

THE LIFE OF GIDEON

6. Gideon's Army



Introduction

Gideon had gathered his army, 32,000 men from the northern tribes of Israel. The Lord had assured him of victory, and so now he was ready to move into battle. Then God tells him that his army is too large! That seems incredible as the enemy army is enormous in comparison. In fact the Bible describes it being like a swarm of locusts. In this study we will see how God prepared those He wanted to use.

Scripture Reading: Judges 7:1-8

📖 Why did God say that there were too many men in Gideon's army? v2

(God said that if there were too many men they would boast that they had saved Israel themselves.)

📖 Who were the ones that God sent back? v3

(Those who trembled with fear.)

It is interesting that the place where Gideon and his men were camped was called the 'Spring of Harod', which literally means 'spring of trembling'. More than two-thirds of the men went back.

📖 There are many Christians today who 'go back' because of fear. What are some of the things that make people afraid where you live?

📖 What qualities was God looking for in the men He wanted to use? Discuss

(He was looking for those who would trust Him wholly and give Him the honour.)

Just as in Gideon's time, many may respond to God's call, but not all are willing to face the battle. God can only use those who are willing to totally trust Him. Gideon now only had 10,000 men, but God said there were still too many!

📖 What did God tell Gideon to do to reduce the army still further? v5


(He told them to drink from the spring and then to separate them into two groups: those who lapped from their hands and those who knelt down to drink.)

📖 Why do you think God chose those who lapped with their hands to their mouths? Discuss.

(Perhaps those who lapped with their hands to their mouths did so while standing. This would enable them to be alert and ready if the enemy made a sudden attack.)

📖 How can we be ready to stand against the attacks of the enemy? Ephesians 6:11, 1 Peter 5:8-9
Why is self-control so important?

(We need to clothe ourselves with the armour of God and to be self-controlled and alert. If we give in to our fleshly desires then there is an open door for the enemy to attack.)

 Read through verses 1 to 8 again yourself and share one thing that speaks to you.

Conclusion

God chose the men who were alert and ready. Even though Gideon only had 300 men left in his army, they were men that God could use. God is still looking for men and women and young people He can use today. He uses those who fully put their trust in Him and will stand against the enemy. Are we preparing ourselves to be part of His army?

Scripture Memory

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

1 Peter 5:8