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Gideon's Call

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **June 11, 2017**

Judges 6:11-18

Introduction: Nothing that occurred in the quiet and peaceable times of Israel is recorded. The FORTY YEARS' rest after the conquest of Jabin is passed over in silence and here begins the story of **another distress** and **another deliverance**, by **Gideon**, the **fourth** of the **judges**. Here is, **I.** The calamitous condition of Israel, by the inroads of the Midianites, Judges 6:1-6. **II.** The message God sent them by a prophet, by convincing them of sin, to prepare them for deliverance, Judges 6:7-10. **III.** The raising up of Gideon to be their deliverer. Judges 6:11-40. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/judges-6.html>)

Psalm 36:1, The transgression of the **wicked** saith within my **heart**, that there is **NO fear of God** BEFORE his **eyes**.

Psalm 103:2, Bless the LORD (Yahweh), O my soul, and **FORGET NOT** all his **benefits**...

Judges 6:1-5, And the children of **Israel** **did evil** in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them INTO the **hand of Midian** SEVEN years. And the hand of **Midian** **prevailed against** Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds. And so it was, when Israel had **sown**, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; And they encamped against them, and **destroyed** the **increase** of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and **left no sustenance** for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to **destroy it**.

NOTE: ...**destroyed the increase of the earth**; the corn and grass before they were well ripe, and fit to cut down; this they did, and gave it to their cattle, and the rest they carried off... (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/judges-6.html>)

Thought 1. As we know, these things are happening because Israel broke God's Covenant.

Deuteronomy 28:15-16, 25, 33, But it shall come to pass, **IF** thou wilt **NOT** hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to **DO** all HIS commandments and HIS statutes which I command thee this day; that ALL these **curses** shall come upon thee, and **OVERTAKE thee**: **Cursed** shalt thou be in the city, and **cursed** shalt thou be in the field. ...The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine **enemies**: thou shalt go out **one** way against them, and **flee seven** ways before them... The **fruit** of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest NOT eat up; and thou shalt be only **oppressed** and **crushed (discourage; burden grievously) always**...

Judges 6:6-10, And Israel was greatly **impoverished** because of the **Midianites**; and the

children of Israel **cried UNTO** the Lord (Yahweh). And it came to pass, when the children of Israel **CRIED** unto the Lord because of the Midianites, That the Lord **SENT** a **prophet** unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, **Thus saith** the Lord (Yahweh) God of Israel, **I brought you up** from Egypt, and **brought you forth** out of the house of bondage; And **I delivered** you out of the hand of the **Egyptians**, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; And I said unto you, **I am** the Lord **your God**; **fear NOT** the gods of the **Amorites**, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have NOT obeyed my voice.

Thought 1. For God to remind them through the prophet of what he had done FOR them, of what he had commanded them to DO, and the fact that they had NOT obeyed his voice, was to say they had broken their Covenant with him. We have a New Covenant with him.

Jeremiah 2:19, Thine **own wickedness** shall **correct thee**, and thy **backslidings** shall reprove (*convict*) thee: know therefore and SEE that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast FORSAKEN the Lord (Yahweh) thy God, and that **my FEAR** (awe [reverential fear]) is **NOT IN thee**, saith the Lord God of hosts.

1 John 3:22-23, And **WHATSOEVER** we **ASK**, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and DO those things that are PLEASING in HIS sight. And this is **HIS commandment**, That we should **believe** on the **name (authority)** of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE** one another, as (like) he gave US commandment.

Judges 6:11, And there came **AN** angel of the Lord, and SAT under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son **Gideon** threshed wheat by the winepress, to **hide it** from the **Midianites**.

NOTE: Threshed wheat by the winepress - This was a place of privacy; he could NOT make a threshing-floor in open day as the custom was, and bring either the wheel over the grain, or tread it out with the feet of the oxen, for fear of the Midianites, who were accustomed to come and take it away as soon as threshed. He got a **few sheaves** from the field, and brought them home to have them privately threshed for the support of the family. As there could be NO vintage among the Israelites in their present distressed circumstances, the winepress would never be suspected by the Midianites to be the place of threshing corn. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/judges-6.html>)

Judges 6:12-13, And the angel of the Lord **appeared** unto him, and said unto him, **The Lord** (Yahweh) is WITH thee, thou **mighty man of valour**. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, **IF the Lord be WITH us**, **WHY then** is ALL this **befallen us?** and **where** be all his miracles which our fathers TOLD us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? **but now** the Lord (Yahweh) hath **forsaken us**, and **delivered** us into the **hands** of the Midianites.

Thought 1. Gideon didn't KNOW that God is WITH the people that reverence: FEAR him! The angel said that Gideon was mighty. The truth is reverence for God was strength to him!

Proverbs 8:13-14, The **FEAR (reverence)** of the Lord is to **HATE** evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; **I HAVE strength**.

Proverbs 10:29, The **way** of the Lord is **strength (defense)** to the **UPRIGHT**...

Proverbs 14:26, In the **FEAR** of the Lord is **strong confidence** (*assurance, FAITH*)...

NOTE: The extreme bitterness of the national sufferings under the Midianite occupation breaks out in Gideon's language. The Angel's words, suitable to times of prosperity, seemed to be a mockery, when it was evident the Lord was not with them. (Compare Deut. 31:17.) (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/judges-6.html>)

Judges 6:14, And the **Lord looked upon him**, and said, Go in this **THY might**, and **THOU** shalt SAVE Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have **NOT I sent thee?**

NOTE: When messages are delivered by the **Angel of the Lord**, the form of the message is as IF God Himself were speaking (compare Judges 2:1).

