

Episode #522 Judges 6 Part 2 – Gideon 1: The Call of Gideon

I. In the book of Judges, we have a brief record of the early history (the first centuries) of the history of the land of Israel. We see the leaders God chose, judges, who ruled under Jehovah, the King. Through the lives and work of these judges, we can learn about God's works and ways.

II. We have been considering the oppression of Midian, one of the nations descended from Abraham. They were not just stealing from Israel, but were actually attempting to destroy the nation altogether!

III. Judges 6:7-10. The rebuke of a man a prophet.

- A. Verse 7. This was Yahweh's response.
- B. Verse 8. He sent an unnamed prophet to them. He speaks in the name of Jehovah Elohim of Isarel. He recalls His past help in bringing them up from Egypt, the house of slavery.
- C. Verse 9. He saved them from the power of the Egyptians and rescued them from all who oppressed them. He drove the Canaanite nations out in front of them and gave them their land.
- D. Verse 10. Then He gave them orders: not to fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land they were now living. They, however, had disobeyed. That is why He had now allowed them to fall into this vicious oppression! Yet though He had every reason to allow them to be destroyed, He will now graciously step in and rescue them.

IV. The fifth judge: Gideon. An angel visits Gideon. Judges 6:11-24.

- A. Verse 11. THE Angel of the LORD. He sits under the oak (well known) in Ophrah (Fawn). Belongs to Joash (Given by Jehovah) the Abiezrite (Father of Help) = a descendant of Manasseh. His son Gideon = "Cutter Down." Threshed in a winepress! A most ineffective way to do it.
- B. Verse 12. Seems an ironic thing to say to a man so cowardly he threshes in a hole!
- C. Verse 13. First Lord = Adonai (Master). He does not recognize Him as Jehovah yet. If this is true, where are the miracles to deliver them? He points out Jehovah forsaking them, but ignores the fact that they forsook Him first.
- D. Verse 14. Note: the Angel of the LORD is now called the LORD. What did the Angel mean? What might did he have? His strength lay in the LORD, and he knew it!
- E. Verse 15. Sopherim changed this from Jehovah to Adonai. Gideon recognizes Him here. He sees himself as not important enough. Manasseh was the "minor" tribe of Joseph, Ephraim being much larger and more dominant. He claims his house is the weakest of Manasseh, and he the least important in his father's house!
- F. Verse 16. Reminds him of his strength: Jehovah is with Him. Because of this, he will defeat them as if they were a single man!
- G. Verse 17. Gideon is not ready to believe he is really the favored of Yahweh. He wants a sign that this is true.
- H. Verse 18. Before the sign, he wants to give him a gift of an offering. The LORD promises to wait.
- I. Verse 19. Gideon makes Him a meal. Goat meat and unleavened bread.
- J. Verse 20. The Angel tells him to treat it like an offering on a convenient rock.
- K. Verse 21. The Angel touches the meat and bread with His staff. Fire comes out of the rock and burns the offering. This shows the sacrifice was accepted! Then the Angel of the LORD disappears from sight.

L. Verse 22. Now Gideon fully realizes that this was the Angel of the LORD in person.

Perhaps earlier he just was replying to the LORD through His messenger? Gideon is afraid knowing Who he has seen face to face. He cries out to Adonai Jehovah.

VI. Yahweh showed the people that they deserved the vicious oppression they were experiencing because of their inexcusable unfaithfulness to the God Who rescued them. Gideon was a cowardly man, but the LORD told him he would be mighty, the reason being that He would be with him. Gideon obeys Jehovah, but lacks confidence. He needs to learn the lesson that Yahweh sought to teach him: that He was his strength. Do we know this? Is our confidence in our Lord, rather than in ourselves?