

Gideon I God's Strength in the Weak

We will come back to these at the end of our time:

Gideon lived a long time ago. Yet what similarities do you see with his time and our own?

What temptations and Gospel, what sin and godliness in Gideon's time of moral decay can apply to our times?

6:1-10 - Same Old Story, With a Twist

Verses 1-6

Midian - Moses had fled here. Midian had opposed Israel on the Exodus, together with Moab.

Verse 7: Israel cries out to the LORD.

Verses 8-10: What is the "twist" in the first ten verses? What is different from the way the story usually goes in the book of Judges?

Key Verse: 10

What is the message of the LORD's reply?

Consider this pattern: Israel sins, God hands Israel over to enemies, Israel turns to God. Is this a good pattern or bad? Comment on human nature in regard to this.

6:11-24 - God Chooses a "Weak" Man

To read these verses, we need a Gideon, and an angel of the Lord. Pastor will be the narrator. Read all of it.

Verse 13: What is strange about Gideon if he is speaking to the angel of the LORD?

Key Verse: 14

What is the LORD's message to Gideon?

If you have received an assignment that was overwhelming for you, what was your reaction to that assignment?

6:25-32 - Starting at Home

Asherah and Baal were two gods (female and male) at the center of Canaanite religion. We hear of them frequently in the Bible from the Exodus to the Babylonian Captivity.

Archeology seems to concur that a great many Hebrew houses from the time of Joshua to the Babylonian Captivity had shrines to the goddess Asherah, sometimes figurines. One Israelite king, Manasseh, even placed an Asherah pole in the temple courtyard.

What the Asherah pole looked like and its precise purpose we do not really know. We only can be certain that they were part of worship of this false goddess.

Comment on Gideon's fear.

Key verse: 25b-26a

Before Reading: Who is Israel's enemy? Re-read.

What is the LORD's lesson to Gideon, and to Israel?

6:33-40 - Gearing Up

Verses 33-35

Setting up the battlefield.

Verses 36-40

Do you think it was good for Gideon to ask for a sign? Twice?

What good and not-so-good attitudes do you see in Gideon in verses 36-40?