The **sending** implied a **valid commission** and **sufficient powers**. Compare Exodus 3:10; Isaiah 44:26; Ezekiel 2:3; Zechariah 2:11; Malachi 3:1; Luke 10:3; John 20:21; and the term APOSTLE, as applied to our Lord Hebrews 3:1 and to the Twelve.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/judges-6.html>)

Ezekiel 2:3, And he said unto me, Son of man, **I SEND thee** to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath **rebelled** (be disobedient to authority; to assume a hostile or insubordinate [unyielding] ATTITUDE) against me: they and their fathers...

John 20:21, Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: AS my Father hath SENT ME, even so **SEND I you**.

NOTE: ... **have not I SENT thee?** The **command** and the **promise** made Gideon aware of the real character of his visitor; and yet, like Moses, from a sense of **humility**, or a shrinking at the magnitude of the undertaking, he excused himself from entering on the enterprise. And even though assured that, with the divine aid, he would OVERCOME the Midianites as easily as if they were but one man, he still **hesitates**, and **wishes** to be better assured that the mission was really from God. He resembles Moses also in the **desire** for a **SIGN**; and in both cases it was the **rarity of revelations** in such periods of general corruption that made them so desirous of having the fullest conviction of being addressed by a heavenly messenger. The request was reasonable, and it was graciously granted.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/judges-6.html>)

Judges 6:15, And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, **wherewith** shall I save Israel? behold, my family is POOR in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

NOTE: The angel had honoured him, but see how meanly he speaks of himself: "My family is comparatively **POOR** in Manasseh" (impoverished, it may be, more than other families by the Midianites), "and I am **the LEAST**, that have the least honour and interest, in my father's house what can I pretend to do? I am utterly unfit for the service, and unworthy of the honour." Note, God often chooses to **DO great things** by those that are **LITTLE**, especially that are **so IN their OWN eyes**. God delights to advance the **HUMBLE**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/judges-6.html>)

1 Samuel 15:16-17, Then **Samuel** said unto **Saul**, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. And Samuel said, When **thou wast LITTLE** in **thine OWN SIGHT**, wast thou not **made the HEAD** of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee KING over Israel?

2 Corinthians 12:8-10, For this thing I besought the Lord **thrice**, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My **GRACE** is sufficient for thee: for **my STRENGTH** is **made perfect in weakness** (feebleness; weakness of a CHILD).

Most gladly therefore will I rather **glory (REJOICE)** in my **infirmities** (feebleness; weakness of a CHILD), that the POWER of Christ may REST upon me. Therefore **I take pleasure** IN **infirmities** (feebleness; weakness of a child), in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for **Christ's sake**: for **when I am WEAK** (destitute of much physical strength; as (LIKE), INFANTS are feeble at their BIRTH), **THEN am I STRONG**.

Thought 1. When he's WEAK like a child, most of all like an INFANT, he DEPENDS on God to supply what he needs, just like a child would, that's WHEN he's strong!

Judges 6:16, And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will **be WITH thee**, and thou shalt **smite** the Midianites as **ONE man**.

NOTE: ...defeat the Midianites as **ONE man**: God's assurance to Gideon was NOT to build up his self confidence, but to assure him that God was indeed WITH HIM. Gideon did NOT need more *self*-confidence, he needed more *God*-confidence.

i. It is important to know that God SENT US but it is even greater to know that He is **WITH us**. This was the same assurance God gave to Moses (Exodus 3:12) and that Jesus gave all believers (Matthew 28:20).

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/guz/judges-6.html>)

Matthew 28:18-20, And **Jesus** came and spake unto them, saying, All power is **given** unto ME in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have **commanded you**: and, **lo, I am WITH YOU ALWAYS**, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:20, And they WENT FORTH, and **preached** every where, the Lord **working WITH them**, and **confirming (establish** [to fulfill; to make good]) the WORD with SIGNS following

Judges 6:17, And he said unto him, If now **I have found GRACE** in thy sight, then **shew me a SIGN** that thou talkest with me.

NOTE: A sign - If the Angel ate of Gideon's present it would be a conclusive proof of the reality of the vision. (Compare John 21:9-13; Luke 24:37-43; Acts 10:41.) It would also be a **TOKEN** of **God's goodwill to Gideon**. Compare Genesis 18:3.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bnb/judges-6.html>)

Judges 6:18, Depart NOT hence, **I pray thee, until** I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.

NOTE: And bring forth my present - My minchah; generally an offering of bread, wine, oil, flour, and such like. It seems from this that Gideon supposed the person to whom he spoke to be a **Divine person**. Nevertheless, what he prepared and brought out appears to be intended simply as an entertainment to refresh a respectable stranger.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/acc/judges-6.html>)

Judges 6:19-24, And Gideon went in, and made ready a **kid (goat)**, and **unleavened cakes** of an ephah of **flour**: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it. And the **angel of God** said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the **STAFF** that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there **rose up FIRE out of the rock**, and **consumed** the flesh and the unleavened cakes.

Then the angel of the LORD **departed out of his sight**. And when **Gideon perceived** that he was **an angel** of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD **face to face**. And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; **FEAR NOT**: thou shalt not die. Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it **Jehovahshalom (Jehovah [Yahweh] is peace)**: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

NOTE: The miraculous sign ALONE should NOT have persuaded Gideon because there are miraculous **deceptions**. Yet this **miracle of FIRE together WITH** the **other aspects** of this **WHOLE experience** should have persuaded Gideon that this all was from the LORD.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/guz/judges-6.html>)