses to go deliver Israel out of Egypt. In Exodus 6:9, it actually says when he goes to speak words to Israel, Israel cannot receive the words because of the anguish of spirit. They could not hear it.

How many of you are in such desperation? You cannot hear the truth even when someone comes in to try and speak life. It is not getting inside and not penetrating into the heart, because you are in such despair. You are in a living hell.

You know, I even think of Israel in Exodus as they come through the Red Sea. They have been delivered out of Egypt. They have been brought to the Red Sea, then they are brought into this dreadful, terrible wilderness, and there is nothing to eat or drink. Israel holds their hands up and says, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

They did not see Him in that turmoil. It was hellish; their lives were on the line. What they saw was they were going to perish. I mean, that is a moment of crisis, and in those moments of crisis, we struggle to see God. It is like a fog coming in.

Well, this is where Gideon is at. Israel is in a state of total despair. And this is honestly what makes this story so incredible: it is real and it is raw. If you are going to let it, this is going to minister to you in very powerful ways. It will strengthen you. Let the words resonate in your heart.

Listen to what Gideon goes on and says, in Judges 6:13. This is an amazing statement. “Where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’” How many of you, in your moment of crisis, are so frustrated? I can tell you, I have been there. We read the New Testament and the gospels are filled with Yeshua healing one person after another. You are inundated by the wondrous works in the glories of the living God, and yet you look around and ask, ‘Where are they? Where are these miracles today?’

When you are in the mode of crisis; you cannot see it. I am not seeing God in this. This is where Gideon is at. What’s interesting is this statement: ‘Where are all His miracles that our fathers told us about?’ This actually shows me the fathers were doing what they were commanded in Deuteronomy six. They were commanded to declare the deeds of the Most High; the deeds that He did for them in power.

Do you know we are commanded to share the power of the living God with our children? We are to tell of His glorious deeds. We should be training our children, telling them of all the things Yeshua did, and His great power: making the blind to see, the deaf to hear, raising the dead, and casting out demons. We are commanded to do this. And Gideon saying, 'I know these things, because our fathers have followed this.' They have told this one generation after the next. We are roughly 300 years from Sinai. This is where he is at. Where are these things?

But then he says this in Judges 6:13, "...But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hand of the Midianites." Well, guess what? That is true. The LORD did forsake them; the LORD did give them into the hand of the Midianites. All you need to do is go back to verse one and two. It makes it very clear. That is exactly what happened. So you are talking about the enemy coming here for life, and he is wreaking havoc on you. This is where Gideon is at. This is where Israel is at.

At which point the LORD responds, and He says to Gideon in Judges 6:14, "Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" What? It's almost like God is saying, 'Did you hear what I just said? All these things that I just said?' And there is not even a break. There is nothing else to learn. The Lord just comes back and says, 'Go with this might of yours. I'm going to save Israel. This is how I'm going to do it.'

So Gideon responds in Judges 6:15, "So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." He is saying, "You've got the wrong guy, trust me. I am the least of the least of the least, and if there is any guy you should pick, it is not me." Sound eerily familiar to Moses? As the LORD went to Moses, calling him to deliver His people, he says, 'No, Lord, I am sorry. I am not eloquent in speech. Neither before you spoke to me, nor even after you spoke to me. You did not physically do anything to me. You have not given me any more capabilities than I had before I talked to You.'

This is essentially what Gideon is literally laying out. I am not the guy for this. But there is another aspect we could look at in regard to this, and it is the same thing we find with Moses. We see an element, a true element, of total humility. He was the most humble man on the face of the planet. This is why God chose him. Numbers 12 makes it very clear he was the most humble man on Earth. He was usable. Gideon is very similar. He has that same scope of humility.

Going to Judges 6:16, we continue, "And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you..." I am going to tell you something, if you want strength when you need it most, if you want to have real power to overcome those strongholds and kingdoms which have built themselves up against you, you are going to have to believe this. You are going to have to have faith that He will be with you, and that He will neither leave you nor forsake you. You have to believe what Paul says to the Romans in 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" If you do not believe this, you are already defeated; you have already given up the war, and could never be utilized to overcome. You are as good as dead, because doubt has overtaken you. In order for Gideon to have actually accomplished what God has called him to do, he had no choice. He had to believe this sincerely in his heart.

