

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES
1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 7:15-25

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"HOW TO WIN A WAR"

*ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Faith, Ministry, Obedience, Impossible, Possible

Introduction to the Text;

Judges 7:15-25

Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Gideon was a man of faith and God was about

to reward his faithfulness in a remarkable way. when we have faith in the Lord and exercise that faith, - we will be open to whatever it is that God wants to accomplish.

living like this can be very exciting and certainly rewarding.
against all odds, against conventional wisdom, against what makes sense, God
is going to do His work.

I Think We All Have This In Common;

That We Have a Fear, It's a Fear That We Might Miss Out On
Something That God Has for Us.

“Lord Make Sure That My Heart is Open to
You,
and That I'm Willing to Obey”

Judges 7:15-18

:15 And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.” **:16** Then he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. **:17** And he said to them, “Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall ***do as I do***:
:18 When I blow the trumpet, I and all who *are* with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, “*The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!*”

Judges 7:19-23

So Gideon and the hundred men who *were* with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that *were* in their hands....
....**:20** Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!” **:21** And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. **:22** When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath. **:23** And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.

Judges 7:24-25

Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, “Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.” Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan. **:25** And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.

HOW TO WIN A WAR

1.) Make sure you're **on God's side**

v. 15-18

1a.) **Listen** to what God has said

v.15

:15 And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that **he worshiped. He returned** to the camp of Israel, and **he said**, "Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand

he worshipped // he returned // he spoke up

Psalm 119:103-105

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! :104 I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. :105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

MAKING SURE YOU'RE ON GOD'S SIDE

1b.) **Act** upon what God has commanded

v.16-17

Then he **divided** the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he **put** a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. :17 And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall **do as I do**:

The Lord is Looking for
Leaders
that Are Followers

a trumpet // a pitcher // a torch

Gideon's Example

1 Corinthians 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

MAKING SURE YOU'RE ON GOD'S SIDE

1c.) Trust the Lord for the victory

v.18

When I blow the trumpet, I and all who *are* with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"

Psalm 61:1-4

Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. :2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. :3 For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy. :4 I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your

HOW TO WIN A WAR

2.) Make sure you're a soldier of faith

v. 19-23

2a.) By always being watchful

v.19-20

So Gideon and the hundred men who *were* with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch (Mid-Night), just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that *were* in their hands. :20 Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"

Victorious Faith Produces
" Excellence "

Judges 7:5-6a

So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, “Everyone who **laps** from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself.... :6 And the number of those who lapped, *putting their hand to their mouth,* was three hundred men;

These Commandos Waited Until The Right Moment.

Verse 19

So Gideon and the hundred men who *were* with him came to the outpost of the camp **at the beginning of the middle watch** (Mid-Night), **just as they had posted the watch**; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that *were* in their hands.

“AT THE CHANGING OF THE WATCH”

this is the most vulnerable time of all.

those who had been on watch are now tired and weary. those assuming the watch would be uninformed and inexperienced about the days activities.

Verse 20

Then the (three companies) **blew** the trumpets and **broke** the pitchers—they **held** the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they **cried**, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!”

#1

they blew the trumpets

#2

they broke the pitchers

#3

they held the torches

notice with me that;

the men shouted and God did the rest.
we are to participate in the war, but it is the
Lord who wins the war.

BUT WAIT...

The Lord Leaves Us In Question About How the Torches Got Lit.

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. :14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. :15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. :16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

we shine before an unbelieving world, yet we don't often see it happening. the lord does the lighting, the glowing, the shining through us.

MAKING SURE YOU'RE A SOLDIER OF FAITH

2b.) By always being faithful

v.21-22

:21 And every man **stood in his place** all around the camp; and the whole army (enemy army) ran and cried out and fled. :22 When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

1 Corinthians 4:2

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

But What Does Faithful Look Like?

in this case... Stand There

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. :11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. :12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. :13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. :14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, :15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace, :16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. :17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; :18 praying always

God Had Shown Himself Faithful to Gideon and the Troops,
So Now The Time Had Come for Them To... Stand Still !!!

