

19 So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. 20 The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. 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. 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."

>>> Gideon asks for the first of many (22) \_\_\_\_\_ to insure that the Lord was really with him.

**Gideon's Reverence for this Task:**

>>> Gideon prepares a 'large' meal in a time of famine for this 'messenger of the Lord'.

>>> Gideon did not hesitate to follow the (23) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Angel to exact detail.

>>> Gideon realizes the Lord is with him when the meal is accepted as a sacrifice and he immediately built an altar to the Lord—"Yahweh Shalom"—The Lord is Peace!

**Key Fact #3: Gideon's Reaction to the Call:**

Judges 6:25-35—"Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; 26 and build an altar to the LORD your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down." 27 So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the LORD had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night. 28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar which had been built. 29 So they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And when they had inquired and asked, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing." 30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it." 31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!" 32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar." 33 Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel."

>>> Gideon, still afraid, finally obeyed the voice of God that he had (24) \_\_\_\_\_ through God's prophet.

>>> Gideon's Father, a priest of Baal, quickly (25) \_\_\_\_\_ his son's spiritual leadership.

>>> Gideon became known as the man who fought against Baal, and (26) \_\_\_\_\_!

**JUDGES TEACHES:** Spiritual (27) \_\_\_\_\_ = Spiritual (28) \_\_\_\_\_!



Today's message will be available online at [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org), both to view as an archived message and to download from a podcast. To purchase today's message on CD for \$5 or on DVD for \$10, please stop by the First Family Inspiration Book and Gift Store located in the Grand Foyer.

Answers: 1-230 2-177 3-53 4-7-harsh 5-Gideon 6-Abraham 7-Joseph 8-Moses 9-guide 10-less 11-homeless 12-fool 13-Harvest 14-Physically 15-spiritually 17-themselves 18-individually 19-Indifference 20-present 21-nobody 22-signs 23-instructions 24-ignored 25-followed 26-won 27-Leadership 28-Obedience

**First Family Church 7700 W. 143rd St, Overland Park, KS 66223 913-681-3341 [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org)**



**JUDGES: The Problem Land**  
How God Uses a Nobody to Change the World  
Pastor Jerry Johnston's Sermonar  
Wednesday, September 30, 2009  
Message #4 in the series

Bible Text: Judges 6:1-33, pp. 408-411 in the *Nelson Study Bible*

**TIME-TABLE UPDATE:**

>>> We are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ years since the conquest of the land of Canaan.

>>> Israel has spent their time in the 'Promised Land' in (2) \_\_\_\_\_ years of peace and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ years of bondage.

Judges 6:1-2a, "Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, 2 and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel..."

Oppressor:	Yrs. of Oppression:	Judge/Deliverer:	Years of Rest:
Midianites	(4) _____	(5) _____	40

**Key Fact #1: The Oppressor: 'The Midianites'**

>>> Midian is another familiar face in the Israel's history.

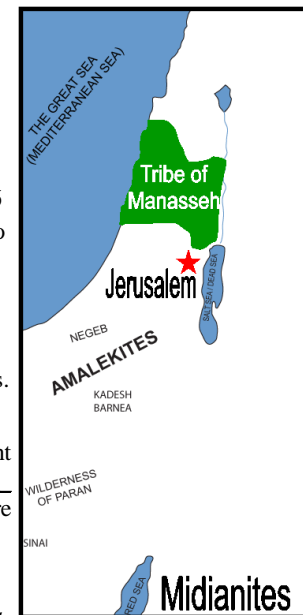
**Midian Facts:**

- Midian's father was Abraham. Gen. 25:1-2
- The family of Midian and eventually the country of Midian were financed by (6) \_\_\_\_\_ . Gn. 25:6
- Jacob's son, (7) \_\_\_\_\_, was sold as a slave to the Midianites. Gn. 37:25-28
- (8) \_\_\_\_\_ married a woman whose Father was a priest in Midian. Ex. 2:15.21
- A Midianite served as a desert (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for Moses and the people of Israel in their wilderness wanderings. Num. 10:29-32

>>> Midian had allied with the 'Amelikites', another distant relative. Although the period of oppression is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ than previous times, it appears to be the most harsh in the entire book of Judges.