Now, with that being said, I want to ask a question. But first, something radically changed here. If you go back to Judges 6:1-2, you see that the LORD did abandon them; He forsook them and gave them into the hand of the enemy. It says He gave them over for seven years. But now He comes on the scene, and in Judges 6:16 it says, "I will be with you."

What happened? Something happened between the beginning of the chapter and where we are at right now. All you need to do is go back to 1 Samuel 12:7-10, and these verses show us this template of restoration and deliverance. They cried out to the Lord.

That is significant because we know the prophets and Joel 2:32 says, **“Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”** It does not say maybe, you might be saved if you will give God a chance to think it over. It says, **“Whoever calls upon Him.”** Paul uses this verse in regard to Yeshua. Whoever calls upon the name of Yeshua will be saved. That is a fact. It is a biblical fact when you turn to Him.

And my favorite Psalm is Psalm 50:15. **“Call upon Me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”** That is powerful. That is hope, salvation, and deliverance. This is what God wants. He wants us to call upon Him for help. And this is what Israel has done. They have been crying out. This is why God is here. This is why He is talking to Gideon.

Now the Lord goes on to say in Judges 6:16, **“...and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.”** In other words, this is going to be a joke. When you understand the context of Israel's army against the Midianite army, you will appreciate that statement a lot more. This will unfold as we continue in Judges 6:17, **“Then he said to Him, ‘If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me.’”**

Show me a sign. Now, some people very erroneously come up with commentary saying, ‘well, this was a moment of weakness of Gideon. This was just showing that this is a man who lacked total faith, and it really was not the proper response of what you would expect a man of God to have.’ Well, look at it closely. It says in Judges 6:17, **“...show me a sign that it is You who talk with me.”**

All Gideon wants at this point is to ensure that he is truly dealing with the one true God of Israel. This is kind of a first John moment when John says in 1 John 4:1, **“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”** Gideon is doing this. He is not seeking to test God. He is literally just ensuring it is God Who is speaking to him, so this is not some diabolical trap.

So we continue in Judges 6:18, **“Do not depart from here, I pray...”** This is still Gideon speaking to the LORD. **“Don't depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.”** And He said, **“I will wait until you come back.”** It is interesting that Gideon is going to prepare the offering. Do you know what he grabs? There are two elements mentioned. He grabs a young goat and unleavened bread. Now, why is that interesting? Because these are the very elements of the Passover. See, the Passover Lamb could be taken either from the lambs or the goats. And what else went with it? The unleavened bread. Even rabbis, like Rashi, are looking at this and saying, ‘Well, this is obviously happening during Passover.’ It is an interesting thought considering the offering and the context of what is happening. God is coming to Gideon to deliver Israel.

It gets even more interesting. Let me add to that. It is more interesting when you understand this offering to the guy he is talking to. This is an angel of the LORD, who is no regular angel. You are going to see this as we continue in Judges 6:21, **“Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and**

consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.” In other words, this angel received the offering and Gideon understands this.

Now we continue in Judges 6:22-23, “Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face.” <sup>23</sup>Then the LORD said to him, “Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.” Right now, based on this passage, we know, and Gideon knows very well, he is not talking to just an angel. This goes way beyond that, because he is worried that he has seen the LORD face to face, and his expectation is death. The LORD knows this. He is expecting to die. Go back to Exodus 33:20 and it makes it very clear that the LORD says, “No one is going to see my face and live.” No one can see God and live, and so he is freaking out because the person he has seen is God. And yet it is described as the angel of the Lord here.

Now, this is what you call a Christophany, where you have this pre-incarnate revelation of the Messiah Yeshua to these righteous men. It is not the only example you find in the Old Testament. There are several of these. There is Manoach and his wife, the parents of Samson. This is a very similar situation. They have this offering and the angel actually goes up in the offering, and Manoach knows this. He is saying, ‘Well, we have seen God, and we are going to die,’ because that is the expectation when man sees God that they are going to die.

And then, of course, you have Jacob wrestling with the angel. The angel who changes his name; the angel of whom Jacob enquires, ‘what is your name’. This is an awesome thing, in that he actually calls the play spinning it around. Because he has seen God face to face, his life is preserved.

