

Judges 7

King James Version (KJV)

7 Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. (Jerubbaal= let Baal defend himself) (Moreh = teacher) (The valley is Jezreel)

²And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. (vaunt = boast; they will claim God didn't save Israel; they did)

³Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. (Gilead – is really Gilboa – this is a copyist error, per Smith's dictionary. Gilead is on the east side of Jordan. These people are on the west side of the Jordan) (God has just reduced the number of Israel's army from 32,000 to 10,000)

See Deuteronomy-20:8 (Rules of engagement) – (Do not go into battle with men who are afraid. They can cause the whole army to lose courage)

⁴And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. (try = to refine by fire, as with metals; to purify. Fire separates the metal from the slag) (God knows who should go to battle and who shouldn't. HE can read our minds)

⁵So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. (Send these guys home)

⁶And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. (God just reduced Israel's army from 10,000 to 300)

⁷ And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place. (300 Israelites against 135,000 Medianites. There was no way that they could claim that they won. They had to admit that God gave them the victory)

⁸ So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley. (9,700 Israelites went home. The remaining 300 kept some food and took the trumpets. God has their plan of attack)

⁹ And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand. (The victory is yours <thanks to God>. Now go do what I command, and you will defeat them. God will use 300 men to defeat 135,000 of the enemy)

¹⁰ But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: (Phurah = the branch) (The flesh is weak. Gideon doesn't like the odds. God is giving him courage and confidence to go forward)

(Today, Jesus is the Vine. Christians are the branches; through whom salvation comes to the world. We will all have much work to do; especially in the end days, when antichrist is deceiving the unlearned) see John-5:15

¹¹ And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host. (When Gideon hears how God put fear and dread into the minds of the enemy army, it will give him courage. Fear can spread like wildfire through an army just before a battle)

¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude. (all the children of the east = Kedem <Hebrew>; The East side of the Euphrates; Arabs and other muslims, today)

See Revelation-9, Joel-1&2 (grasshoppers = locusts - the locust army of the end days. This is a type for them, to serve as an example to us that God will have the victory over them as well)

¹³ 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 tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along. (barley bread – poor man's bread; the tent - this is their general's tent; the poor will defeat the mighty – God put that dream in his head)

(Today, Jesus is the Bread of life. HE will give us the victory if we follow Him. When Satan establishes his one world system in the end days, God will use the Elect to overturn his tent. There is no rapture of the church. God wants us here to witness with the Holy Spirit in order to "overturn antichrist's tent". Like this enemy, antichrist won't stand a chance when God moves against him)

¹⁴ And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host. (Divine intervention is even recognized by the enemy. God put fear in their hearts. This rumor will spread throughout their army and will destroy their confidence) (God = Ha-El-O-Heem = God the creator; not Yahoveh = God of the Covenant; One God – many offices)

¹⁵ And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian. (He finally believes God. God will give him the courage that he needs. God knows that flesh man is weak. HIS strength more than compensates for our weaknesses)

¹⁶ And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. (Usually they only used one trumpet per company; now, one trumpet per man. The pitchers <buckets> will hide the light of their lamps to cover their approach in the darkness, until they have surrounded Median. This will cause the enemy to panic when they see themselves surrounded)

¹⁷ And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. (This was God's plan, not Gideon's. Gideon's job will be to coordinate and synchronize the attack so that they all work exactly at the same time)

¹⁸ When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. (Repeating what the Median said in verse 14. By now the rumor has spread. The Medians will think that the dream is coming true and they will panic)

¹⁹ 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 brake the pitchers that were in their hands. (middle watch- just after midnight, when many of the enemy are tired and the rest are asleep, or just waking up. Timing is important)

²⁰ And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. (Their dream is coming true; 300 Israeli trumpets all around them; 300 torches all around them. It must have seemed like the Israelites came out of nowhere)

²¹ And they stood every man in his place round about the camp; and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. (Total chaos in the enemy camp, in the darkness; surrounded by lamps and the blaring of 300 trumpets)

(God is in control. An army in chaos is nothing but a mob) (God used this tactic another time) see 2Chronicles-20

²² And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath. (The Medianites, Amalekites and the Arabs killed each other in the confusion and darkness. The few that remained tried to get back to the east side of the Jordan to escape)

²³ And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites. (These are the other 9,700 men that left earlier; not the 300 with Gideon)

²⁴ And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters unto Bethbarah and Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters unto Bethbarah and Jordan.

(They were cutting off the Midians' escape across the Jordan)
(Bethbarah = house of the ford – or the river crossing)

²⁵ And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan.

Isaiah-10:26 (He wrote about this victory, to serve as an example for the defeat of antichrist in the end days of this age. Antichrist will deceive the whole world. He will seem undefeatable. Yet, God, working through the few Elect, will utterly defeat him and destroy his one-world system)