

THE LIFE OF GIDEON

3. Gideon's Response



Introduction

Israel had been invaded by enemies. When they cried out to God he responded by calling a man to save his people – that man was Gideon. Like many of us, Gideon felt inadequate, but nevertheless he responded to the call of God.

Scripture Reading: Judges 6:7-24

📖 When Gideon was called, what did he ask God to do? V17

(He asked the angel of the Lord to give him a sign that this was really God speaking to him.)

📖 Why do you think Gideon asked this? What does it reveal about him?

(The angel of the Lord did not 'look' like an angel, but rather like another person. This is what some call a theophany, or a manifestation of God. Gideon wanted to be very sure that God was speaking to him. It also shows that Gideon did not know God well, but his heart was open.)

Gideon prepared an offering for the angel of the Lord. He wanted to be very sure that this was God speaking to him. God honoured that desire, by revealing himself to Gideon in a powerful way.

📖 What happened when Gideon placed the offering on the rock? V20-21

(The angel of the Lord touched the offering with his staff and fire flared from the rock and consumed the sacrifice.)

📖 Why was this so significant to Gideon? V22 Think of other incidents in the Bible when supernatural fire burnt up offerings. eg. Leviticus 9:24

(In the time of Moses fire came down and consumed the sacrifice, so when this happened it was a confirmation to Gideon that God was speaking to him, and that he accepted his offering.)

📖 What revelation did Gideon have at that moment? Why was this meaningful to Gideon do you think?

(Gideon realised that he had met the Lord face to face. At that moment he had a revelation of God as 'The Lord is peace'. What a comfort at a time when he was filled with fear.)

It is often at times of difficulty or challenge that God reveals himself to us in a way we have never experienced before. In this time of war, God revealed himself to Gideon as the source of his peace.

📖 Has God revealed himself to you in a time of need? Share how this helped you during that difficult time.

Conclusion

We have seen how Gideon responded to the call of God on his life –a call to free Israel from the enemy. God has a purpose for each one of our lives too. How will we respond to what God wants us to do? Gideon's response was to bring an offering to the Lord. We are to bring our lives to him as our offering and be willing to do whatever he asks us to. Let's do that right now!

Scripture Memory

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy,
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God
– this is your spiritual act of worship.”

Romans 12:1