These are amazing moments because they are so deep. Gideon just had a come-to-Jesus moment. This is a come-to-Jesus moment where, in a sense, Yeshua has been revealed to him. This is what the gospel is. Every single one of us has had these moments when the gospel goes out and you receive Yeshua into your heart. He is having this moment. It is a moment of salvation, it is incredible. This is a very, very powerful situation.

And then you think of what Yeshua says in John 14:9, “Have I been with you so long and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say; “Show us the Father”?” Think about that. This is why they are saying they have seen God, because they have seen Yeshua. And Yeshua says, “If you’ve seen Me, you’ve seen the Father.” Absolutely amazing.

So Gideon has this come-to-Jesus moment. Then after this the LORD is going to instruct Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal. Actually, this is something Gideon gets nervous about. He does not do this by day, because, first of all, he knows his family is going to be upset with him. They are involved in the worship of Baal. He knows the men of the city are going to be upset with him. So he goes out at night, takes ten men, tears down the altar of Baal and the wooden image of Asherah, which is always set next to the altar (it is considered the consort of Baal), and uses the wood of this Asherah. He cuts it up to burn this sacrifice, and to create an altar to the LORD, to the living God.

The problem is word gets out. The men wake up the next day and find out the altar of Baal has been torn down; and now they want blood, so they investigate who did this. Well, it was Gideon. So they went to Gideon's father's (Joash) house, and said, ‘Bring out your son. He deserves to die. He needs to die. At this moment Joash sticks up for his son. He sticks up for him and says, ‘Well, wait a second. If Baal is a God, let Baal plead for himself. He can do that if that is the deal.’ So he defended his son. This is where Gideon gets his name, Jerubbaal. It means, ‘let Baal plead.’

Now we are going to jump ahead to Judges 6:33-34, “Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. <sup>34</sup>But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.”

I love this, because he just had a Yeshua moment where he came into contact with God. And the next thing we read is, he receives the anointing. Isn't that interesting? Continuing in Judges 6:35-37, “And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them. <sup>36</sup>So Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand as you have said, -- <sup>37</sup>look I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.”

Gideon had already received confirmation through the sacrifice, which was a sign. But now he is asking for another confirmation. Gideon needs this confirmation. Let me ask you something, what does this tell you about this whole situation? Well number one, it tells you that what God is asking him to do is extremely heavy, it is extremely intense. Is there a bit of fear that Gideon is wrestling with? You better believe it. But notice he does not walk away, he does not give up. He actually presses in and he petitions the LORD, ‘LORD you put something on my plate that no man can do. And that is the truth. No man could possibly accomplish this. You are putting this on my plate. If this is the deal, I beg of you, let this sign come to fruition.’

And so we go to Judges 6:38, “And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.” Exactly what he asked of the LORD, the LORD does it. There is no commentary whatsoever that the LORD is displeased with Gideon on any level. The LORD understands what He has put on his plate.

So the LORD does this sign for him. But something happens, after this takes place. More wrestling goes on as Gideon is wrestling with this notion that he saw the sign happen. He may have been thinking, ‘you know what, I asked for the fleece to bear all the water and everything else around it to be dry. Maybe, just maybe, this was a natural thing, in the sense of, of course the fleece was wet, because it sucked up everything around it. Of course it would be dry.’ We don't know what he was thinking, but something got him rattled and he needs another confirmation.

So he flips it backwards just to make sure. Judges 6:39-40 says, “Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground, let there be dew.” <sup>40</sup>And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.” So in this way Gideon knew, ‘Okay, now I absolutely know this had nothing to do with the fleece just sucking up water or that this just happened to be a coincidence on any level? Absolutely not.’ At this point, Gideon is satisfied. He is ready. He is locked.

But this is the hilarity of the LORD. Listen to what the LORD says next. Certainly the LORD did not intend this to be humorous, but it is. Look at what it says in Judges 7:2. “And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’” So wait a second. Let me get this straight. ‘Lord, as I'm asking for the fleece, you already put in an impossible victory on my plate. The



Midianite army is more than four times the size of Israel. It is a slaughter. And in case you forgot, over the last seven years we have been decimated by the Midianites, completely decimated. And let me get this straight, so now what you want to do is take an impossible situation and take away the soldiers who are supposed to go and fight this war. This is what you want to do?' And the answer is yes.

