

Gideon – Part 2
Judges 6: 11-18
 Jay Hohfeler

CONTEXT REVIEW

Story of Gideon is buried inside the Book of Judges (6, 7, 8).

ISRAEL'S LEADERSHIP ARC



THE PATRIARCHS	MOSES	JOSHUA	THE JUDGES	THE KING BOOKS
Abraham	Egypt	The Desert	Dark ages	Saul
Isaac	The Desert	The Promised Land	Godless liberty	David
Jacob	Testing	Dividing the land	Defeat	Solomon
Joseph	Tabernacle	Taking the land	Forsaking God	1 & 2 Samuel
	Exodus	Joy	Earthly/Unbelief	1 & 2 Kings
	Leviticus	Progress	Servitude	1 & 2 Chronicles
	Numbers	Faith	12 Judges	19 Kings in North
	Deuteronomy	Freedom		20 Kings in South

Period of the Judges

- 350 years (from death of Joshua to King Saul)
- String of stories...with a pattern:
 1. **People turn away from God**
 2. **God mobilizes an enemy**
 3. **Cry for help/mercy**
 4. **God sends a rescuer ("Judge")**

Historical Setting

- Book title, "Judges" – means "saviors" or "deliverers"
- Book of Judges
 - Dark Ages - "Israel did what was right in its own eyes"—evil
 - Godless liberty
 - No King
 - God raised up people to rescue; 12 leading characters (Judges):

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Othniel | 8. Jephthah |
| 2. Ehud | 9. Ibzan |
| 3. Shamgar | 10. Elon |
| 4. Deborah | 11. Abdon |
| 5. Gideon | 12. Samson |
| 6. Tola | |
| 7. Jair | |

God brought in Judges, not consecutively, but when the time required it

Judges 6

3 Enemy groups:

1. Midianites

- Midian was a descendant of Abraham; from 2nd wife (Keturah)
- Midianites turned against God; became Israel's enemy
- Baal worshipers; immoral;
- Never eliminated the Midianites as God commanded
- Now, years later, the Midianites dominate Israel

2. Amalekites

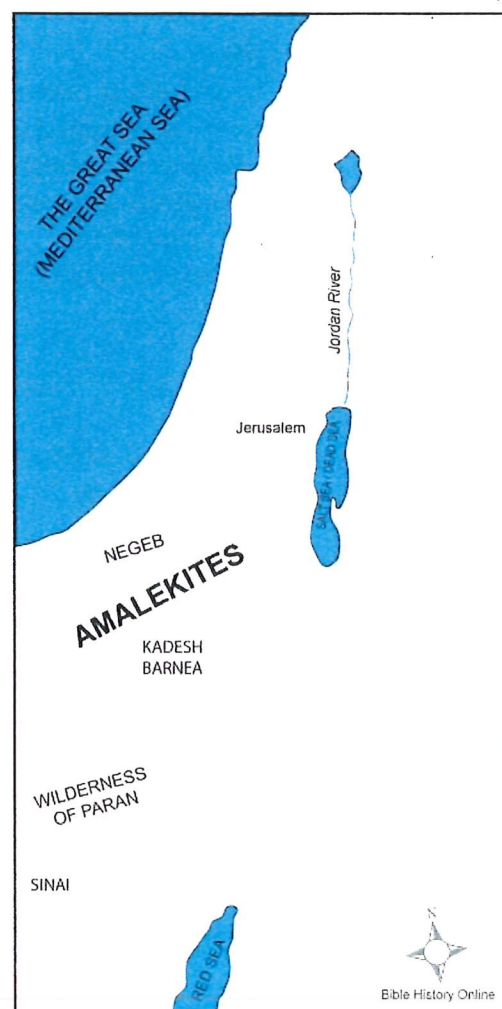
- South of Judah; connected to the Edomites.
- Nomadic; not descendants of Abraham
- Attacked Israelites on Exodus journey
- Long-lasting feud w/Israel
- God directed them destroyed forever
- King Saul would later spare them
- Harassed Israel for multiple generations

3. People of the East

- General term for Arabs east of the Jordan river all the way east to the Euphrates river
- Often called Bedouins: means "desert dwellers"
- See **Moab (Moabites)** on map
- See **Ammon (Ammonites)** on map

Different kind of enemies than ever before:

- Not interested in political control
- Economic exploitation
 - Simply waited until harvest time
 - Swooped in at harvest seasons and plundered the land for the crops
 - Avoided the hard work of preparing soil, planting, cultivating
 - Season after season, year after year.
- Combined forces overwhelmed the land. Absolute devastation; rapacious hordes
- Secret weapon: camels (mobile, long range)
 - Enormous military advantage (swift attacks vs Israel's foot soldiers)
- Israel's only defense: hide food supplies in mountain dens & caves.