**Notice the Oppression:**

Judges 2b-6—"Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made



Watch First Family TV, Monday – Saturday nights on KPXE TV – 50, 10:30 – 11:00p.m. / Sundays @ 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. KMCI TV – 38.

for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains. 3 So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. 4 Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. 5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it. 6 So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.”

>>>> The Israelites had abandoned their cities and homes—they were (11)\_\_\_\_\_.

>>> More than not inhabiting their villages and homes, the people of Israel also had no (12)\_\_\_\_\_.

>>> Midianite Strategy — Allow Israel to live, plant crops, raise herds of farm animals, and then come and take them all every (13)\_\_\_\_\_ season.

**Bondage in Israel:**

- (14)\_\_\_\_\_ : Israel had removed (15)\_\_\_\_\_ from harm
- (16)\_\_\_\_\_ : Israel had removed (17)\_\_\_\_\_ from God.

“The very lives of the Israelites were conditioned by the annual invasion, of which the passage provides us with a most graphic description. Living in dens and caves like animals themselves they lost their crops and their own livestock without any hope of redress because their enemy was as numerous as a locust plague, and as highly mobile, traveling on their numberless fast camels to penetrate and devastate every corner of the land. We do not need much imagination to grasp what wave after wave of this sort of total destruction, year after year, would do to the Israelites’ moral. When the invasion was over the rest of the year was lived out in the poverty which it had caused. Not only materially, but emotionally and psychologically the people of God were reduced to utter destitution. Only then, after seven years of this treatment, did they humble themselves sufficiently to call upon the Lord. How stubborn and rebellious human will really is!”  
-Ogilvie—The Communicator’s Commentary: Vol. 7, p. 103-104

**A New Wrinkle:** God sends a prophet to remind the nation of why they were being oppressed.

Judges 6:7-10—“And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites, 8 that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; 9 and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 Also I said to you, “I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.” But you have not obeyed My voice.”

**Reasons for Oppression:**

- (18)\_\_\_\_\_
- Idolatry
- (19)\_\_\_\_\_



“We need to remember that no amount of past faithfulness in service buys us the right to bend the rules in the present. Or, as John Chapman, the Australian evangelist, once told of group of ministers in my hearing, “You’ve got to remember that just because you’re a minister, doesn’t let you off being a Christian.”  
-Ogilvie. Pg. 105-106

**Key Fact #2: The Call of Gideon**

Judges 6:11-21—“ 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 wine-

press, in order 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, you mighty man of valor!” 13 Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” 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?” 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.” 16 And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.” 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. 18 Do not 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.” 19 So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. 20 The Angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And he did so. 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.”

>>> We see a Rejection, an Objection, and then a Subjection needed to confirm the call of God on Gideon’s life.

**A ‘Rejection’ to the Call:**

Judges 6:12b-13, “The Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!” 13 Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

>>> Gideon had clearly heard the prophet speak to the outcry of the people.

>>> Gideon’s (20)\_\_\_\_\_ situation cast doubt on God’s future blessing to him.

**An ‘Objection’ to the Call:**

Judges 6:14-15—“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?” 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.”

>>> Gideon’s ‘objection’ reminds us of Moses!

>>> Gideon considered himself a (21)\_\_\_\_\_, the exact type of person that God was looking for.

“Like so many leaders called in the Bible, Gideon began to offer excuses. Neither his family nor his personal background gave much promise of success. All he lacked were the strength, notoriety, and experience for the job.”  
--Layman’s Bible Commentary—Vol. 4, pg. 106.

“Gideon now perceived that the Lord was speaking to him by His angel. He saw, however, no qualifications in himself, or in his family or tribe, for the office of savior to his people. He therefore desires some assurance that the message he had just received was indeed from God, and not just a mere dream or delusion. He asks as a sign that his mysterious visitor should return to Him with his gifts and offerings.”  
-Barnes, Albert—Barnes Notes: Exodus to Esther, p. 431.

**The ‘Subjection’ of the Angel to Gideon’s Request:**

Judges 3:16-24, 16 “And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.” 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. 18 Do not 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.”