

“When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more, than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people, and shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, Ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies; let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you, against your enemies, to save you. And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying, What man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it. And what man is he that hath planted a vineyard, and hath not yet eaten of it? let him also go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man eat of it. And what man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her. And the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they shall say, What man is there that is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren’s heart faint as well as his heart. And it shall be, when the officers have made an end of speaking unto the people, that they shall make captains of the armies to lead the people. When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it. And it shall be, that if they make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, that all the people that is found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee. And if it will make no peace with thee, but if it will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it: And when the Lord thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword.” (Deut. 20:1-13.)

Having made the principles involved with Gideon’s life, we take him up in his middle age and at a time when 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, (three great then-world powers) 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. (Thus were the children of Israel reduced to poverty and all the misery that poverty brings upon a nation. And that is where this nation is headed.) 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. And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the Lord. (Crying unto the Lord is the only way out for this evil nation, and they are doing just the opposite, they are continuing to sin grievously.) And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of the Midianites, That the Lord sent a prophet (in one way or another, when God moves upon the scene, his prophets are involved; they may be identified and they may be obeyed) unto the children of*

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Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the Lord 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. And there came an angel of the Lord, (sooner or later, the angels become involved, heavily involved) 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. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.” (Judges 6:1-12.) (Which glowing language could and should be applied to each of God’s elect on earth. Just as angels are with us every moment of the day and night so we often don’t have apprehension of it. Even so *“thou mighty man of valour”* applies to each of the elect of God because the same spirit works in them.) *“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, (such language always applies to God’s elect who oft times are not aware that the Lord was with them where they were, on the ground) saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. (And the following is most precious language, to wit:) 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? (True of each of God’s elect, the Lord is with him or her, and that is demonstrated by *“this thy might,”* which is not perceptible to the messenger of God himself. And what is his might? His firm but complete knowledge of the scriptures. That’s our might! You do err, said Christ, not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God, that is, God’s might bestowed upon each of his elect.) 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. (Which would make Gideon the proud possessor of true meekness and humility, – foolish, weak, base, despised, the true marks of God’s elect on earth in this evil age.) And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. (True miracles from God thus seem to be on the way, even as Gideon bemoans his weakness – his visible weakness.) And he said unto him, If now I have found grace (this is none other than the angel of the Lord talking, you know; the declaration of the elect of God in every occasion. The language of Noah and all the patriarchs - if I have found grace – [because God inculcated it in each little sheep]) in thy sight, then shew me a sign (PLEASE) that thou talkest with me. (That I’m not blowing hot air. Again Gideon pleads for some token from the Lord his God.) Depart not hence, I pray thee, (this conversation he has with the Lord Jesus is amazing stuff!) 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. And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid (for the Lord Jesus Christ) and unleavened cakes and 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. (Just as Abraham did for the Lord Jesus Christ under that oak.) 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.” (Judges 6:14-21.)*

We can inquire more closely into this beautiful event when we are in heaven.

I love you. Amen.

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And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing. (And mighty happy to do it!!) Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it. (Then the father of Gideon apparently had a religious experience and rose to the defense of his beleaguered son against the entire populace of that wicked city.) And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? (You have a dead god on your hands and will you save him – he is wood and stucco) will ye save him? He that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar. Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar. Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, (and the war was on, and victory assured.) and went over and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; (and the revival of true religion began) and Abiezer was gathered after him.” Judges 6:21-34. (The whole world knows about Gideon’s great victory and the unique way it went down with a trumpet in every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers and three hundred valiant troops, Gideon became world famous.) “And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon (and his historically famous champions of faith.) and Barak and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets; Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy;) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise; God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, (you ain’t dead yet! A lot of people have died for what you are doing, so you should not be so tremulous) striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? (One of the surest signs of a doomed society is no discipline of the children. The woman judge in Wisconsin put the guy in jail for preaching the verse.) But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, (yes, bastards, live with it!) and not sons... Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 11 and 12.)

I love you. Amen.