

07-Judges-08-Transcript

greetings and just looking for confirmation that the audio is coming through and then we can start okay great I'm getting confirmation that the audio is coming through so we're just about to begin the string

[Music]

well good evening everybody and welcome to Wednesday night Bible study this evening we are we're at judge's 6 where we started last week but this evening we want to get through judges 6 God willing and go on to our judges chapter 7 as well last week's broadcast we have had a little bit of difficulty with the sync and the audio so some of some of it may have been missed so when I started this evening what I want to do is just go pick it back up at judges 6 is 1 6 verse 1 just to get the context as we read through the rest of chapter 6 let's open with a word of Prayer and then get into tonight's study our Heavenly Father great God Almighty we praise You Lord God Almighty for the wonderful privilege we have of studying your word it's so it's a world father that you know it is spiraling out of control and yet we have the anchor of your word our relationship with Jesus Christ and with you these things are solid and your promises in your word is solid we just thank you so much father that we have this understanding and we crave for more and we pray father that as we apply ourselves to digging out your word that you would grant us deeper understanding and deeper faith we praise you Lord we ask your blessing on our study and bless those father who are tuning in and those who will tune in later as well thank you father we ask this in Jesus Holy Name

Amen so as I mentioned we are up now to judges chapter six and we want to now let's continue as I said I'll begin at verse 1 just to get the context although we did cover this last week that it says here the children of Israel again this is like the fifth time in 6 chapters that God is telling us that these people did evil in his sight now we know from the end of the book that every man did what was right in his own eyes so it's not that they think they're doing evil as far as they're concerned they're doing what's right but as far as God is concerned when he compares their behavior to his word they are doing evil in his sight and I keep emphasizing this because we in the church are his people today and we're human just as they were human hopefully the Holy Spirit is is guiding our behavior and and driving our behavior but still we're human and we have this ability to rationalize what we do like here's the clear word of God but I've got a better idea and so I think we should do my idea yeah yeah but here's the Word of God yeah but I got a good idea and so in our eyes we're doing what's right in the Lord's eyes he is furious and the church is in trouble and and when we read the prophecies from the Lord Himself many are in trouble few make it through the narrow gate so let us not have this this hubris in this arrogance we've come out of the days of unleavened bread let's be humble and let's just compare ourselves to the Word of God so that we can be right in his eyes so the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years seven long years and this is after the set we just finished the

celebration of Deborah and Barak and how you know God intervened and helped them and yet they continued to do evil in front of him so he 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 themselves that the dens are the caves which are in the mountains and caves and strongholds so they were confined and then last week you know I gave examples of how you know today we are confined and this is not unlike what Israel are faced anciently and in fact I don't know if you've seen this video but let's just take a quick look at what's happening in Singapore and let me just set this up for a second give me one moment

you

you

so I think I think you get the idea they're not very good at all not very good at all so that is a sense of the future that here right now today in Singapore we've got this robotic dog that is watching people and can tell whether or not they're 6 feet apart and this same Boston Dynamics robot you have other videos of it showing that it can open doors it they're building all this artificial intelligence imagine if a thousand of these were in the park what what chance the human beings have to withstand this kind of monitoring and oppression so we were saying last week when we looked at judges that our situation today is not unlike that of Israel anciently and it is the Lord that allowed the Midianites to do this this is not something that you know the Midianite see of course they were very powerful nation but they could have no power over Israel unless God allowed it

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 Israel and
they encamped against Israel and
destroyed the increase of the earth so
there's something in these people's
minds that they are just once and they
don't care they just they take for
themselves and they destroy the earth
and they they just have a death
mentality about them and of course these
people today they're their descendants
today have the same mentality and the
Communists today have the same mentality
everybody who serves Satan has this
mentality this death cult mentality they
worship death and they don't honor life
and they don't honor the fact that human
beings are made in the image of God and
they encounter against them and
destroyed the increase of the earth till
you come up on to Gaza so you know
Israel is up in the north and and the
Midianites are coming from the north but
they're coming all the way down to the
south to Gaza so this is a great strip
of land that they are oppressing all of
the tribes of Israel
and they left no sustenance for Israel
this is brutal they they have an agenda
to destroy through starvation
neither sheep nor ox nor donkey for they
came up with their cattle and their
tents and they came up as grasshoppers
for multitude so again they're just
coming in there they're ready to stay as
long as it takes and they don't need to
rush back because everything's with them
for both they and their camels were
without number and they entered into the
land to destroy it that that's their
objective to come in and destroy the
land and and they're you know they're

gonna make all these pronouncements of how righteous they are God loves this land this is the Promised Land God cares for this land and they're coming in to destroy the land and God is watching and Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianite so there's economic collapse and yes economic collapse can come from God and today we have this unseen unknown under the strange virus going all around the world but what it's leading to is economic collapse and economic collapse can be a curse from God as it was instantly so Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites and the children of Israel you could say finally cried unto the Lord this is seven years this has been happening and they're finally now turning to God and crying to God and it came to pass when the children of Israel finally cried unto the Lord because of the Midianites how did God respond that the Lord sent a prophet unto the children of Israel which said unto them thus says the Lord God of Israel I brought you up from Egypt and brought you forth out of the house of bondage and by the way we had a great sermon from our deacon here in Burlington on Sabbath entitled from from slavery to freedom then what so if you missed that sermon please check our archives are both on YouTube and and best way is on our app CGI digital network if you download the app from Kindle Store Google store or the Apple Store just access that sermon where this is a man that he comes from communism his family escaped communism and so he has a perspective on where we're going and where we're heading and a perspective on Israel and where they came from

