

## “So God Gets the Glory”

Judges 7:1-15

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT: THE SET UP FOR THE BATTLE. v.1

#### 1. The Midianites overpowered and oppressed Israel. Judges 6:2, 9

- The Bible says Israel was overpowered & oppressed by Midian because of their rebellion against God. 6:10

#### 2. Each year at harvest the Midianites would come and steal their crops. Judges 6:3-5

- The Israelites were settled; they farmed the land. The Midianites were nomads; they lived in tents.
- Midian invaded the land “like locusts” 6:5 Ref. Exodus 10—the 8<sup>th</sup> plague on Egypt

#### 3. God raised up Gideon to deliver Israel from the oppression of Midianites.

- An angel of the LORD visited him: “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” 6:12
- Gideon’s response: ‘My clan is the weakest, and I am the least in my family.’ → “But I will be with you.”
- Gideon sought confirmation through the sign of the fleece. Judges 6:36-40

#### 4. Gideon and his army of 32,000 men were camped by the spring of Harod. 7:1

- The Midian army of 120,000+ (ref. 8:10) camped in the Valley of Jezreel 5 miles north at the hill of Moreh.  
→ outnumbered 4 to 1

### TOO MANY FOR THE LORD. v.2-8

#### 1. The 1<sup>st</sup> reduction: 32,000 → 10,000. v.2-3

- If Gideon’s army was too large, Israel would be tempted to boast in themselves and take the credit. v.1
- God didn’t choose Israel to be His chosen people because of their great numbers. Deut. 7:6-7

*For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples...*

• God didn’t choose to give Israel the promised land because of their goodness/righteousness. Deut. 9:6-7  
*Know, therefore, that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people. <sup>7</sup>Remember and do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.*

- Send home whoever is fearful and trembling. v.2 (Ref. Deut. 20: “Laws concerning warfare”, esp. v.8-9)

→ outnumbered 12 to 1

#### 2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reduction: 10,000 → 300. v.4-8

- Commentators are unsure of what’s happening in these verses and their meaning.

→ outnumbered 400 to 1

### ONE MORE CONFIRMATION FOR GIDEON. v.9-15

#### 1. For the 6<sup>th</sup> time the LORD tells Gideon he will defeat Midian. v.9-11

- ‘You’ll even hear it from them!’ v.11

#### 2. Gideon and his assistant Purah went by stealth to the camp of Midian. v.12-14

- They overheard 2 Midian soldiers discussing a dream. v.13-14

#### 3. Gideon worshiped, returned, and rallied the troops. v.15

### TAKE AWAYS...

#### 1. Gideon was continually ‘in conversation’ with the LORD. v.2, 4, 5, 7, 9

#### 2. The LORD speaks truth even through His enemies at times...

#### 3. The locusts don’t have to win. Joel 2:25-32: I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten...

**Here are some examples of God speaking through His enemies about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ:**

- John 11:49-52: But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. <sup>50</sup> Nor do you understand that **it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.**” <sup>51</sup> He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.
- John 19:18-22: There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “**Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.**” <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” <sup>22</sup> **Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”**
- Mark 15:37-39: And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “**Truly this man was the Son of God!**”

**Today is Reformation Sunday. Do you know the ‘5 Solas’ at the heart of the Protestant Reformation?**

*Sola Fide* – Faith Alone

*Sola Gratia* – Grace Alone

*Solo Christo* – Christ Alone

*Sola Scriptura* – Scripture Alone

*Soli Deo Gloria* – Glory to God Alone

**Deuteronomy 8:11-20... description of a nation who forgets the God who blessed her.**

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.”

-President George Washington, Farewell Address, 1796

“Providence has given our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as privilege and interest, of a Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

-John Jay, First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

“Choose for your rulers and for your judges men who are able, who reverence God, who love truth, and who hate dishonest gain.” (Exodus 18:20)

“[W]e have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. . . . Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

-President John Adams, 1798

“Without God, there is no virtue, because there's no prompting of the conscience. . . . Without God, there is a coarsening of the society. And without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”

-President Ronald Reagan, 1984