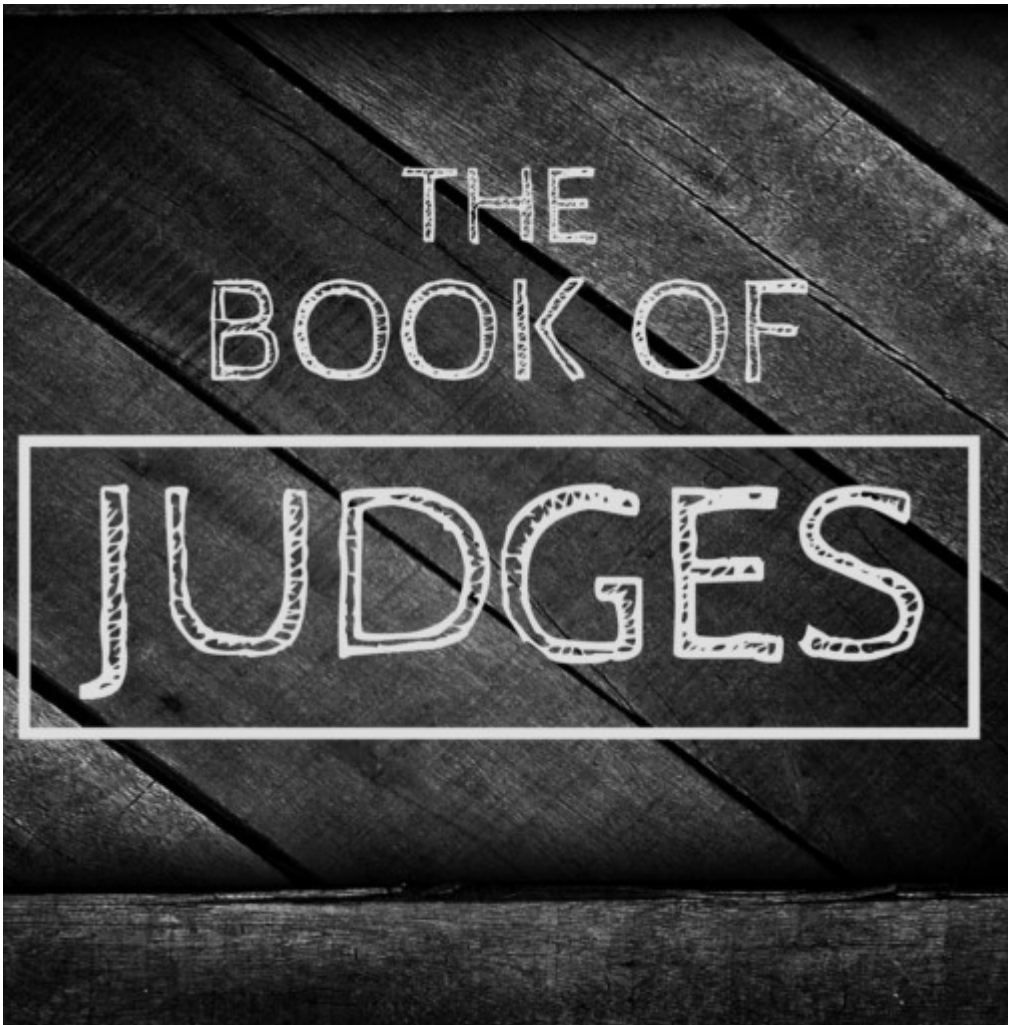


Let's Worship God

7th-12th March 2022
Judges



JUDGES

Monday - Judges 7:1-8 - God's Strength in Human Weakness

In 2 Corinthians 12:9, the Apostle Paul reports the words of the Lord to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." God displays His strength in human weakness. Last week, we saw that the LORD was pleased to use a man of weak faith, who was considered least in his father's house from a weak clan in Manasseh - a weakened tribe in an oppressed nation - to be the next deliverer of Israel. Today, we see that He is going to leave no room for doubt - Israel's deliverance comes from the LORD.

In chapter six, we are told that the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali have answered Gideon's call to prepare for war against the Midianites and their allies. Now, Gideon and his army encamp south of the enemy camp, which is by the hill of Moreh in the Jezreel valley, and God tells Gideon his army of thirty-two thousand is too numerous. So, at His command, Gideon gives leave for any of his men who are exceedingly fearful to go home, at which twenty-two thousand depart. However, the remaining ten-thousand are still too many. So God winnows them further, dividing the soldiers by the way they drink water. The smaller group of three-hundred is taken. It is with this much smaller army that God will show His strength. Against what would otherwise be impossible odds, God will make this small army victorious.