that is quite fascinating and very helpful but God wants to be known as the God who brought these people from a state of slavery and oppression and from being a nobody and being oppressed by the most powerful Empire at the time he brought them out from that and made them a nation and he wants to be known as the God who brought them miraculously out of the oppression of Egypt and and they have come into the promised land and they have forgotten 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 the Egyptians are these powerful people and God is saying I did that don't forget that and out of the hand of all that oppressed you and I drove them out from before you and gave you their land these are from Egypt to all of the Canaanite nations and and the parasites as powerful as these nations were God is reminding them I'm the one who did this you you really have nothing to worry about it you know their power notwithstanding I am the God who made you I'm the God who made the whole universe and so I pushed these nations out of your way and gave you their land and I said unto you I am the Lord your God fear not the gods of the AMA writes in whose land you dwell but you have not obeyed my voice so they're crying out for mercy they're crying out for help and God is saying excuse me we had an agreement and you broke it so please be mindful of this so you have not obeyed my voice and so there's a covenant agreement in place that says if you obey me these things will happen if you disobey me these things will happen oh you disobeyed me now there came an angel of the Lord and sat under an oak

which was in Oprah
and as we continue to read this it
becomes apparent that this we English
has angel the the Hebrew actually says
messenger so it's a messenger of the
Lord and as we read this it becomes
clear this is God himself this is a
theophany
our christophany this is an appearance
of God on the earth and so they came an
angel of the Lord and sat under an oak
which was in Oprah that pertained unto
joash the abbey's right so this oak is
sort of significant in this part of the
the the land and it belongs to joash the
abbey's right and his son gideon threshed
wheat by the winepress to hide it from
the Midianites so this was something
that we believe samuel is the author of
this text but he wants to point out to
us that Israel is under such oppression
and the people have an agenda to starve
Israel to death and so here we see a man
who is somewhat resourceful rather than
the normal way of separating the wheat
from the chaff in order to have to make
bread with the wheat he has figured out
a way to do this in in a wine press so
the wine press perhaps is submerged and
underground somewhat and he's able to
hide from the Midianites and this is a
lot of work so so to do this through a
wine press this man is not afraid of
working and he's showing a level of
creativity although you could also argue
there's a level of fearfulness but you
know the Midianites are these powerful
people who don't want Israel to eat he's
figured out a way to feed his family and
the angel of the Lord appeared unto him
and said unto Him first words out of the
angel's mouth the messenger we should
say the messenger rather than the angel
we'll just say the Lord the Lord is with

you Wow the Lord is with you you mighty
man of Valor so of all the Israelites
that are in the land God is looking at
this man and he sees something in the
man that he could work with and I
mentioned last week this man is not the
brightest bulb
heesu I called him a spiritual imbecile
and I'm gonna double down on that as we
read the text this this is not a base
spiritually bright person and we need to
be careful yes he finally grows in his
faith to the point where he subdues
Midian and he receives honorable mention
in in Hebrews 11 that the Hall of faith
or the Hall of Fame so he receives
honorable mention but there's a
circuitous route for him to get to this
place where he has enough faith to do
what God says we prior to that this
man's character is very questionable and
in fact I'm gonna argue next week that
after this his character is very
questionable but during the the takedown
he has the faith and he receives
honorable mention in Hebrews 11 first
words out of the Lord's mouth the Lord
is with you you mighty man of Valor so
there's something about him that there's
a seed of something that God can work
with and what we what I really my real
argument here is stop looking for
perfection there are no perfect people
God works with flawed people and you
have some people who insist that you
know unless them thieve the servant of
God is absolutely perfect and in the
image of Christ himself it's impossible
for God to use that person well you know
what God can use Gentiles and God uses
us and we're all flawed now why does he
do this so that no flesh should glory
and so he picks this man there's
something in him and I'll tell you it's

not faith you know this this is know
Abraham hid where where God speaks to
Abraham and Abraham's like okay if God
if you're saying this I'm taking it to
the bank I'm good you gave me your word
I'm good this is know Abraham the Lord
is with you you mighty man of Valor and
Gideon said unto him right off that here
here's the here's the relationship
between Gideon and God God says I'm with
you
Gideon says oh my lord if the Lord be
with us
why then is all this before
in US and this is a deep question and
this demonstrates what I mean by the
fact that this is not the brightest
spiritual bulb I mean he should know
better so God says I'm with you and he's
like oh yeah well if you're with us why
are we in these this situation why then
is this befallen us and we're be all his
miracles like I heard of miracles well
where are they then we'll be all his
miracles which our fathers told
ourselves saying did not the Lord bring
us up from Egypt right here Gideon
condemns himself so it's not that he
didn't know the fathers did pass these
stories down in our pastor Murray gave a
great sermon and this was a a couple of
weeks back and I believe this one was
called a call to fast and in this sermon
he expounded on the need the critical
need of us to pass stories down to the
next generation and he quoted a Jew
Dennis Prager who said you know a people
that cease to tell their stories are
people that ceased to exist
so they did pass on the stories and and
Gideon was aware that there were
miracles that that establish the nation
and God did perform miracles so he did
know didn't the Lord bring us up from

Egypt and now his here's his conclusion and this is why I say this is not the brightest bulb but now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites well he got the second part right because right from the get-go we see they did evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord delivered them into the hands of their enemies but that's according to covenant so the deliverance into the hands of the Midianite is a faithful act of God that if we read the text we can see that God is doing exactly what he covenant it to do it is Israel that has forsaken the Covenant so God will never forsake Israel he's made that abundantly clear he says I will never forsake you and so this is where these folks who don't understand the Bible

get in this replacement theology and they want to believe that God has forsaken Israel and now he's taken up with the church he's got a new lover and he's thrown the old wife away ah sorry God is faithful when he speaks that's it and he has spoken faithfulness to Israel forever forever and ever and ever and ever and ever with no end God will be faithful to Israel so this man not being the brightest ball comes to the conclusion that God has forsaken us you know we're perfect we're doing everything right God is the one that's at fault he has forsaken us excuse me God is faithful never accuse God never ever ever accuse God of being unfaithful that is the essence of who God is he's faithful now say he's not the brightest ball

neither are we so God is gonna use this man who's pretty dull he's spiritually dull but look what Paul writes in first