Midian Oppresses Israel

6 The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. ² And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. ³ For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. ⁴ They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey. ⁵ For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. ⁶ And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.

⁷ When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites, ⁸ the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery. ⁹ And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ And I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed my voice.”

What was in that message that was so important? What do we notice about God?

1. God comes for His people.
2. God indicts them; they need to know why they are oppressed; condemnation over comfort
3. Israel needs reminders of:
 - who they are; who God is
4. God’s kindness: focused on His children’s hearts 1st and their circumstances 2nd

Principle #1:

When we are hurting, we mistakenly believe God’s #1 priority is to remove the pain.

Principle #2

The Israelites needed to know WHY they needed rescuing. They were crying out for the wrong things:

- ✓ Physical rescue -- instead of a heart rescue
- ✓ Wanting their lives back – instead of wanting their God back

Why would the Lord bother to send a judge to a disobedient and unrepentant people?

Ephesians 2:4-5

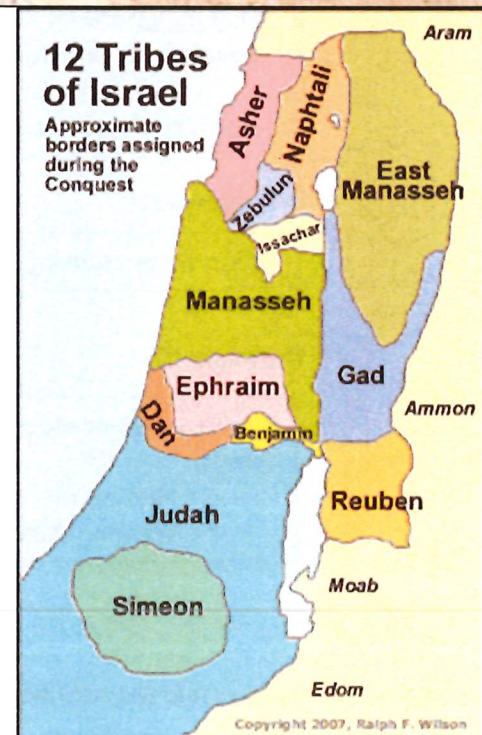
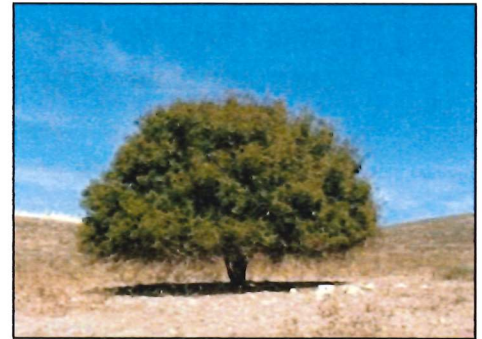
“But because for His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ—even when we were dead in transgressions.”

Romans 5:8

... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

The Call of Gideon

¹¹ Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” ¹³ And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” ¹⁴ And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” ¹⁵ And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” ¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.” ¹⁷ And he said to him, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. ¹⁸ Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.”



Lord = title giving respect & dignity; usually used to mean, “Sir”
LORD = proper name for God. His name is Yahweh

This is God, not an angel.

This is Jesus Christ in a pre-incarnate state.

See v14: ¹⁴ And the **LORD** turned to him and said

See v16: ¹⁶ And the **LORD** said to him, “But I will be with you

Gideon's 2 Big Questions:

#1 v13: If you're with us, WHY? [all this hardship; where were you like w/ our forefathers]

Gideon's weak theology:

God's Answer: God works THROUGH their hardships

How?

⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives." (Heb 11; Prov 3)

² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. (Deut 8)

Gideon's 2 Big Questions:

#2 v15: How can I save Israel? [I'm weak & small]

Angel's (Christ's) Answer:

Threshing is the process of loosening the edible part of [cereal grain](#) (or other crop) from the scaly, inedible [chaff](#) that surrounds it.



Threshing Floor →



→ Treading the grain



Threshing into the air →