**Judges 7: Defeat of Midian**

***“The LORD said to Gideon: You have too many soldiers with you for me to deliver Midian into their power, lest Israel vaunt itself against me and say, ‘My own power saved me.’”***

* A theme that is seen throughout the book of Joshua is that Israel would take possession of Canaan through God’s intervention.
* The Israelites needed to cooperate with God, but it was through God that they were able to take possession of Canaan.
* In our human nature we seek credit and recognition for our accomplishments. It is God who has give us the talents, abilities, and opportunities to accomplish the things that we have.
* Gideon has recruited too many men. God knows that if Gideon defeats Midian with a large force of men, Israel will take credit for the victory.
* Throughout Scripture, God does not call those who are strong or influential into His service.
* God chooses people who *“will do”*. In choosing people who *“will do”* it is clear that it was God who brought about the outcome and not man.

***“Consider your own calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast***[***\****](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/1corinthians/1#54001029-1)***before God.”*** *(1 Cor. 1:26-29)*

* Gideon started out with 32,000 men. God instructs Gideon to advise those who were in fear to return to their homes.
* God instructs Gideon that he is to take the remaining 10,000 men to the water. The men who laps up the water with their tongue as a dog laps up water will go to battle.
* The number of those who lapped up the water putting their hands to their mouths was three hundred men.

Judges 7:9-22; Gideon defeats Midian and Amalek.

***“That night the LORD said to Gideon: Go, descend on the camp, for I have delivered it into your power.”***

* God has manifested his presence to Gideon through miracles and other works, yet the scripture tells us that he was still in fear.
* Trough our life experience and the people in our lives, God has made His presence known yet we still have fear and even doubt.
* God instructs Gideon to take his servant Purah with him to go down to the camp where he will hear things that will strengthen his resolve to defeat Midian.
* Gideon overhears a man speaking of a dream he had. A loaf of barley tumbled into the camp of Midian. The loaf of barley tumbled into a tent. The tent was flattened by the loaf or barley.
* Only the poor ate barley bread. The vision meant that a humble nobody would defeat the camp of Midian.
* The loaf or barley symbolizes the Israelites who were already settled in the land and cultivating it.
* The tent that was flattened symbolizes the Midianites who were nomads. The dream is a prediction of Israel’s victory.
* Gideon is strengthened when he hears the dream. He returns to the camp of Israel and prepares them for battle.
* He divides the three hundred men into three companies. The men were to hold a trumpet with their right hand and an empty jar with a torch inside the jar with their left hand.
* Gideon and the Israelites travel to the outskirts of the Midianite camp. They blow the trumpets and broke the jars. They held the trumpets with their right hands and that torches in their left hands.
* The men of Midian fled in fear. The Israelites did not have to lift a sword to attain victory. It was all God.

The Navarre Bible; Joshua – Kings; Judges; Scepter Publishers; New York; 1986

David Guzik, “The Enduring Word Bible Commentary”, Santa Barbara, Ca; <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/judges-7/>

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