

Judges 6

King James Version (KJV)

(Approx. 1225 - 1218 BC)

6 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. (evil = THE evil <in the Hebrew manuscripts>. It means idolatry – worshipping the idol gods of the Canaanites)

(Midian was the son of Abraham by his second wife, Keturah. The Midianites were his descendants) see Genesis-25:1-3

Numbers-31 (Israel had defeated the Midianites approx 200 years earlier. Now, because Israel abandoned God, again, they became subservient to the Medianites in 1025 – 1018 BC)

(These dates include the 110 year correction due to the “year of kings” which were not always a complete year. Over the centuries, this ended up adding errors in years)

²And 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. (dens - these were ravines and caves that had been washed out in the hills through erosion. The Israelites hid there and lived there, for protection from the Midianites)

³And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; (Amalek was grandson of Esau) (the children of the east are Arabs – the descendents of Ishmael)

(Israel would do the planting. The Arabs, Medianites and Amalekites showed up at harvest time and took the food. The Israelites were starving. They abandoned God, so He stopped protecting them)

NOTE: (If we abandon God today, He will remove His protection from us as well; and the world will eat us up)

⁴And 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. (Idol worship resulted in famine for Israel because they lost their protection from God)

Amos-8:11 (The famine of the end times will be for hearing the Word of God. Most of the world has abandoned God at this time. The locust army of Satan will invade to destroy the true Word of God, and replace it with their false doctrines. We already see that today, with sermons written by ignorant preachers. These sermons have replaced the reading of God's Word in Christian churches)

⁵For 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. (They were planning to stay, and live off of the work of the Israelites. Any country that doesn't protect and defend their borders is doomed to fall)

NOTE: (Look at the Muslim "migrants" today, invading the Christian countries. They will be a part of the locust army of the end times, spoken of in Revelation. On their heads were crowns – these are wraps or turbans in the Hebrew manuscripts) see Revelation-9, Joel-2

⁶And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD. (Finally, they woke up, and started to seek God again)

⁷And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, (With God, all things are possible. No nation can stand against Almighty God)

(When I am weak, then I am strong <because of God's help and His protection>) 2Corinthians-12:10

⁸That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of 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; (God delivered them out of Egypt, the strongest nation in the known area. HE could just as easily deliver them from the Midianites, if they return to Him)

⁹And 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; (God even gave the Israelites the Canaanites' houses, gardens, wells etc. The Promised Land was in move-in condition when Israel entered) see Deuteronomy-6

Deuteronomy-32:15 (In the Song of Moses, God called Israel "Jeshurun". It means "good time charlies". When they receive God's blessings and life is good, they become proud of themselves – ego maniacs. They stray away from God <who gave them these blessings> and fall away to idol worship)

¹⁰ 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. (It's that simple. If we teach our children about God and all that He did for us, future generations could avoid a lot of trouble from the world; because of God's blessings and His protection)

NOTE: (The Canaanite tribes had mixed with Nephalim <the fallen angels> and gave birth to giants <Geeber>. God ordered them destroyed for it. Israel didn't do as God asked. Even worse, they started worshipping the made-up gods of those people and abandoned Yahoveh)

¹¹ And there came an angel of the LORD, 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. (Gideon = the cutter down <in Hebrew>; He is the 5th judge. He was a part of the tribe of Manasseh)

(People didn't normally thresh grain at the winepress. They would normally use the threshing floor. But now, they were having to do the threshing in secret, at the wine press; to keep the Midianites from taking their grain)

¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. (Angel of the Lord – God in angelic form; this is one of the many offices of God. There is one God. He has many offices – the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Melchizedek, etc)

(Gideon certainly didn't feel like a mighty man of valor – hiding while he threshed wheat. God was telling him that He will make Gideon a mighty man of valor)

¹³ 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, 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. (Oh my Lord – The word Lord is Adone <Hebrew>. It

can mean a lord that is human or one that is divine. Gideon didn't realize that he was speaking with God)

(This second word - LORD <all caps> is Yahoveh in the Hebrew manuscripts. HE is God)

¹⁴ 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? (If God sent him, he cannot fail)

(Go in this thy might – when God's Holy Spirit descends upon a person, he or she becomes very courageous and strong. This is one of God's gifts to that person. Another gift from God is wisdom and the knowledge to get things done right)