The LORD is likewise pleased to show His strength in our weakness, today. Rather than lamenting our limitations, let us praise God that He does so much with so little.

Questions

1. Why did God choose a man of weak faith from a weak clan?
2. Why did He reduce the numbers of Gideon's army so drastically?

Prayer Points

1. Praise God that He shows His strength in our weakness.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD said to Gideon, 'The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over Me, saying "My own hand has saved me".'" Judges 7:2

Praise: Psalm 37 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Tuesday - Judges 7:9-15 - Reassurance for Gideon

Left with only three hundred men at his command, Gideon takes up position above the Midianites, Amalekites, and people of the East who are encamped in the Jezreel valley near Mt. Moreh. In contrast to Gideon's small force, the enemy is said to be "like locusts in abundance." We can imagine just about anyone having doubts in the face of such opposition. Most certainly Gideon, who has questioned and tested the LORD, desires reassurance at this time. Again, we see God's gracious accommodation to Gideon's weakness. He instructs him to sneak into the enemy camp, and to take his servant Purah if he is fearful. Taking Purah with him, Gideon makes his way into the valley to the outposts of the camp of Midian.

Here, Gideon overhears one man telling another his dream, in which a barley cake tumbled into the camp and knocked a tent flat. His companion interprets this to mean that Gideon will defeat them. Before the battle begins, the LORD is already using psychological warfare on Israel's behalf. This is enough reassurance for Gideon, who worships God and returns to his camp saying to his men, "Arise, for the LORD has given the host of Midian into your hand."

It can be easy for us to become discouraged in the face of setbacks and great opposition, or when we find ourselves too weak (as we think) to accomplish the tasks before us. However, we can take assurance from events like this, recorded in God's Word, that it is not by our power, but by His strength that we are able to accomplish the tasks God has set before us. Even when we are not aware of it, God is working out His good purposes and plans for us. Our response to this should be the same as Gideon's - worship.

Questions

1. How did God graciously assure Gideon of his coming victory?
2. How did the LORD conduct psychological warfare against Midian?

Prayer Points

1. Thank God that He works on our behalf, even when we cannot see it.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD said to Gideon, 'The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over Me, saying "My own hand has saved me".'" Judges 7:2

Praise: Psalm 38 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Wednesday -Judges 7:15-18 - A Clever Plan

We have noted that God is pleased to show His strength in our weakness. He accomplishes great things through His servants that it is clear His servants could not have accomplished on their own. Nevertheless, He is pleased, also, to use means in accomplishing His will. In I Corinthians 1 and 2, we find that the LORD displays His wisdom and power by saving people through the preaching of the cross of Christ, even though that seems foolish to those who are perishing. The means, in that case, by which God carries out His will is the preacher of the Gospel and the Gospel he preaches.

In Judges 7, the means the LORD uses to show His strength is the tiny army of Gideon utilizing a clever plan. The three hundred Israelites divide into three companies of one hundred each. These companies take up positions on different sides of the enemy camp. Each man has a trumpet and empty jars with torches in them. At the right time, the trumpets will be blown, the jars smashed and the torches will blaze forth, giving the appearance of a much greater army surrounding the Midianites and their allies.

Each of us is called to serve the LORD. Having a wise plan, consistent with His Word, for how we will serve Him helps us accomplish the things He has called us to do.

Questions

1. What is the means by which God displays His wisdom and power when He saves people?
2. By what means did the LORD show His strength in this passage?
3. Why should we have a wise plan for how we will serve God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we have the wisdom to accomplish what God has called us to do.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD said to Gideon, 'The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over Me, saying "My own hand has saved me".'" Judges 7:2

Praise: Psalm 39 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Thursday - Judges 7:19-23 - The Rout of Midian

As we found in our reading on Tuesday, even before the battle, the LORD was conducting psychological warfare on Israel's behalf by giving an enemy man a discouraging dream which was interpreted by another as a prophecy of their defeat at Gideon's hand. Yesterday, we read of Gideon's clever plan to capitalize on the enemy's fear. Gideon's three companies of a hundred men each position themselves on different sides of the enemy camp. Each man has a trumpet in one hand and a torch concealed in a jar in the other. When Gideon signals, each man blows his trumpet and smashes his jar, causing the torches suddenly to blaze forth. The men alternate their trumpet blasts with shouts of "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!"

