

THE LIFE OF GIDEON




1. Gideon's Situation


Introduction

Wars are taking place somewhere in the world every day. Wars bring devastation, and it has all throughout history. However there is another war taking place, and this war is for the minds and souls of men and women. We are under attack from Satan and his forces. We are going to look at the life of a man called Gideon who lived at a time when his nation was being attacked by enemy armies. There are many lessons we can learn from this story.


Scripture Reading: Judges 6:1-14

 What was the spiritual condition of Israel during this time in history? Judges 2:10-12, 6:1

*(They did not know the Lord or what he had done for Israel.
They did evil in the eyes of the Lord and followed other gods.
They forsook the Lord and provoked him to anger.)*

 What were the consequences of the peoples' sin and idolatry? Judges 2:14-15

*(God handed them over, or sold them to their enemies.
The Hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them.)*


 In the time of Gideon the Midianites and Amalekites were the enemies, but what are the enemies we face in our personal lives? What ones are you struggling with right now?

(We may struggle with discouragement, fear, bitterness, shame, rejection, anger etc.)

 Compare the way the enemy afflicted Israel in Judges 6:1-5 with the way he can attack us.

- (a. The Israelites were open to attack because of sin – the same is true in our lives. If there is unconfessed sin in our lives, the door is open for the enemy to attack our minds.*
- (b. The Israelites were filled with fear – and this is a common way the enemy attacks us.*
- (c. The Israelites were starving – we find it difficult to receive spiritual food at times like this.*
- (d. Israel had no freedom – and when under attack we also lack freedom in our lives. We are bound by fears, discouragement etc.)*

The reason there were enemies in the land of Israel was because they had not driven them out. God had commanded them to, but they had not fully obeyed. Sadly these enemies became a stumbling block to Israel.

 How did God use or redeem the situation in the time of Gideon to accomplish his own purpose in the lives of his people? Judges 3:1-4

*(He used the situation to test or teach Israel how to do warfare. V1-2.
He also used the situation to test Israel to see whether they would obey him. V4.)*

Each time Israel was afflicted by their enemies they cried out to God. See Judges 3:9, 3:15, 4:3, 6:6

📖 How did God respond to their cries and in what ways did he answer them? Judges 6:7-8, 6:11-12, 14

(God spoke to them through a prophet to tell them why this had happened and to bring them to repentance. Then God called Gideon to deliver his people from their enemies.)

📖 God wants you to have victory over the enemies of fear, discouragement or bitterness in your life. What lessons have you learnt from this story that will help you?

Conclusion

When we come to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we can walk in freedom and victory, but sadly many Christians struggle. Just as the Children of Israel came under attack because they had not driven out the enemies, we can come under attack because we have allowed 'enemies' like fear, unbelief, discouragement or unforgiveness to stay in our lives. However, just as in the time of Gideon, God hears our cry and comes to help us. Just ask him!

Scripture Memory

Here is a verse for the group to memorize:-

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them,
because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

1 John 4:4