LESSON-11

Gideon - The Mighty Man



Do you remember who led the Israel out of Egypt? The Israelites were in the desert for forty years. After Moses, Joshua led Israel to Canaan. God was with them, killing all their enemies and sealing them in the land of Canaan. After Joshua, God raised Judges to rule the Israelites.

In the history of the Israelites during the period of Judges, there were many ups and downs. As the result of displeasing God by sinning, God used to punish the Israelites by giving them over to foreign rule. Many foreigners had ruled over them and plundered their land. But when the people would turn from their evil ways to God and cry for help, God pardoned them and raised Judges to rescue them from the foreign powers.

During one of such occasions, the Israelites were under the yoke of Midianites. They persecuted the Israelites by way of destroying their crops and looting their animals. Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help.

There was a brave and mighty man named Gideon in Israel. He was threshing some wheat secretly so the Midianites would not came and destroy it. Then an angel came and sat under an oak tree. But Gideon did not know he was an angel.

The angel said to Gideon, "The Lord is with you brave and mighty man!" Gideon answered, "If so, why has all this happened to us?"

The angel said, "Go with all your great strength, you'll win over the Midianites' Gideon: "How can I rescue Israel? I am the weakest in my tribe".

The angel: "You can do it because I will help you."

Gideon: "If you are pleased with me, give me some proof that you are really the Lord:'

Then Gideon brought some meat and unleavened bread and put on the rock before the angel. Then the angel reached out and touched the meat and the bread with the end of the stick. What surprise! Fire came out of the rock and burnt it up! Gideon then realized that It was the Lord's Angel he had seen and he was afraid.

Gideon's parents were idol-worshippers. They worshipped Baal and Asherah. That night the Lord told him, "Tear down your father's altar Baal,

Cut down the symbol of the goddess Asherah,

Build an altar with stones laid in due-order,

Take the second bull of your father which is seven years old. Offer it as a sacrifice.

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| Gideon obeyed it. From that day on, he was named "Jerubbaal".  The spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, He called men from all the tribes to follow him for battle. About thirty two thousand men joined Gideon for battle. Then Gideon  ordered:  "Whoever is fearful, let him return home".  Twenty two thousand men  returned. He took the remaining ten thousand to the  water for a test. He watched them drinking the water. He set by himself only the people who lapped the water with tongues. Such people were three hundred. He sent back all  the remaining people who knelt down to drink.  Do you know what arms they had  carried? Swords, spear or shield? No! Each of them had a Trumpet, and Empty Jar and a Torch inside the jar. |  |

They went to the camp of Midianites. in the midnight they blew the trumpets and broke the They held the torches in their left hand and the trumpets in the right and shouted:

"A sword for the Lord and for Gideon"

Then the whole enemy army ran away yelling. Thus the Lord defeated th Midianites through Gideon

*Reference: Memory Verse*

Jud.7:1-25 "The Lord does not need swords or spears to save

his people" (1 Sam.17:47)

1. *Who ruled Israel after Joshua? ...........................................................*
2. *How did Gideon realize that it was the Lord's angel?.......................................*
3. *What was the new name of Gideon? .....................................................*

*4 How many men followed Gideon at first? .................................................*

1. *How many were selected? ...............................................................*
2. *What was their slogan?..................................................................*