Word of the dream and its discouraging interpretation has circulated through the Midianite camp. Coupled with the sights and sounds of what would seem to be an enormous army surrounding them, the Midianites and their allies utterly lose heart and panic. Thinking the Israelites are already among them, the enemies turn on each other in the confusion. As the Israelites stand in place, the Midianites, Amalekites and people of the East fight among themselves and the survivors flee. The enemy army is completely routed. As verse 22 explicitly tells us, this was the LORD's doing. God has now accomplished His purpose stated in Judges 7:2. There can be no mistake that it is only by His power that Gideon gained such a victory.

Questions

1. What two things contributed to the enemy's panic?
2. Who accomplished the rout of Midian?
3. How does this fulfill God's purpose stated in Judges 7:2?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will make the Church victorious over our enemies.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD said to Gideon, 'The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over Me, saying "My own hand has saved me".'" Judges 7:2

Praise: Psalm 40 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Friday - Judges 7:23-25 - The Defeat of Midian

Yesterday, we read of the rout of Midian, now we read of Midian's complete defeat. The LORD accomplished the victory at Mount Moreh with a small force of three-hundred Israelites after having sent thirty-one thousand seven-hundred fighting men away. Now it is time for that larger army to play a part in the war.

Following the great victory at Mount Moreh, the greater forces from Naphtali, Asher and Manasseh are called out to pursue the fleeing survivors. Gideon also sends messengers to the tribe of Ephraim, who send their forces out to hold the fords of the Jordan from their lands northward as far as Beth-Barah (a crossing place east of the Jezreel valley). They capture two Midianite leaders as they attempt to flee eastward across the Jordan. One, named Oreb, is killed at a rock that will henceforth be called "the rock of Oreb." The other, called Zeeb, is killed at a winepress which will hereafter be called "the winepress of Zeeb." The peoples who have oppressed Israel for seven years are now utterly defeated. The coalition of pillagers has been broken and their military power smashed.

Similarly, God has promised victory for His Church (as we find, for example, in Revelation 19-22). Though the Gospel may be opposed now, though Christ's people may be oppressed, persecuted and reviled, there will be victory for all who are in Christ Jesus, who, Himself, is already victorious over sin and death.

Questions

1. How many men did God use to rout Midian at Mt. Moreh?
2. Did the men He sent away have nothing more to do?
3. Why were places named "the rock of Oreb" and "the winepress of Zeeb"?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will make us confident in the victory we have in Christ Jesus.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD said to Gideon, 'The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over Me, saying "My own hand has saved me".'" Judges 7:2

Praise: Psalm 41 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Saturday - Judges 8:1-3 - Ephraim's Discontent

We might think that after such a stunning victory, the Israelites would be rejoicing, congratulating one another and, most importantly, thanking God. Instead we learn that the men of Ephraim are angry that they were not invited to take part in the original muster against Midian. Perhaps with the swiftness of events, they are not even aware that the LORD accomplished the original victory with only three-hundred men. Had the Ephraimites come to the first muster of troops, most of them would have been sent away anyway. It seems, however, that they feel cheated of a share in the glory of the victory at Mount Moreh. When Gideon points out that they will forever be remembered as the tribe to whom Oreb and Zeeb fell by the providence of God, they are satisfied.

Here we see Gideon's wise diplomacy. Rather than being indignant at the unreasonable accusations of the Ephraimites, Gideon simply points out that God has blessed them in a way that his clan, the Abiezerites, who have been involved from the beginning, were not blessed. Namely, God delivered two great Midianite princes into the Ephraimites' hands.

Sometimes there is dissent and grumbling among God's people. Rather than becoming wrathful, it is wise for us to follow Gideon's example and patiently address the complaints of others, pointing them to what the LORD has done for them. On the other hand, if we are the ones tempted to complain, it is wise for us to think on all the good God has done for us, rather than on what we think others have done to us.

Questions

1. About what did the Ephraimites complain?
2. Why did they think Gideon had been unfair to them?
3. How did Gideon handle their complaints?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"The LORD said to Gideon, 'The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over Me, saying "My own hand has saved me".'" Judges 7:2

Praise: Psalm 42 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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