Corinthians 4 you see your calling
brethren how that not many wise men
after the flesh not many mighty not many
noble are called

so Paul is just being blunt we're pretty
dumb

we're not the brightest bulbs and yet
God hand picks us and he calls us and
that's that's where we start our journey
but he says God has chosen the foolish
things of the world to confound the wise
this is how God operates God has chosen
the weak things of the world to confound
the things which are mighty that's why

you and I are in the church today
because God is gonna perform this
incredible miracle there's this
incredible worldwide eternal miracle
with the weak of the world Gideon is a
member of the weaklings of the world
Israel is a weak nation compared to
these other nations and yet God has
chosen to do his work through weakness

so that no flesh should glory that
everybody comes to the conclude
you know what this is not through the
strength or the wisdom or the nobility
of man it is in fact through the
goodness of God so don't be offended if
I say I'm not impressed with Gideon I'm
really not but I'm not impressed with
you and I'm not impressed with me either
you know who I'm impressed with Jesus
Christ Wow

Jesus Christ is very impressive I'm
overwhelmed in my awe of Jesus but don't
put a man in front of me and expect me
to be impressed I know what I know what
is in man coz I know what's in me and
Jesus made it clear coz it is the man
that trusts in man but does that mean
that God doesn't use men the criticism
that I hear leveled against people it's
obvious that God is using these people

but they're flawed and so the focus is on the flaw how about if we focus on your flaws
how about if we focus on my flaws no let's let's focus on the glory and the kindness of Jesus and so what we're seeing here in the operation through this very flawed man Gideon is when we see the bigger picture what we're seeing in the operation through this very flawed man is the love the deep love the the committed love the covenant love that God has for Israel God has so much love for Israel that he puts up with Gideon and he works through Gideon so as we as we read this account with with Gideon and we're kind of scratching our heads and saying what's going on here what's going on here is God's love for Israel and so when we see God use flawed human beings what we should see is God's love for Israel judges 6 and verse 14 and the Lord looked upon him so God instead of God being offended like what are you saying he calling me unfaithful God lets that pass him and he says Amy said go in this your might
so so there's something that Gideon has there's some sort of ingenuity something there that God sees and he says this is I'm gonna use this this attribute that you have I'm going to enhance it and I'm going to use it go in this your might or your talents your abilities and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites have not I sent you God is look I'm the one who's sending you now how does Gideon respond and he said unto Him oh my lord with what shall I save Israel so God is making clear look I'm gonna save Israel through you and I'm the one who's sending you and Gideon's response is well how is that gonna work then wherewith shall I save Israel

behold my family is poor in Manasseh so
he heard of all these miracles he's not
CeCe's made it clear I've heard the
miracles where were the miracles that
well God is saying you know what I'm
gonna do I'm here now yeah but you know
what like my family is poor that would
take a miracle because my family's poor
in Manasseh and I'm the youngest in my
father's house and the Lord said unto
him surely listen to God's words to him
surely I will be with you Wow if these
words were spoken to Abraham we would
not be doing we would not be having all
of this back and forth God says to
Gideon surely this is God speaking
surely I will be with you and you shall
smite the Midianites as one man you're
gonna take them down all at once and he
said unto Him so God is speaking to him
I'm gonna do this through you if now I
have found grace in your sight
then show me a sign that you talk with
me so you know there was a question last
week is it wrong to ask God for a sign
well I'm telling you categorically this
is wrong you don't want to follow
Gideon's example here
this is an example of unfaithfulness
this is an example of looking God in the
eye and saying I don't trust you you
need to give me something more than your
work okay I heard your word not good
enough give me something more
we should never ever ever do this let's
look what Jesus says in Matthew 12 verse
38 then certain of the scribes and the
Pharisees answered saying master we
would like to see a sign from you but he
answered and said unto them and evil and
adulterous generation seeks after a sign
and there shall no sign be given to it
but the sign of the prophet Jonah this
is repeated again in the same account by

Matthew twice I think it's pretty important we should not ignore it Matthew 16 and verse 1 the Pharisees also with the Sadducees came and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven and he answered and said unto them when it is evening you say it will be fair whether for the sky is red and in the morning it will be foul weather today for the sky is red and lowering o you hypocrites and we heard too beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy o you hypocrites you can discern the face of the sky but you cannot discern the signs of the times that God has spoken his will and he said this is how it's going to unfold and there are just the tongue we should see the signs of the times we should discern them and understand the Lord's will and we should not be saying I don't really believe God's will I need a sign a wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign and there shall no sign be given to it but the sign of the prophet Jonah and he left them and departed so let us be let us not contradict the Lord's words and Matthew gives us twice the account of Jesus saying look it's only a wicked and adulterous generation that seeks after a sign and Gideon comes out of a wicked and adulterous generation where this is likely God is looking for who can I use and like this is the best of the lot and God gives him his word means like yeah you got to give me something a bit more than your word so this is very different and being in the Lord's will so I have being in the Lord's will III give us I'll be giving a sermon this Sabbath and I'm you know the way I write my sermons I like to speak under inspiration so I'm looking for

validation that this is what God wants me to speak about and then when Deacon Jan gave his sermon on Sabbath he said something that I'm like that's the validation and so it's not that I'm looking for a sign to say can I believe God's Word