Because the LORD does not want to give the flesh any chance to bear any glory. He will not give His glory to another. Isaiah 42, right? The LORD will not do that. He is stripping them of all power to receive any glory to think that their hand has gained the victory. Now as we continue, the LORD is going to give some instructions to Gideon for "thinning out the herd," as they say.

We go to Judges 7:3, "Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained." Are you kidding me? Two thirds just lopped off of the army who are already at an impossible disadvantage. That is 22,000 gone. Gideon is left with 10,000 soldiers.

Oh, it gets better. We move to Judges 7:4, "But the LORD said to Gideon, 'The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go.'" And so He basically tests them, and the matter in how they are tested is to drink water. Certain men would lap like a dog; they would scoop and they would bring it to their mouth. These are the ones the Lord wants.

And so we read in Judges 7:7, "Then the LORD said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place." Okay, so it is one thing to send Israel to war with 32,000 men up against over a 135,000 men. That's a total slaughter. Then to lop off 22,000, leaving them with only 10,000, that is a suicide mission. But now you are going to take 300 men against 135,000 soldiers. Do you want another perspective? This is like one man going out and trying to fight 450 men. I mean logically, it is complete insanity. If one man were going to fight five trained soldiers; he is as good as dead. But now you have one man against 450 soldiers. Well when I say this is completely 'mission impossible', that is the weight on Gideon right now. Do you understand? You know, if the LORD wanted to make a statement, He succeeded right here.

I think honestly, you are going to come to a point in your life when the LORD is going to put you in a similar situation. A situation you are not going to like because you are not going to be able to handle it in your own flesh, or of your own accord; and there are going to be other people who cannot help you. And in those situations, how are you going to bear it? Are you going to press into prayer? Is your faith going to hold up when no one can help you? When you are up against mission impossible, how do you respond to that?

Well listen, this is how Gideon does it. Judges 7:8-9 says, "So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley. <sup>9</sup>And it happened on the same night that the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand." It is time. It is time for war. You are being called to go to war.

But listen to what the LORD says, not Gideon. This is the LORD; He says in Judges 7:10, "But if you are afraid to go down to the camp with Purah, your servant." Isn't that interesting? The LORD understands how insane this plan is. This is not Gideon asking for this. The LORD also understands that, 'Yeah, you

know, I dwindled you down to 10,000 and then took it way down and I changed it to 300.' And who knows what Gideon's flesh, and the flesh of these 300 men are telling them, what it was trying to convince them of at this time. There is a boatload of fear involved. You cannot even count the number of Midianites, because they are innumerable. And they are going to go in there with 300 men like this? The LORD knows what his struggle is. And so the LORD proposes this: He wants to strengthen him.

And so He sends him into the camp. And this is what the LORD says in Judges 7:11-12, **“And you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.”** Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp. <sup>12</sup>**Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts...”**

If you have ever paid attention, the world is getting plagued by locusts right now. I mean the size of cities are being covered by locusts, it is like a cloud. This is the imagery the Bible is using. Their camels were without numbers, as the sand by the seashore in multitude.

Now, can you imagine, you're Gideon walking, you're already trembling with fear. You've been asked to do something that's totally insane, impossible in the flesh, and you go down to the camp, and now you have to look at it. Judges 7:13-14, **“And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, “I have had a dream: to my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed.”** <sup>14</sup>**Then his companion answered and said, “This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp.”** This is an absolutely incredible, supernatural experience. The Holy Spirit is all over this. Gideon goes down, and a man has a dream by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Oh, and his friend with him just happens to have the interpretation and Gideon gets to hear it.

Think about this for a second. What is Gideon really hearing? Where is he going to draw his strength from? The word. All he is hearing is the word of the LORD; and that word of the LORD has cut him to the heart. This guy is going to walk away from this invincible. Without batting an eyelash, his head becomes like a flint. He is ready for war. And I am going to tell you, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

If you want to have that Gideon moment where you, despite the odds, despite what you are up against, despite all the impossibilities the adversary has thrown at you, I don't care what it is, when you set your heart to hear His words, the words of Yeshua, the promises, when you set your heart to do this, you will become a warrior. You will be invincible walking with the Lord. This is what we are called to be; we are called to be these Gideon's.

