

God's Instrument
Gideon
Judges 6, 7

I. Difficult Days – 6:1-10

1. Departure from God brings chastening – 1-6
Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord
Lord delivered them into hand of Midian 7 years
Midianites – sons of Abraham by Keturah –
Genesis 25:1,2
Nomadic tribes, raided Israel at harvest time
They moved swiftly riding on camels
Israel resorted to living in mountains & caves - 2
Israel was greatly impoverished – 6
2. In need Israel cried to God – 7-10
God sent a prophet to tell them why they suffered
They were unfaithful to God and disobedient

II. Divine Call – 6:11-24

1. God sent His angel to call Gideon – 11-12
He was threshing wheat in hidden place for fear
Angel assured of God's presence & his courage
2. Gideon questions God's presence – 13
If God is with us why are we in such difficulty
It seems more like God has forsaken us
3. God commissions him to be deliverer – 14
Go and save Israel for I have sent you
4. Gideon aware of lack of qualification – 15
Family is poor & he is the least in his family
5. The Lord reassures him – 16
I will be with you & you will smite the Midianites
6. Gideon asks for a sign from God – 17-21
He asks for time to prepare an offering - 18
Time to prepare is granted for – 19, 20
God provided fire to consume the offering – 21
7. Gideon realizes this is from God – 22-24
There is awe and fear in this encounter – 22
Lord assures him that he will not die – 23
Gideon worships the Lord of peace – 24

III. Developing Obedience – 6:25-32

1. Preparatory act in obedience – 25, 26
Tear down your father's altar to Baal
Build in its place an altar to the Lord
2. Gideon dared to do what God said – 27
Took 10 men to help him & did it at night
Feared his father's family & men of the city
3. Men of city wanted to kill Gideon – 28-30
Demanded that Gideon's father turn him over
4. His father reasoned with these men – 31-32
If Baal is a god let him take vengeance

IV. Divine Enablement – 6:33-40

1. Midianites & Amalekites gather for battle – 33
Gather their forces in the valley of Jezreel
2. Spirit of the Lord comes on Gideon – 34
Now he has resource necessary for victory
3. Sounds a trumpet to gather army – 34-35
Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun & Naphtali join his family
4. Gideon seeks reassurance from God - 36-40
He asks God to bring dew on fleece only
He then asks God to do the opposite
God graciously did what Gideon asked

V. Developing Faith – 7:1-15

1. Gideon still needs to learn to trust God – 1, 2
Faith is weak even with Holy Spirit & the fleece
2. God tells him that his army is too big – 2
Israel might think they won the battle
3. God reduces Gideon's army of 32,000 – 3-6
Send home all who are fearful – 10,000 remain
Test of lapping water leaves only 300 men
4. God renews His promise to Gideon – 7
He will gain the victory with these 300 men
Midian had about 135,000 men – 8:10
5. God strengthens Gideon's faith again – 8-15
At night God sends Gideon to enemy camp
Gideon overhears two soldiers talking – 13, 14
One tells another his dream of a barley cake
Other interprets, a sign of victory for Gideon
Gideon returns to camp confident of victory – 15
He worshipped God & reassured his 300 men
The Lord has delivered Midian into our hands

VI. Decisive Victory – 7:16-25

1. Gideon divides his men in 3 groups – 16
Each has a trumpet, empty pitcher & a torch
2. Torch was covered until a signal – 17-19
When Gideon blew his trumpet they blew theirs
Told to shout, The sword of the Lord & Gideon
Were to brake the pitcher & let the light shine
3. They surrounded camp & did as told – 20-21
Blew trumpets shouted & showed their light
4. Midianites in fear killed each other – 22-25
Other men of Israel helped in destroying enemy