I trust God's Word now within his word I'm there are things decisions that I can make and I'm seeking God's direction and so I'm looking for validation within his will but if you know God's will don't be looking for a sign you know he wants you to repent you know somebody is in an adulterous relationship oh I'm looking for a sign to see if I should be faithful stop your nonsense you know God's will you know I'm looking for a sign if I should be baptized you understand the Word of God you you're being called to repentance what are you looking for it this is the Lord's will so within the Lord's will to look for validation I have I can go A or B but both are within the Lord's will and I'm seeking God you know what would you prefer is there a door that you're opening for me that's so totally different then God is telling you this is my will and you're saying hmm not good enough can you give me a sign that's the wickedness of the generation of Gideon so you know let's be careful as well again he says you know beware of the leaven of the Pharisees so here in speaking of these Pharisees who are looking for a sign he says to his disciples and beware of these people all their works they do for to be seen of men they make broad their phylacteries and enlarge the borders of their garments and they love the uppermost rooms at feasts and the chief seats in the synagogue's

so if they were here today in our world
it would be like they love in in the
digital media
to always be superior they always put
themselves in the superior position even
over the ministry they're always
correcting others they never have a
question they only have statements and
pronouncements because they're they're
fronting they're pushing a persona they
don't have relationships with anybody
they can't be humble and open with
anybody they're just pushing a persona
and that's what I'm gonna be speaking
about this Sabbath the danger of pushing
a persona and what that leads to the
leaven of pushing a persona so these
Pharisees today if they were on digital
media they've always got to be the
all-knowing one the all knowledgeable
one and they love the uppermost rooms at
feasts and the chief seats they want to
be looked up to as the teachers in the
synagogues and greetings in the markets
and to be called of men rabbi rabbi so
they just cannot see their way to just
being humble just being one of the
brethren and building true relationships
with the Brethren and sacrificing
themselves for the Brethren it's not so
much their teachings it's their example
that you can see from their example they
sacrifice themselves for the Brethren
then okay well the teaching now is
coming from a good place
but if they never put a finger of effort
forward to help the Brethren but they're
full of teaching then we've got to be
careful Johnna here in John 10 Christ
says I'm The Good Shepherd and what does
the Good Shepherd do the Good Shepherd
gives his life for the Sheep you know
these these are Pharisees and the
scribes they're not sacrificing anything

for the Sheep they just want to be
looked up to they're just full of
pronouncements and teachings but Christ
says the Good Shepherd actually is not
just it's the example the Good Shepherd
sacrifices his life and builds bonds
with the Sheep and is willing to
sacrifice himself for the Sheep
so let us be careful about looking for a
sign so now he says this is a Gideon
apart not hence I pray you so don't
leave until I come unto you and bring
forth my present and set it before you
and he said I'll wait until you come
again and Gideon went in and made ready
a kid and unleavened cakes of an ephah
of flour so this is quite a bit of flour
and he's taking and this is in a time of
famine and starvation and so this I I
respect this this is a very good work
from Gideon that he's willing and you
know this Pentecost is our opportunity
to her to bring an offering to the Lord
and and offerings are our form of
worship so here what Gideon is
demonstrating a worshipful heart so he's
not holding back
he put a full Aoife of flour to make
these unleavened cakes and an end a goat
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
so his heart is in the right place to
bring this offering to God and the angel
or the messenger of God said unto Him
take the flesh and the eleven cakes and
lay them upon this rock and pour out the
broth so what God didn't say is oh no no
no you know it's it's a time of
starvation it's pretty difficult you
know you keep what you have it's a I
don't need heat God accepts the worship
yeah I am God and this is right for you
to worship me in this way so I will come

and I will accept your offering and so he tells him what to do how to present the offering and he did so then the messenger 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 bread then the messenger of the Lord departed out of his sight so that this is quite an interaction that he selected this this man of all the Israelites he has chosen this man and he appears to him and there's this interaction that they have and the right out of the gate we see Gideon as a man of doubt and he's a man of lack of faith and fearfulness but there's also something in him where we see this offering and the offering was accepted not like Cain who brought an offering but that that bad offering was rejected and Gideon and when Gideon perceived that it was the messenger of the Lord Gideon said alas o Lord God this this is like heed now realizes what has happened he says because this this angel came and then departed out of his sight and it doesn't say how maybe he just vanished and he says when he perceived that it was the angel of the Lord he said alas o Lord God for because I have seen the messenger of the Lord or a messenger of the Lord face to face so this is something now he's acknowledging okay something supernatural just happened here and I've been face-to-face with the messenger of the Lord and the Lord said unto Him peace be unto you fear not you shall not die and whenever the Lord or the angels of the Lord appear to men they're always comforted so we have this whole legend of Gabriel apparently

appearing to Muhammad without but some close to two billion people who are following this teaching and the root of the teaching is that this being this angel appeared to Muhammad and tried to kill him tried to strangle him and after that encounter Muhammad was so terrified he tried to kill himself and all of this darkness where to believe comes from God and that the instructions from Gabriel are there for the Arabs to completely destroy every Israelite every Jew every Christian every Israelite completely destroy them until there's not one left on the face of the earth this is coming from the angel of the Lord who is faithful to his covenant know whenever angels appear they're so powerful and God Himself is so powerful that they appear always in mercy and grace so he says peace be unto you fear not you shall not die

then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord again demonstrating a level of worship and called it Jehovah Shalom so good isn't he should have died but the peace of God was granted to him so he calls it Jehovah Shalom unto this day it is yet in Afra of the abbeys rights so whatever this altar was that he built at the time of this writing it was still there and it came to pass the same night that the Lord said unto Him listen to this carefully so I say this is not the brightest bulb the Lord said unto him take your father's young Bullock even the second Bullock of seven years and so that's interesting because this Bullock would have been born at the time that Midian began to oppress Israel at the time that God delivered Israel into the hands of the Midianites and so for all this time that Israel has been under oppression this Bullock has been growing

