

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 8:1-35

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"HOW TO WIN A WAR - AND KEEP THE VICTORY"

*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 8:1-35

Not One Loss of Life in The Battle.

Gideon and His Men Didn't Even Draw a Sword-

The Lord Did All That Was Needed !

The Trumpets / The Vessels / The Torches

It Was The Lord Who Put The Fear of Gideon
into the hearts and minds of the Midianites.

When Ever You Walk With God,
In Fellowship With The Lord,

The Lord Will Put Fear Into The Hearts and
Minds of Your Enemies.

Deuteronomy 11:25

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.

I THINK OF THE UNITED STATES

the revolutionary war – England repeatedly feared George Washington and the Continental Army but for no real reason...

I THINK OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Exodus 33:1-2

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Depart *and* go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' :2 And I will send *My* Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

Before Abraham - Those Nations Were There First.

But The Lord of The Bible Had Made a Promise to Abraham, To Israel.

Genesis 12:5-7

Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. :6 Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites *were* then in the land. :7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land.

**It's Just Like Our Flesh Coming Into This World,
Being Here First. – *It Needs to be spiritually awakened.***

But Failure to "Remain" in the Spirit
has its Dangers...

KEEPING THE VICTORY

1.) Stay in the Spirit

v. 1-3

The Same Holy Spirit That Won the Battle Desires to Keep The Victory

Judges 8:1-3

Now the men of Ephraim said to him, "Why have you done this to us by not calling us when you went to fight with the Midianites?" And they reprimanded Gideon sharply. :2 So he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? *Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abb-a-zer?* :3 God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.

!! WHAT DIPLOMACY ON GIDEON'S PART HERE !!

"What have I done now in comparison with you? *Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abb-a-zer?*"

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.

(well suck my thumb – now they're happy)

There will always be "**Ephraim**" types
where ever the Lord is doing a good thing.

They're Petty, Jealous, Envious, Critical,

They're "On Jesus' Team" Also,

But You'd Never Guess That by Their Words"

They "Retard" The Body of Christ.

Romans 16:17

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

Ephraims are always self-promoting.

**"this is what I want, the Lord told me to tell
you"**

when it doesn't go their way – then the real person comes out !

DIFFICULTY WILL ALWAYS BRING OUT THE REAL ME, THE REAL YOU-

It's Always After a Victory that The Real Test Comes.

after a blessing, after a service, after a baptism, after a conference,

I'd rather fight **Midianites** than put up with
the **Ephraims**

KEEPING THE VICTORY

2.) Stay Focused

v. 4-14

Judges 8:4

When Gideon came to the Jordan, he and the three hundred men who were with him
crossed over, exhausted but still in pursuit.

True Christian Ministry is Exactly Like This;
“crossing over, exhausted but still in pursuit”

2 Thessalonians 3:13

But *as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.*

Romans 2:6-7

who *“will render to each one according to his deeds”*: :7 eternal life to those who by
patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

This Fellowship Here Will Be 17 Years Old August 19th

(we started meeting on Sunday morning, in five different houses on
August 19, 1990) – those “houses” are **still in pursuit !!!**
the **Coronel's** house / the **Andrews** house / the **Witts** house / **my** house
Video Monitors Running from the Family Room into the Living Room
and down to the Bedrooms”

“crossing over, exhausted but still in pursuit”

Verse 5-7

Then Gideon said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are exhausted, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian." :6 And the leaders of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?"

(Are You Nuts Gideon – We're Hoping to Wait to See Who Wins This Thing First)

:7 So Gideon said, "For this cause, (for that reason) when the LORD has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briars!"

I Am So Going to Spank You With a "Rose Bush"
The Men of "Succoth" – *Fellow Jews!*

Verse 8-14

:8 Then he went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in the same way. And the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered. :9 So he also spoke to the men of Penuel, saying, "When I come back in peace, I will tear down this tower!" :10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were at Karkor (a plain or valley), and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand, all who were left of all the army of the people of the East; for one hundred and twenty thousand men who drew the sword had fallen. :11 Then Gideon went up by the road of those who dwell in tents on the east of No-bah and Jog-be-hah; and he attacked the army while the camp **felt secure**. :12 When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and **routed** (to shatter) the whole army. :13 Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle, from the Ascent of He-res (the rising of the sun). :14 And he caught a young man of the men of Succoth and interrogated him; and he wrote down for him the leaders of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven men.

KEEPING THE VICTORY

3.) Be Strong

v. 15-23

Then Gideon came to the men of Succoth and said, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you ridiculed me, saying, '**Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your weary men?**' " :16 And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briars, and with them he taught the men of Succoth. :17 Then he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city. :18 And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?" So they answered, "**As you are, so were they; each one resembled the son of a king.**" (just like

an Israeli of soldier) Then he said, “They *were* my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the LORD lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you.” :20 And he said to Jeth-er his firstborn, “Rise, kill them!” But the youth would not draw his sword; for he was afraid, because he was still a youth. :21 So Zebah and Zalmunna said, “Rise yourself, and kill us; for as a man *is*, so *is* his strength.” So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took **the crescent (moon) ornaments (icons)** that *were* on their camels’ necks. :22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.” :23 But Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; **the LORD shall rule over you.**”

There Was No Police Force – Gideon was Appointed as Judge

The Crescent Moon of Islam (7 photos)

The crescent moon and star symbol actually pre-dates Islam by several thousand years. Information on the origins of the symbol are difficult to ascertain, but most sources agree that these ancient celestial symbols were in use by the peoples of Central Asia and Siberia in their worship of sun, moon, and sky gods.

KEEPING THE VICTORY

4.) Stay Unencumbered

v. 24-31

Then Gideon said to them, “I would like to make a request of you, that each of you would give me the earrings from his plunder.” For they had golden earrings, because they *were* Ishmaelites (moon worshippers). :25 So they answered, “We will gladly give *them.*” And they spread out a garment, and each man threw into it the earrings from his plunder...

There is a danger in thinking that we deserve something for what God has done.

**ministry is a dangerous thing
with it's pluses and minuses**

the power of things & stuff

...:26 Now the weight of the gold earrings that he requested was one thousand seven hundred *shekels* of gold, besides the crescent ornaments, pendants, and purple robes which *were* on the kings of Midian, and besides the chains that *were* around their camels’ necks. :27 **Then Gideon made it into an ephod and set it up in his city, Ophrah.** And all Israel **played the harlot with it there.** **It became a snare** (a hook,

snare, a hooker) to Gideon and to his house. :28 Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon. :29 Then Jerubbaal (Gideon) the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house. :30 Gideon had seventy sons who were his own offspring, for he had many wives. (not to take wives) :31 And his **concubine** who was in Shechem also bore him a son, whose name he called **Abimelech**.

he's concubining too

Abimelech Means (Father is King)
like the pharaohs, czars, presidents, they are titles

KEEPING THE VICTORY

5.) Remember The Lord to Finish Well v. 32-35

Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in **Ophrah** (lil' fawn) of the Abb-a-zerites. :33 So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-berith their god. :34 **Thus the children of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;** :35 nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.

So it was, **as soon as Gideon was dead**, that the children of Israel again played the harlot (went a whoring) with the Baals, and made Baal-berith their god.

(DOESN'T COVER THE REST OF THE NOTES IN THE STUDY)

HOW TO WIN A WAR — AND KEEP THE VICTORY

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, :2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. :25 And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for an imperishable crown*. :26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. :27 But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: :2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. :3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; :4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths. :5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. :6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. :7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; :8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

————— *End of Study* —————