

# THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES  
1380-1050 B.C.

## JUDGES CHAPTER 7:1-15

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### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## "A FEW GOOD MEN"

*ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES  
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION*

### SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Faith, Ministry, Obedience, Impossible, Possible**

**Introduction to the Text;**

**Judges 7:1-15**

## **Statement of Textual Summation and Theme**

### **Judges 7:1-15**

Then Jerubbaal (that *is*, Gideon) and all the people who *were* with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley. :2 And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who *are* with you *are* too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' :3 Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, "Whoever *is* fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' " And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained. :4 But the LORD said to Gideon, "The people *are* still *too* many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, *that* of whom I say to you, "This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go :5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink." :6 And the number of those who lapped, *putting* their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water. :7 Then the LORD said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the *other* people go, every man to his place." :8 So the

people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all *the rest of* Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley. :9 It happened on the same night that the LORD said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand. :10 But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant, :11 and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.” Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who *were* in the camp. :12 Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels *were* without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude. :13 And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, “I have had a dream: *To my* surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed.” :14 Then his companion answered and said, “This *is* nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp.” :15 And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.”

## A FEW GOOD MEN

1.) Gideon’s confidence would be in the Lord v.1-3

### GIDEON’S CONFIDENCE WOULD BE IN THE LORD

1a.) a future based upon where he stood v.1

Then Jerub-baal (that *is*, Gideon) and all the people who *were* with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

## the **Baal** Fighter or Troubler

the Christian is to be a Satan Fighter or Troubler

How? – Seeing more Clearly, Spiritually, Long Term.

**right now you’re involved in a spiritual battle**

## GIDEON'S CONFIDENCE WOULD BE IN THE LORD

**1b.) God's word is not bound by physics v.2**

And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who *are* with you *are* too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'

**1c.) A call to excellence v.3**

Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, "Whoever *is* fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.'" And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

## A FEW GOOD MEN

**2.) Gideon's authority would be established v.4-7**

**2a.) Through faith and obedience v.4**

:4 But the LORD said to Gideon, "The people *are* still *too* many; bring them down to the water, and I will **test** them for you there. Then it will be, *that* of whom I say to you, "This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go."

## GIDEON'S AUTHORITY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED

**2b.) By being a leader God's way v.5**

:5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who **laps** from the water with his tongue, as a dog **laps**, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink."

As Gideon follows, others are effected and influenced by him.

“ Everyone who **laps** from the water with his tongue, as a dog **laps**, ”

“drinks like a dog drinks”  
defensive and alert, ready to run, on the mark.

## GIDEON’S AUTHORITY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED

**2c.) Discernment by observation**

**v.6-7**

:6 And the number of those who **lapped**, *putting* their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water. :7 Then the LORD said to Gideon, “By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the *other* people go, every man to his place.”

## A FEW GOOD MEN

**3.) Gideon’s victory would be complete**

**v.8-11**

**3a.) The Lord never loses a battle**

**v.8-9**

:8 So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all *the rest of* Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley. :9 It happened on the same night that the LORD said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand.

## GIDEON’S VICTORY WOULD BE COMPLETE

**3b.) The Lord always encourages us**

**v.10-11a**

But if you are **afraid** to go down, go down to the camp with **Purah** your servant, :11 and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be **strengthened** to go down against the camp.”

The Lord Provides Fellowship in the Crisis.

Wait, Why Not Just Remove  
the Fear, God ?

## GIDEON'S VICTORY WOULD BE COMPLETE

**3c.) The Lord is our continuous victory**

**v.11b**

...Then he went down **with Purah** his servant to the outpost  
of the armed men who *were* in the camp.

Gideon was Afraid – that doesn't prevent God from working,  
He makes provisions for Gideon's Fear.

Because He Leads Us Onward

## A FEW GOOD MEN

**4.) Gideon's reality would be in the promises**

**v.12-15**

**4a.) The Lord would intervene**

**v.12-13**

:12 Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels *were* without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude. :13 And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, "I have had a dream: *To my surprise*, **a loaf of barley bread tumbled** into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed

when God intervenes

He sends **a global flood**.

He sends **fire out of heaven** on Sodom and Gomorrah.

He parts the **Red Sea** and drowns the Egyptians

## “a loaf of barley bread tumbled”

If you had a situation that needed the Lords intervention,  
what would you expect to see ?

### GIDEON’S REALITY WOULD BE IN THE PROMISES

**4b.) *The Lord would prepare***

**v.14**

Then his companion answered and said, “This *is* nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp.”

The Lord Desires to Do a Radical, Lasting,  
Powerful Thing in your life. There are no  
spectator Christians...

**Daniel 11:32b**

...but the people who know their God shall be strong,  
and carry out *great exploits*.

**#1**

**PREPARE GIDEON FOR THE VICTORY**

**#2**

**PREPARE THE MIDIANITES FOR THE DEFEAT**

### GIDEON’S REALITY WOULD BE IN THE PROMISES

**4c.) *The Lord would use Gideon***

**v.15**

And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation,  
**that he worshiped.** He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for the LORD has  
delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.”

**A WARNING TO AMERICA TODAY**

The Lord had told Israel that if they honored Him and obeyed Him that He would put fear into the hearts of Israel enemies...

**Deuteronomy 11:24-25**

Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. :25 No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.

**“Worshipped”**

I personally believe that Heaven is Going to Filled with Worshippers. I also believe that those who are going to heaven are “Worshippers” in practice now.

Worship is one of those New Characteristics, Part of the New Nature in the life of the Christian – heaven bound.

Heaven is a Place for Worshippers,  
of Worship, Who Worship...

1.) Gideon’s **confidence** would be in the **Lord** v.1-3

2.) Gideon’s **authority** would be **established** v.4-7

3.) Gideon’s **victory** would be **complete** v.8-11

4.) Gideon’s **reality** would be in the **promises** v.12-15

*End of Study*