Now moving on to Judges 7:15, **“And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshipped.”** We have not read anything like this before. He hears this; the word of God has literally dropped him. It took root, and he began to worship. And I am sure part of that was praising and thanking his God.

I wonder, when you go to the word, is the word having this effect on your life? Do you have this Gideon moment? Does it drop you? I can tell you, it drops me. There are times when it is so heavy it absolutely drops me. I stop reading and I start worshipping, or I start praying because what has been said has cut me

so deeply. It could be with conviction, encouragement, or strength. It could be a multitude of things, but this is the response we are to have from the word. So he worships.

Judges 7:15, ...**“He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.”** This is what I love about Gideon: he is not thinking about the 300 men or about any of that. He does not have any doubts whatsoever. He knows victory is imminent with many or with few numbers. The numbers mean nothing to him. Now he is in a place for victory.

I think of Asa, just quickly breaking away to share with you Asa’s words in 2 Chronicles 14:11, **“And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, “LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You.”** Asa was up against an impossible situation. In regard to numbers, he has come to a place of humility, brokenness, and faith. The situation was irrelevant, the LORD was the only one Who was relevant in the mind of Asa. Likewise, the only thought relevant in the mind of Gideon right now is the power of the living God. Nothing else! That is when you know you are walking by faith and not by sight. That is when you know you are in the right place.

Now as we continue, we are going to see the story is going to be taken to another level, if you can imagine that. These 300 men who are going with Gideon, who he is going to lead in battle, one would expect these men would be outfitted with the latest armor, with the latest technology of sword, spear, shield, and the most sophisticated design of helmets and so forth. One would expect these 300 men are going to have to be armed to the teeth.

Instead, Gideon comes out and hands them a shofar and a flashlight. This is, in essence, what he does: a shofar and a torch. So it was not like it was not insane and laughable enough to begin with, but now I am going to send you out to 135,000 warriors with shofars and torches. Are you serious? Well, this is absolutely how the LORD is going to send them out, because He is not going to give flesh one iota, nothing, to boast about. The LORD is assured of the glory because the LORD has stripped them of everything.

So Gideon goes out to war, divides the men into three different companies, 100 men in each, and they are all equipped with, not spear, shield, and sword, none of that, but equipped with a trumpet and a torch. And what happens is that they sound the trumpet; all these men sound the trumpet with him. And this is what they cry out as recorded in Judges 7:20, ... **and they cried “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon.”** This is the cry, **“The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon.”**

This takes us back to what we covered last week with Jericho. The trumpet blew and they shouted. And here they are shouting, **“The sword of the LORD.”** Herev liyot Adonai veh l’Gideon. This is amazing.

Now, we will continue. You can only imagine what's going to happen next. Judges 7:22, **“When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.”**

No wonder they did not have to outfit them with sword, spear, or any armor at all, because the LORD's plan to bring judgment against Midian was to have them kill one another. Now this is an amazing thing when you consider Bible prophecy. Because this story, like Jericho, is very, very prophetic of the end of

those days leading up right before the coming of the Lord. Do you know there is a judgment that is going to be unleashed upon this earth? And I can tell you right now, it is already here.

Do you notice violence and hatred increasing, because of lawlessness? Yeshua warns the love of many will grow cold. What does that turn into? It turns into judgment. As these trumpets are blowing, this is what is going to happen. And guess what? The prophets talk about this everywhere.

Let me share with you Ezekiel 38:21. **“I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,” says the Lord God. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother.”** This is the judgment that is coming. He is bringing judgment. He is going to turn everyone against each other. There is going to be great bloodshed. There is going to be a great war.

We continue in Zechariah 14:13, **“It shall come to pass in that day that a great panic from the LORD will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, and raise his hand against his neighbor's hand.”** Zechariah chapter fourteen is about the very end, and this is what is going to happen. It is going to get horrific. It is going back to the days of Noah, that hamas, that violence, it is going to be here.

In Haggai 2:22, it is just unbelievable that all these prophets foretell this. **“I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms.** This is judgment. **“I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother.”**

What we see happening in Judges 22 is prophecy. I am going to tell you to look at what is happening in this country right now, it has already begun. The hatred and the division. We are so polarized right now. We have politics that has become corrosive. It has become violent. Do you know what that means? You better wake up to what is going on! God is bringing judgment. This is one of the signs of judgment when you see what we see happening in this country right now. It is a sign of judgment. We are not far off.

