

Judges Session 5

Gideon: Chapters 6 to 8

As we encounter Gideon in chapter six, the scene is one of seasonal distress rather than outright oppression. Large numbers of Bedouin nomads have fallen into the routine of raiding Israel's fertile fields during harvest-time. This created hardship and fear. Particularly troublesome are the Midianites, remote blood kinsmen to the Israelites through Abraham's concubine Keturah (Genesis 25, 1 Chronicles 1:32). The Bedouin way is to go where the food is, and the Jezreel Valley was like hitting the jackpot twice a year.

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| A. "Israel did evil" | 6:1 |
| 1. Israel under Midian for seven years | 6:1-10 |
| 2. Gideon is commissioned by the Angel of the Lord | 6:11-24 |
| B. Gideon did right | |
| 1. destroys his father's Baal shrine | 6:25-32 |
| 2. The Moabites muster against Gideon | 6:33 |
| 3. Gideon musters the northern tribes against Moab | 6:34-35 |
| 4. Gideon twice tests God's intentions | 6:36-40 |
| 5. God has Gideon select just 300 men | 7:1-8 |
| 6. Gideon learns God's intent from the Midianite camp | 7:9-14 |
| 7. The 300 surprise and rout the Midianites | 7:15-23 |
| 8. Ephraim enters the fray with attitude, kill Oreb and Zeeb | 7:24-8:3 |
| 9. Gideon pursues Zeba and Zalmunna | 8:4-21 |
| a. Succoth refuses to help | 8:4-7 |
| b. Penuel refuses to help | 8:8-9 |
| c. Gideon captures the Midianite kings | 8:10-12 |
| C. Gideon erred towards self-indulgence | |
| a. Gideon against Succoth and Penuel (Gad) | 8:13-17 |
| b. Gideon against Zeba and Zalmunna (Midian) | 8:18-21 |
| D. Gideon did evil | |
| 1. Gideon turns the spoils of combat into a golden idol! | 8:22-27 |
| 2. Forty years of peace until Gideon dies | 8:28-32 |