¹⁵ 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. (This word Lord – Adonay <in Hebrew> only refers to the divine. Gideon finally realizes that he is speaking with God)

¹⁶ And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. (One person can make a huge difference if God is with him or her. That's because it is God's great power and wisdom that is making the difference)

Exodus-3:12 (God told Moses the same thing) Joshua-1:5 (God told Joshua the same thing) Jeremiah-1 (God told Jeremiah the same thing)

NOTE: (God can raise whoever He chooses. No nation can stand against Almighty God)

¹⁷ And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

¹⁸ Depart not hence, I pray thee, 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. (present = minka, the meal & meat offering)

(Gideon wants to offer a sacrifice to God. God will accept his gift)

¹⁹ And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of 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.

(An ephah is about 22 lbs of flour. This is a big offering, considering he was a poor man)

²⁰ 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. (The rock is a make-shift altar for the sacrifice)

²¹ Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight. (God accepted Gideon's sacrifice. That should have been enough of a sign to Gideon; to show him that God is with him)

See Hebrews-12:29 (Our God is a consuming fire)

²² And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O LORD God! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. (This is because it was believed that only the dead can see the Lord face to face. Gideon thought he would surely die)

²³ And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. (God is not the God of fear. HE is the God of peace, to those who love Him)

²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. (This place is in the half-tribe of Manasseh, on the west side of Jordan)

(Jehovahshalom – should be translated Yahovehshalom = God's peace or the peace that God brings) (God's name is Yahoveh <YHVH>, not Jehovah) See Exodus-3:14

²⁵ And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: (Baal and the grove <Ashteroth – the phallic symbol> were the two principal deities of the Canaanites)

(By now the Israelites were deep into the same idol worship. As a nation, they had again, pretty much abandoned God. Gideon's own father was guilty of idolatry. He had an altar to Baal)

²⁶ And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

(Probably the same rock that Gideon had made an offering to God on)

²⁷ Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night. (I think this was smart. He did it when the Baal worshippers couldn't stop him. They outnumbered him and his 10 servants by a great margin)

²⁸ And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.

(The idolaters aren't going to take this well)

²⁹ 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. (Gideon's own servants ratted him out to the Baal worshippers)

³⁰ 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. (These perverts were ready to murder Gideon. They had completely lost any sense of morality)

³¹ And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? 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. (If Baal is a god, then let him punish Gideon)

NOTES: (You shouldn't have to save your god; he should be able to save you. Tell that to the Muslims today; who murder Christians and Jews in the name of Allah. Allah is the modern version of Baal – a false god)

(In the end days, antichrist <Satan> will be the new Baal. His false religion will take over the world for a period of 5 months. They will persecute the few Christians who have remained faithful to God <Yahoveh>. Most of the other Christians will believe antichrist. They will be waiting to be 'raptured' away) Matthew-24:15-25

Mark-13:14 (But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:)

Matthew-24:13-14 (But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come)

³² Therefore on that day he (Joash) called him (Gideon) Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar. (Jerubbaal = let Baal fight his own battles) (It became an honorary title associated with Gideon)

³³ Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. (children of the east – Arabs)

(They crossed the Jordan with no resistance from Israel. Israel had completely left their borders unguarded. The enemy gathered together on the west side of the Jordan for war against Israel)

³⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him. (came upon = clothed – better translation; The Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon)

(Abiezer was one of the major families of the tribe of Manasseh. They sided with Gideon against the Baal worshippers)

³⁵ And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them. (Zebulun and Naphtali were also the major helpers to Deborah in chapter 4)

NOTE: (The Spirit of God encouraged and strengthened Gideon to do what's right. He then encouraged and strengthened these other tribes to join him to do what's right by God)

³⁶ And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, (God will do the saving through Gideon)

³⁷ Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I

know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. (This floor is the threshing floor. Gideon is no longer hiding by the winepress. The Spirit of God gave him great courage)

(Gideon is asking God for a sign that this is the right thing to do)

³⁸ And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. (The fleece was very wet, but the floor was dry)

³⁹ And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. (He wants a second sign from God)

NOTE: (I don't see a problem with this. There are too many quacks today that purport to be acting on God's behalf, but are not. It's better to make sure you are doing something with God's approval, rather than to just assume that you are)

⁴⁰ And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground. (God humored him and gave him his second sign)