it's now seven years old so take that young Bullock and throw down what should he throw down the altar of Baal okay is this the altar of Baal that you know we're gonna sneak into the Midian camp and and tear down this altar let's read the text together God says to him throw down the altar of Baal that your father has oh you've been worshipping Baal and you're wondering why God isn't with you throw down the altar of Baal that your father has and cut down the Grove that is by it and instead replace it instead build an altar unto the Lord your God upon the top of this rock so you're to basically vanquish by all worship and replace it with the worship of Yehovah build an altar unto the Lord your God upon the top of this rock in the ordered place and take the second block and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the Grove which you shall cut down so this is like a complete vanquishing of baal worship then gideon what does gideon do so this he's had this encounter with God he realizes I've seen God face to face and if you do this you're going to die God gives him peace no you're not gonna die so he calls the name of this place Jehovah Shalom the peace of God so he comes out of this now with the instruction tear down this altar and replace it with true worship okay let's get to business then Gideon took ten men of his servants so although they're poor you know it's like there's been an economic collapse there are obviously people of significance and he has 10 servants so he took 10 men of his servants and did as the Lord had said unto him okay that sounds good see that's what you should do when God

tells you to do something do it and so
he did as the Lord had said to him and
so it was listen to this Gideon's got
some problems
and let's not skirt around the problems
let's let's just read this the Bible
doesn't hold anything back and so it was
because he feared his father's household
that the men and the men of the city
that he could not do it by day that he
did it by night
you've just been face-to-face with God
himself
God has told you I'm going to be with
you this powerful nation of the
Midianites through you you're gonna
bring them down all at once as if you
take down one man and after all of this
he's still afraid and so he fears his
father's household who has been
worshiping but all these are Israelites
these are monazites worshiping but all
and not just the household but obviously
the household is uh these are people of
significance he's got servants and he's
got he's by the oak tree that's like a
prime piece of real estate so these are
obviously people of significance even
though they're poor but they obviously
they've got a Bullock I've got two
Bullock's they've got things and there
are men of the household and he's afraid
of them and then the men of the city
seemed to be influenced by this
household this seems to be a leading
influential household
as they go so the city goes and so to
tear down the Baal worship oh boy he
realizes that's gonna cause trouble I
wouldn't you know I don't mind being in
trouble with God but I'm not gonna be in
trouble with men this is Gideon and when
the men of the city arose early in the
morning

behold the altar of Baal was cast down
so they're getting up early in the
morning their priority but all worship
okay it's early but all worship so it's
not like this sort of the middle of the
day and it's like hey middle of the day
I just noticed the altar is torn down no
first thing in the morning off to Baal
worship what's happened to the tenth to
the to the altar so behold early in the
morning the ball at the altar of Baal
was cast down and the Grove was cut down
that was by it and the second Bullock
was offered upon the altar that was
built so now this is the altar do Ahava
this is so hard to digest but this is
what happens to God's people that just
this gradual drifting away from the
standard and that's why you know it's
difficult when you know people of God
are fighting to maintain the standard
and other people of God are saying no
relax relax relax well okay we'll relax
but where is it going
so we relax a little bit here we relax a
little bit there and in a decade in two
decades in four decades were
unrecognizable you know our children
again to pass quote pastor Murray about
teaching the children so that they can
teach their children and this the people
remain alive but no now they're now
we're worshipping but halt and it's a
priority and now when we bring in the
worship of Jehovah they don't like this
at all how dare you worship yova how
dare you replace the worship oh these
are israelites this this is the state of
affairs can happen to them it can happen
to us he says
that they see now that the the altars
cast down the Grove that's by it is cast
down the Bullock has been offered upon
the altar that's devoted to yova and

they said one to another how do they
respond now that true worship has been
established and they said one to another
who has done this thing it says it's
like you could you can just almost see
the the veins bursting in their necks
and they're just their eyes with fire
like who has done this thing and when
they inquired and you could say
diligently inquired like this is sooth
who did this so when they had inquired
and asked they found the answer they
said Gideon the son of joash has done
this thing so this is the thing that
Josh that Gideon feared he was hoping to
do it in the night and then people wake
up and it's just this thing that's done
and they won't know who did it but you
know you have 10 servants with you and
word gets out so they find out it's
Gideon then the men of the city said
unto joash bring out your son and you
can kind of picture that you know in
lots day bring out the men who are
visiting you and they're just full of
lost well this is bloodlust big they're
gonna kill this man now how dare him
these are israelites how dare him tear
down the altar of Baal then the men of
the city said unto Josh bring out your
son that he may die why because he has
cast down the altar of Baal and because
he has cut down the Grove that was by
that is just such an awful thing to do
you know idolatry that's fine adultery
that's fine murder that's fine to hear
they're ready to commit murder but to go
against Baal that is the worst of sins
and you see the same thing in the church
where people react Christians will react
inappropriately to things
that hey this is coming out of the Word
of God with into other things that's
like oh yeah that's all right