Now going back to our story in Judges. Gideon is going to be pursuing the enemies. Judges 8:4, **“When Gideon came to the Jordan, he and the three hundred men who were with him crossed over, exhausted but still in pursuit.”** I think about that, they are exhausted but still in pursuit. I am going to tell you, and I probably do not need to, but your experience in this life, the war against the enemy, you are going to be exhausted. The enemy is going to try to wear you out. You cannot stop. Do not turn back! Do not give up; you run the race because only one will win. This is what we are called to do. You have to continue, and that is what Gideon does.

Judges 8:5, **“Then he said to the men of Succoth, “Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me...”** Now, you have to see this. There are some Messianic implications here which are pretty deep. **“Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are exhausted and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna kings of Midian.”**

Gideon is going out doing the work of the LORD in an anointed fashion, a typology of the Messiah. He comes to different cities and different lands and tells them, ‘Hey, bless those who are with me, bless them. Give them bread.’ These men are given an opportunity to be blessed by blessing them. See, this is the spirit of grace coming upon them.

And then he goes on and says this in Judges 8:6, **“And the leaders of Succoth said, “Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?”** They are not doing it. They are not going to give them anything. If you want to feel the weight of the situation and how impossible the situation looked to man during these days, even after they were being dispersed and scattered, even with the innocent bystanders looking on, they are thinking, ‘We are not going to go against the kings of Midian. You have not defeated anyone. You have not done anything yet. We are going to stay out of this. We want to protect our own skin.’ Despite Gideon literally opening the door to bless them, they do not want any part of it because they do not see the victory. They do not see it.

Here is what Gideon says in Judges 8:7, **“So Gideon said, “For this cause, when the LORD has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers!”** He does not say if the LORD delivers the kings of Midian, he says, when. This man is operating in total faith. He knows the victory is his; he speaks truth. He speaks according to the word of the LORD. He believes the word of the LORD. He believes the promise. It is not a matter of ‘if’, it is just ‘when’. It is a powerful statement.

Now going to Judges 8:8-9, **“Then he went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in the same way. And the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered. <sup>9</sup>So he also spoke to the men of Penuel, saying, “When I come back in peace, I will tear down this tower!”** He is coming to destroy them.

He was giving them another opportunity, showing them grace, to be able to sow into the kingdom. To be a part of this, to join them, and they did not want any part of it because they feared. They did not see any victory happening whatsoever. It is interesting because, for some of us, we look at this thinking, ‘Why is the world not accepting the gospel? Why do they not accept the gospel?’ Yeshua is going to destroy all sinners. He can destroy everyone, and the world does not see it. The world does not believe it. These men Gideon is going up against, do not believe he is going to obtain victory and that he is going to wipe out evil or wipe out the oppressors. They do not believe it. This is scary.

Going to Judges 8:10, **“Now Zebah and Zalmunna were at Karkor, and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand, all who are left of all the army of the people of the East; for one hundred and twenty thousand men who drew the sword had fallen.”** It is unbelievable. Three hundred men outfitted with horns and torches had defeated 120,000 men. All glory to the LORD.

Judges 8:11, **“Then Gideon went up by the road of those who dwell in tents of the east of Nobah and Jogbehah; and he attacked the army while the camp felt secure.”** Is that not interesting? At the end of the age, this is how it is going to be. They will be eating, drinking, giving into marriage; they will feel secure, Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, **‘For when they say, “Peace and safety!”, then sudden destruction comes upon them,’** ... This is what's happening right here, and we are seeing this. Midian is a very, very good typology of the world.

Judges 8:12, **“When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah, and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army.”** Now, you can make a correlation between Zebah and Zalmunna as you think of the beast and the false prophet being taken care of in Revelation.

We could go on. I could spend a lot more time getting into the prophetic inferences. It is just so powerful. But here we want to look at the reality of the faith of Gideon, and what he was up against. He was up against the impossible. But by faith he went through this. He overcame the impossible. So this is

a powerful lesson for us. You have to let these examples sink into your heart, let it grow in you, let it intensify your faith because it will, I promise you.