

Judges 8

King James Version (KJV)

8 And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply. (They wanted the credit for the victory – ego problem) (The plan was God's, not Gideon's. HE decided who should go, not Gideon)

²And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? Is not the gleanings of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer? (Abiezer – one of the families of Manasseh - Gideon's tribe; Gideon is trying to appease Ephraim's huge egos. He is saying - Ephraim's leftovers are better than Manasseh's whole crop)

³God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that. (He's giving them a pat on the back to make peace. People are pathetic – then and now)

⁴And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them. (They were hungry and tired from the battle)

⁵And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they be faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian. (This Succoth is on the east side of Jordan, in Gad's land)

⁶And the princes of Succoth said, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army? (They are not cooperating; fearing retaliation by the Medianites)

⁷And Gideon said, Therefore when the LORD hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into mine hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers. (Gideon is promising payback after he defeats the enemy. "We'll be back")

⁸And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered him. (They gave him the same answer as Succoth did. They refused to

help Gideon and his men. Israel had become separated and cowardly. They let foreigners overrun them and take their crops)

(Penuel = Face of God – This is the place where Jacob wrestled with the Angel of God. God then changed Jacob's name to Israel) see Genesis-32:22–32

⁹And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower. (He promised vengeance because they refused to feed his men, for fear of the Medians. Gideon was pursuing the Medians to ensure that they wouldn't regroup and attack Israel. By now, his men were parched, starving and very tired)

¹⁰Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand men, all that were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: for there fell an hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword. (Karkor = foundation; a city on the east side of the Jordan) (There were only 15,000 left of the 135,000 that went to battle Israel)

¹¹And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host; for the host was secure. (The Medians thought that they were secure. They believed that they had escaped)

¹²And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited all the host. (These few Medians that are left were terrified. It seemed like Gideon was invincible. He was at that time; because the Holy Spirit of the Lord was in him. God was fighting this battle, not Israel)

¹³And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun was up, (These words were changed by the KJV translators – it should read: from the pass of Haroz <Moffet Bible translation>) (sun = Herez, should have been - Haroz which was a pass through the mountains)

¹⁴And caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and enquired of him: and he described unto him the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, even threescore and seventeen men. (77 men) (He gave Gideon their names)

¹⁵And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, Are the hands of

Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men that are weary? (upbraid = to contend with) (The men of Succoth had sided with the enemy because of fear)

¹⁶ And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth. (Taught = caused them to know - that they defied God's will by refusing Gideon food. They were helping the enemy. He must have whipped them with the briers)

¹⁷ And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city. (They must have been hiding in the tower)

¹⁸ Then said he unto Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner of men were they whom ye slew at Tabor? And they answered, As thou art, so were they; each one resembled the children of a king. (They were Gideon's relatives because they looked like him)

¹⁹ And he said, They were my brethren, even the sons of my mother: as the LORD liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not slay you.

²⁰ And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, and slay them. But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he was yet a youth. (Jether feared killing these two kings)

²¹ Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou, and fall upon us: for as the man is, so is his strength. And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took away the ornaments that were on their camels' necks. (It would have been an insult to these kings to be killed by a boy. The ornaments on their camels were crescent moons - like the muslims use as their standard today)

²² Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian. (Rule = marshal <in the Hebrew> = to reign over people as a king; not the same word as the word judge = shofetum <in the Hebrew>; which means to set things right and to lead. Judges were not kings. God was their King)

(They still don't get it. God saved them, not Gideon. They should have realized that without God, they would have been slaughtered by the overwhelming numbers of the Medians)

²³ And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you. (God saved them, not Gideon; 300 men defeated 135,000 enemy men only by the grace of God) (God was their king, not Gideon and his sons. He knew that, but the people still didn't get it)

²⁴ And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.) (Children of Hagar and Abraham; Ishmael's descendants – today, Arabs; Hagar was Sarah's maid servant, an Egyptian woman)

²⁵ And they answered, We will willingly give them. And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the earrings of his prey.

²⁶ And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that was on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that were about their camels' necks. (About 50 lbs of gold from the earrings alone)

²⁷ And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house. (He made a priest's ephod, but he was not a priest. - Big mistake) (The people turned it into an idol and worshipped it)

(The ephod was a pouch that was attached to the priest's breast plate. It contained the urim and thummim, which they used to enquire of God when they needed to make important decisions)

(The priesthood had become insignificant by this time. Most of them worshipped Baal. It may be that Gideon thought that he could enquire of God; since God had chosen him to save Israel from the Medians. The problem is that God never told Gideon to do that)

²⁸ Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

(This became a repeating pattern - Israel is invaded; they cry to the Lord; God saves them; they have peace for one generation; then the next generation reverts to idol worship and turns away from God)

(One generation after the liberals threw God out of our schools, the new generation grew up to be atheists and agnostics. Abortion is called – a woman's right to choose; instead of the murder of a baby. People chase wealth instead of pursuing the Word of God. Even the Christians today don't know what the Bible says. They sit in some church and hear sermons, written by men, not by God. People never learn)

²⁹ And Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.
(Jerubbaal was the name that Gideon's father gave him for tearing down the altar of Baal)

³⁰ And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives. (70 sons)

³¹ And his concubine that was in Shechem, she also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech. (Abimelech= father of the king; this name was popular among the Philistines. There were many Canaanites still living in Shechem at that time. This concubine was probably a Canaanite) see Chapter-9

³² And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.
(Abiezrites were one of the major families of Manasseh)

³³ And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baalberith their god. (That didn't take long – one generation later)
(Baalberith = the covenant god – this is an insult to the true God)

³⁴ And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:
(Here we go again. They revert to idolatry and abandon God)

³⁵ Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel. (They turned on God. They turned on Gideon's family)