so our priorities unless we're informed
by the Word of God our priorities get
skewed and so they're now furious and
they want to kill Josh's son now
did Joe Ashe interact with God
no Gideon did why wouldn't Gideon come
out and say look I did this is like you
know Bob Marley hey I shot the sheriff I
didn't kill the deputy your hunty I
didn't kill the deputy I shot the
sheriff you know you want to bring me in
guilty I shot the sheriff it is what it
is that's how this man should be it's
like hey I tore down that altar I didn't
do that other thing you're accusing me
up but I did this and God is with me
no Gideon is very fearful man so it's
his father
that stands up to this crowd and joash
said unto all that stood against him
they're all there they're like animals
and joash has the courage to stand
against them Gideon is nowhere to be
seen
he's probably maybe if you if you were
to where's where's Gideon always between
his father's legs he's shivering under
his father's legs this man who met God
face to face he's shivering under his
father's legs and George said unto all
that stood against him I don't get it
will you plead for Baal you Israelites
is that what you've come to at least
joash he saw this you know it's it's
it's in his home it says it's in his
household but now he sees clearly and
he's not gonna let them kill his son
will you plead for Baal will you save
him he that will plead for him let him
be put to death while it is yet morning
these words should be coming out of
Gideon's mouth who was instructed
directly by God but his father sees it
you want a plead football football while

it's still morning because early in the morning well while it's been morning let him be put to death if he be a God let him plead for himself this is wisdom because one has cast down his altar this is brilliant so if he's a true God and somebody does the offensive thing of tearing down his altar so he cannot be properly worshipped if he's a true God let him plead for himself there for on that day joash called his son Gideon jerubbaal jerubbaal saying let Baal plead against him because he has thrown down his altar so I think he's proud of his son it's like wow this is brilliant if he's a god that him plead for himself I'm gonna under the name you juror bah all meaning let Baal defend himself

then all the Midianites so now we shift gears here the the action continues then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together so this is a massive troop this is serious now and you know before they were going all the way down to Gaza so they're just there's this a massive army and it's not just Midianites but if the Amalekites and it's the chose the Ishmaelites as well so this is serious these are powerful nations and they're all they all have one mind to destroy Israel then all the Mennonites Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together and went over and pitched in the valley of Jezreel so this is quite up north now so Gaza is in the South Jezreel is up in the north and so they're ready now they're coming from the north they're ready to come down and just slaughter but the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon this flawed human

being is the one that God has selected
and the Spirit of the Lord now comes
upon him so now there's this
supernatural intervention in his life
and he blew a trumpet and a Beezer was
gathered after him so that's his clan
and he sent messengers throughout all
Manasseh so that's his tribe he sent
messengers throughout all Manasseh who
also was gathered after him and he sent
messengers unto Asher and his son to
Zebulun and Naphtali so remember in last
chapter 5 in the song of Deborah Zebulun
and Naphtali were praised by Deborah
I sure not so much she actually called
him out that tribe she called them out
that they didn't come when it was time
to battle but here maybe they learned
their lesson when Gideon calls these
tribes now can't came up to me they came
they come up to meet him and Gideon said
unto God ah now I'm telling you this is
a disaster there's a problem here
like are you seeing it are you seeing it
there's a real problem here Gideon said
unto God if Abraham would not behave
this way if you will save Israel by my
hand

I kind of shudder when it's time to read
this it's how it's hard for me to read
it it's like am I really seeing this are
you talking to God if you will save
Israel by my hand as you have said
because who can trust your word okay I
know you said it but I don't know if
it's true not the sharpest knife in the
drawer not the brightest bulb in the
room a little bit dill a little bit dumb
little bit dim Gideon said unto God if
you will save me if you will save Israel
by my hand as you have said I need a
sign here and your word is not good
enough if you'll do this as you have
said behold I'll dictate here how this

is gonna go down so if you're gonna do
this as you've said let me tell you how
this is gonna work God I will put a
fleece of wool in the floor and if the
to be on the fleece only and it be dry
upon the earth beside then shall I know
that you will save Israel by my hand as
you have said what your word as far as
I'm concerned

your word ain't good enough I don't
trust your word give me something more
so let's do this I'm gonna tell you how
this is gonna go god I'm gonna tell you
the sign that you will give me I'm gonna
put this fleece down and then when I
wake in the morning I want to see it wet
but I want to see the ground dry then
I'll know that I can take your word
seriously and it was so for he rose up
early on the morrow and thrust the
fleece together and ringed the dew out
of the fleece a bowl full of water
okay God is like again what we should
see here is the depth of God's love for
Israel he's chosen this man there's
something in this man that he can work
with his objective is to save Israel so
God is putting up with all of this
because his objective is to save Israel
so don't look for perfect people look
for God's love and it was so for he rose
up early on tomorrow and thrust the
fleece together and ring the dew out of
the fleece a bowl full of water well
that should do it okay you don't trust
God you asked him for a sign he gave you
a sign let's get on to business
Israel's welfare is at stake their
survival this is an existential threat
median is Amalekites and the children of
Eid they're ready this is an existential
threat let's go no we're not quite right
we're not quite there yet and Gideon
said unto God let not your anger be hot

against me so he's getting a sense that he is pushing this and I will speak but this once let me prove I beg you but this once with the fleece let it now be dry only upon the fleece and upon all the ground let there be do like that will really do it for me now cuz you know I wasn't quite there yet I I know I said I wanted the fleece to be wet in the ground dry but you know what that's not such a big miracle after all I think I'll be a bigger miracle if the ground was wet

but then the fleece was dry so do that God you just do a little bit more gymnastics and then I might trust you and God did so that night for it was dry up on the fleece only and there was do on all the ground then jerubbaal which is gideon and all the people that were with him rose up early and pitched beside the will of Herod so that finally got it through his head like okay this this really is happening so that the host of the Midianites there are the armies of the Midianites were on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley so again they're up in the northern part of of Israel and the Lord said unto Gideon ready to come down marching south and the Lord said unto Gideon the people that are with you are too many so he sent this call out within Manasseh Asher Zebulun and they all in depth Ollie and so they all came and they're ready now this is this is a we're gonna get wiped out and then what's God saying to Gideon the people that are with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands now why did God say it's too many listen to this lest Israel bought themselves against me saying my own hand has saved me so God is trying to drive

