

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 13, 2024
THEME: "GIDEON"

THE PRAYER

Sunday Read Judges 6:13-17

"Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us?" The children of Israel had been disloyal to God, and the result was they were in bondage to the Midianites. This misery caused them to cry out to God for help. It was then that God sent an angel to Gideon. Gideon questioned why God allowed his people to suffer at the hands of the Midianites. God explained that He was going to have Gideon lead His people to victory. Gideon's response that he was incapable, that he was the least of all people for such an undertaking. Gideon asked for a sign and God performed the requested miracles.

ASSURANCE

Monday Read Judges 6:33-40

"And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground." God miraculously answered Gideon's request to have the fleece be dry on wet ground, but Gideon needed more reassurance. He then asked God to do the opposite; wet fleece on dry ground. God proved not only His power in the response, but His patience as well. God seemed to appreciate Gideon's need for reassurance, and He did as Gideon asked. It was then that Gideon presented himself to God to be His chosen one to lead the people of God in battle against the Midianites.

RECRUITMENT

Tuesday Read Judges 7:2-5

"Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink." Gideon alerted his people of the battle and needed recruits. There was a huge response so Gideon permitted those who chose to do so to go home to their families. After that dismissal, there were still too many. God realized that they would claim credit for the victory unless the army were reduced to a number that would be impossible to defend against the enemy. He then used an unusual recruitment procedure by choosing soldiers on their method of fetching water out of the stream to drink. Those who lapped the water like an animal were rejected.

Those that cupped the water in their hands and lifted them to the mouth were recruited. That turned out to be an army of three hundred soldiers!

GIDEON'S ARMY

Wednesday Read Judges 7:5-8

"The Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place." How wonderful that God would give assurance that He would use His power and the people of His choice to intervene on their behalf. It was wonderful that so many volunteers came forth to defend the nation. But God wanted the people to know that it took His miraculous intervention to succeed against the forces of the world. From a human viewpoint, such a few soldiers would have no chance against another army, but with God's presence and power, no army on earth could compete. The fact that God would have these three hundred men face a much larger army was a real test of faith. They were men who believed the words of Scripture recorded in Luke 1:37. *"With God nothing shall be impossible."*

THE STRATEGY

Thursday Read Judges 7:15-18

"When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." In war time today, we think of nuclear weapons as the ultimate in attaining victory. In Gideon's day, God made use of trumpets. Actually, that was unique even then because we do read of swords and spears in the Bible. It is not to say that we should consider trumpets and pitchers as great military weapons. But we should conclude that faith and obedience to God and His ways are a key to victory! The battle of the Israelites against the Midianites would be a battle that did not depend on the power of human weapons, but on the power of God. The strategy was for all three hundred to blow on the trumpets simultaneously and the victory would be won!

THE BATTLE

Friday Read Judges 7:19-20

"So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands." Gideon and his army, armed with trumpets and pitchers, prepared for their battle against the Midianites. When Gideon gave the signal, all his

recruits blew their trumpets and broke the pitchers. They then shouted "The Sword of the Lord". With the surprising "attack" the confused Midianites fled and Gideon's army prevailed. This great victory should not be interpreted that trumpets and pitchers are great military weapons. But we should conclude that faith and obedience to God and His ways are a key to victory!

THE VICTORY

Saturday Read Judges 7:21-22

"They stood every man in his place round about the camp; and all the host ran, and cried, and fled." It happened. It is good that Gideon and his three hundred soldiers placed their faith in God and His plan for warfare. It was an unusual plan for fighting against an enemy, but it was God's plan. Praise God that Gideon and his fellow troops were willing to trust God. They went ahead with the Divine plan that Gideon shared and won the war. What an example of the truth of I John 5:4: *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."*