A Christian, Safe in The Middle of
God's Will

Can Get More Done by Standing Still Than a Man Can by Running

MAKING SURE YOU'RE A SOLDIER OF FAITH

2c.) By always being **encouraging** v.23

And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali,
Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.

notice, the men that earlier had been either scared or lazy,
arose to the news that 300 men of God whipped the enemy and so they were
encouraged to join in...

We Need This Today

the enemy is so emboldened right now.
and it is a blind America that is encouraging the enemy on!

w e ' r e a n a t i o n a t w a r a n d t h e w a r
i s s o o n c o m i n g h e r e .

Unfortunately, some Christians are like most Americans
they don't believe that there is any trouble or that there's not going to be any trouble.

We Need Encouragement

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will
complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

Romans 8:28-39

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those
who are the called according to *His* purpose. :29 For whom He foreknew, He also
predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn
among many brethren. :30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called;
whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also
glorified. :31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be*
against us? :32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,
how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? :33 Who shall bring a charge
against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. :34 Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ
who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also
makes intercession for us. :35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall*
tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? :36
As it is written: "*For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep
for the slaughter.*" :37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him
who loved us. :38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor
principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, :39 nor height nor
depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

the world tide is definitely pro-Islamic and anti-Christian.
(maybe for the wrong reasons, but its true)

Christians don't riot and burn embassies. Christians don't invade countries in the name of Jesus Christ. Christians don't kill people when someone draws a cartoon about Jesus...

Islam is The Fastest Growing Religion Now

but why ? because it's comforting? because it's peaceful ?

No to these things, **but because of what Jesus said...**

Matthew 24:11

And many false prophets will appear and will lead **many** people astray.

Galatians 1:6-9

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, :7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. :8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. :9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Matthew 7:13-15

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. :14 Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. :15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Matthew 24:24-25

For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. :25 **See, I have told you beforehand.**

Now That's Encouraging !

HOW TO WIN A WAR

3.) Make sure you're fighting to win

v. 24-25

3a.) Taking back those things that were lost

v.24

Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Ba'rah and the Jordan." Then **all the men of Ephraim** gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Ba'rah and the Jordan.

Gideon's Leadership Revived even the men of Ephraim.

for over seven years, the Midianites had encroached upon Israel's land until they had taken control of it.

1. We Need to Pray
2. We Need to Get Up
3. And then Christian, we Need to get Back to the Bible
4. And we need to give America back to God

Isaiah 58:12

"And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.

MAKING SURE YOU'RE FIGHTING TO WIN

3b.) Removing those things that cause damage v.25

And they captured the two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought **the heads** of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.

"the heads"

This is Difficult for Westerners to Embrace.

in ancient times, in the middle east mindset, the victory is not complete until the king is decapitated. even if he's dead, they will still cut off their head.

Quran

5:33-"The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: **execution** (*by beheading*), **or crucifixion**, or the **cutting off of hands and feet** from opposite sides, or exile from the land: that is their disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment is theirs in the Hereafter;"

8:12- "I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers: you shall smite them **above their necks** and all their finger-tips off."

47:4- "Therefore, when ye meet the Unbelievers (in fight), **strike off their heads**; at length; then when you have made wide Slaughter among them, carefully tie up the remaining as captives..."

9:123: "Oh ye who believe! **Murder those** of the unbelievers

2:191- "**Kill them wherever you find them**, and drive them out from wherever they drove you out."

5: 45-- "We ordained therein for them: "**Life for life, eye for eye, nose for nose, ear for ear. Tooth for tooth, and wounds equal for equal.**"

9:29-"Fight those who do not believe in God and the last day... **and fight People of the Book**, (Christian and Jews) **who do not accept the religion of truth (Islam) until they pay tribute** (Zizziya tax) by hand, being inferior."

MAKING SURE YOU'RE FIGHTING TO WIN

Such a Great Victory with So Few Men ?

The Lord doesn't need the 300 either. He involves us in His work. It's about Him judging the evil and using His people for righteousness.

The Lord Doesn't Seem to Like Using
a Big **Army**, or Big **People**, or Big **Any**...

1 Samuel 14:6-7

Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few." :7 So his armorbearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart."

Zechariah 4:6-7

So he answered and said to me: "This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. :7 "Who *are* you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you shall become* a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!' ' "

HOW TO WIN A WAR

————— *End of Study* —————