something here for seven years they've been under oppression he's trying to drive them to a finish line to get them to acknowledge their unfaithfulness and his faithfulness he has mercy now he wants to save them but he knows their character if this many thirty-two thousand Israelites even though they're outnumbered but if this many of them go and fight against the Midianites they'll give themselves the credit God is very careful in in what and it's not that God has an ego and gods like oh I want to be the greatest I need to get the smartest one in the room that's not the point the point is he needs Israel to acknowledge who he is and so it's very important to him that they realize this is a miracle this we could never have done this ourselves and that's why he works with the weak in the base and the foolish so that we don't think like we did this we look at the results and we're like wow God did this in fact when others look at the results are like what God did this through you you're useless yeah I know but God did it so God is concerned with Israel's character that they'll be puffed up they'll be full of leaven and they'll bond themselves against him saying my own hand has saved me and then that will interrupt the process God is faithful to Israel he's going to see it through but that will interrupt the process now therefore go to proclaim in the ears of the people saying whosoever is fearful and afraid let him reach return and depart early from Mount Gilead and you can see I could just hear a Gideon now does that include me can I go to like this is a you know they get a pass if you're fearful you can go like Gideon is fearful I'm sure he would have loved to

these he's watching these uh 22,000 I think it is well we'll see yeah 22,000 he's watching you 22,000 Israelites leave they don't have to go to the battle he's like I want to be with them let them breathe let him return in two part early from Mount Gilead and they're returned of the people twenty and two thousand and there remained ten thousand so God is saying I don't need numbers and this is very powerful because that was the promise go into the land and I will go before you and I will take down your enemies they just had to be faithful

so this miracle that were witnessing through Gideon this was the will of God from the beginning he just said I want I won't wipe them all out immediately because there's gonna be wild beast and the wild beast could overtake you so we'll do it sequentially we'll do it methodically but you got to be faithful to me

they weren't faithful they coexisted with with the people and then we're corrupted by the people so they remained ten thousand and the Lord said unto Gideon the people are yet too many bring them down unto the water and I will try them for you there and it shall be that of whom I say unto you this shall go with you the same shall go with you and of whomsoever I say unto you this shall not go with you

the same shall not go so there's ten thousand left now God doesn't want them all and again you know it's like the church a lot of people in the church God doesn't need all of us we need God but sometimes we behave like God needs us no God doesn't need us he can do this with very few we need him so he says whoever I say shall not go with you the

same shall not go so he brought down the people unto the water and the Lord said unto Gideon everyone that laps of the water with his tongue as a dog I'm looking for the dogs everyone that laps of the water with his tongue as a dog laps him shall you set by himself likewise everyone that boughs down upon his knees to drink so you also says this is this is how you'll divide the camp of the armies or they're the soldiers those that bow down get down on their knees to get the water they're gonna go on one side and those that put their face in the water and lap it up like a dog and take their eye off the ball there they're like they're not good soldiers they're not aware of their surroundings they're just lapping up the water like a deer just care about filling their belly and they're not alert those are the ones that I'll work with because I don't want any glory upon Israel

I want the glory to be to God so he says and the number of them that lapped putting their hand to their mouths so they're still able to sew to where there were 300 men so they're looking they're able to get the water but it's a very undignified way of behaving but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water so 300 and the Lord said unto Gideon by the 300 dogs by the 300 men that lapped will I save you and I will do this this is my will I'm going to do this and deliver the Midianites into your hand and let all the other people go every man unto his place so the people took victuals or food in their hand and their trumpets and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent and retained those 300 men and the hosts of Midian was beneath him in the valley so the whole armies

there of the Midianites and it came to
pass the same night that the Lord said
unto Him arise get you down unto the
hosts for I have delivered them into
your hand this is it now that whole army
is there let's go now God knows the
heart of Gideon so what does he say but
this is it now let's go let's roll this
is the moment but I realize what I'm
working with here if you are afraid
Gideon has a problem if you fear to go
down God has given him his word but this
man has a problem but if you fear to go
down go you with for your servant down
to the hosts so you don't want to go
down and attack as I'm telling you to
okay

I'm gonna save Israel one way or another
through you so if you still need
reassurance like this is getting
ridiculous so I know you're so weak and
you're so fearful so let's do this sneak
down with your servant so go down with
your servant down to the army and
you shall hear what they say and
afterward shall your hands be
strengthened to go down unto the house
of God knows he's dealing with weakness
here but he's committed to saving Israel
so this is how he's gonna do it now sees
damage done this is the fleece that
everything like there's no excuse now so
he went down with your servant
unto thee so he went down because he
was afraid so God says you know if
you're afraid he didn't say no no Lord
I'm good you give me your word cuz you
know if you're afraid yea I'm afraid I
wish when you
sent the 22000 away I wish I could have
been with them so he went down because
he was afraid
with your servant unto the outside
of the armed men that were in the host

and the Midianites and the Amalekites
and all the children of the east lay
along in the valley like grasshoppers
for multitude so there's this is a
massive army and their camels were
without number and so that is you know
to have a camel in this part of the
geography you know they can go so long
without water and there can gallop and
you know you see these Arabs with their
swords on these camels this is quite a
powerful military and so they were like
grasshoppers for multitude and their
camels were without number as the sand
by the seaside for multitude they have
come to slaughter

Israel and God is having mercy on Israel
and he's being patient with Gideon
because he's going to save Israel one
way or the other and when Gideon was
come behold there was a man this is a
Midianite or it could be I think it's a
Midianite but it could be an Amalekite
or one of the Ishmaelites or one of the
people of the east so it's of the host
and when Gideon was come behold there
was a man that told a dream unto his
fellow and said behold I dreamed a dream
and lo a cake of barley bread this is
like the little the lowest value raw
grain a cake of low value of barley
bread tumbled into the host of Midian
and came unto a tent and struck the tent
that it fell and overturned it that the
tent lay on its side and his fellow
answered and said so Gideon's
overhearing this this is nothing else
except the sword of Gideon the son of
joash so Gideon doesn't even have a
sword the same this is it the sword of
Gideon

a man of Israel for into his hand as God
delivered Midian and all the hosts so
this is quite miraculous God has given

this fellow Midianite the interpretation of the dream of his friend and he's saying this is Gideon
gideon is the lowest value barley and he's going to do this and it was so when gideon heard the telling of the dream and the interpretation thereof that he worshiped so I think God has finally gotten through to him now and returned into the host of Israel and said arise for the Lord has delivered into your hand the hosts of Midian
so this massive army these powerful people and always throughout so far throughout judges were in the seventh chapter were constantly seeing these unlikely heroes and with unlikely weapons against powerful foes but God is with them and they bring down their enemies and he divided the 300 men into three companies and he put a trumpet into every man's hand with empty pitchers or your jugs and lamps within the pictures and he said unto them look on me and do likewise he's giving them some sort of a demonstration and behold when I come to the outside of the camp it shall be that as I do you'll do also so three camps of a hundred men each he's to take your trumpet take a jar and take a lamp and do what I do when I blow with a trumpet I and all that are with me then blow you the trumpets also on every side of all the camp so they've got the camp surrounded and their weapon is this trumpet so they're to blow the trumpet on every side of all the camp and say what should they say notice his instruction say the sword of the Lord and of Gideon hmm I'm not feeling too good about this this would be like me saying you know when we go into the land we're gonna proclaim the gospel and when we proclaim the gospel God has

guaranteed us we're going to be
victorious so as we go into the land say
the sword of Jesus and of Adriane like
couple me in there as well this is this
is knock
and it's gonna lead to a legacy that's
not good so say the sword of the Lord
and of Gideon and here remember right up
and we just read it but go back to it to
verse 2 here the Lord said to Gideon the
people that are with you are too many
for me to give the Midianites into their
hands lest Israel font themselves
against me saying my own hand has saved
me and now we're saying the sword of the
Lord and of Gideon and what's gonna
happen now as the Israelites are not
gonna give God the credit they're gonna
give Gideon the credit yeah III think
this is a big mistake he should have
just said the sword of the Lord and
these are the Israelites and this is all
God it's got nothing to do with me
in fact it's it's despite me if it were
if it was up to me you guys would be in
big trouble but it's because of God and
we're gonna see in his legacy now this
becomes a snare for Israel 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 broke the jars
that were in their hand so you can
imagine the clamor the loud that the
trumpet is going and then all of this
sound maybe it sounds like galloping or
something and the three companies blew
the trumpets and broke the pitchers and
held the lamps in their left hands and
the trumpets in the right hands to blow
with all and they cried the sword of the
Lord oh and don't forget and of Gideon
and they stood every man in his place

round about the camp and all the hosts
ran and cried and fled they were
terrified it's in the middle of the
night all of a sudden they hear these
trumpet blasts they hear this crashing
sound they you know they see these
lights like the armies are approaching
and the three hundred blew the trumpets
and the Lord said every the Lord said
every Midianites man every Midianite
man's sword against his fellow so
they've gone crazy with fear it's in the
middle of the night they're taking their
swords and they're killing each other
Israel can't do this Israel cannot
overcome these people there's only 300
men they're killing each other it said
every man's sword against this fellow
even throughout all the horror army and
the hosts fled Tibet cheetah in Zara and
so they're retreating the going further
north and to the border of al-majalah
unto tabitha and the men of israel
gathered themselves together out of
Naphtali and out of asher and of out of
all Manasseh and pursued after the
Midianite so we had the 300 men who
started this as is as the Midianites
begin to retreat them the rest of these
tribes now join in to pursue the
Midianites and gideon send messengers
throughout all mount ephraim so so now
he's so that's these Dale Manasseh now
he's calling the Ephraim i'ts in
addition to so we've got a sure we've
got Natali
we've got Manasseh now he's sending
these are all the tribes in the north
now he's sending for ephraim and ephraim
is the big tribe and Gideon sent
messengers throughout all mount ephraim
saying come down against the Midianites
and take before them the water is under
Bethabara

and Jordan then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together and took the waters unto Beth Bara and Jordan and they took two princes of the Midianite so this is quite a capture now they took two princes of the Midianites Orab and Zeb-- and they slew Orab upon the rock Orip and Zeb they slew up at the winepress of Zeb so these are very powerful men they've got these places named after them they are princes in Midian and Ephraim captures them and slaughters them in place and pursued Midian and brought the heads of Orab and Zeb to Gideon on the other side of Jordan so this is now going to create an interesting dynamic when we cover chapter 8 God willing next week so this is the story of the career of Gideon and we're going to see now the legacy of this victory so this is Judges chapter six and seven I think it was a very fascinating read

gather next week and we will continue this story of the career of Gideon in the meantime we'll have Sabbath services on Sabbath at 2:30 p.m. Eastern 1:30 central and then the same time on Pentecost

we'll have services again 1:30 central 2:30 Eastern sign so you know thanks so much for joining us this evening and hopefully you're able to join us in fellowship with us on the Sabbath and on the high day of Pentecost what a great God we serve

he is a God of his word declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times that which is not yet done saying my plans my word shall stand let's be like Abraham and as long as God gives us his word

will stand on those promises what a great God we serve Jesus is Lord thanks

for joining
god bless
you