



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## JUDGES 6:25-32

### GIDEON DESTROYS BAAL'S ALTAR— June 13, 2021

#### INTRODUCTION:

**6:16-18** God was patient with Gideon, telling him that He would be with him. Gideon's name meant *"Mighty man of Valour"*; however, he was very fearful. Gideon is a great encouragement to people who have a hard time accepting themselves and believing that God can make anything out of them or do anything with them as an unexpected leader. Gideon now wants to see a sign if he's found grace in the sight of the Lord, and asks the angel not to depart, but stay until he brings an offering. And the angel said He would stay.

**6:19-21** Gideon hurries home to prepare a young goat (kid); roasting it, baking some unleavened bread (cakes) with a bushel of flour. He brings it all back to the Angel of the Lord by putting the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, presenting it as an offering under the oak. The Angel of the Lord then tells Gideon to take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock that served as an improvised altar and poured out the broth. And Gideon does so as instructed. The Angel of the Lord used the end of His staff that was in His hand and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And a fire arose out of the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And suddenly the Angel of the Lord was gone; vanished.

**6:22-24** Finally, Gideon realized this was the Angel of the Lord, for no one else could have brought fire up from a wet rock with a staff. He couldn't help but cry out because this wasn't something he could keep in. Seeing the Angel of the Lord face to face, he thought he was going to die because no one has seen God's face and lived. But, the Lord said Peace to him, fear not (don't be afraid) Why? He wasn't going to die. Gideon builds an altar unto the Lord, calling it Jehovah-Shalom which means *"The Lord of Peace."* This day it's still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

#### LESSON:

#### I. THE ASSIGNMENT JUDGES 6:25-26

**6:25** **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:—** After God called Gideon to be Israel's Deliver, he immediately asked him to tear down the altar of the god Baal. Mind you, this is at night. God instructed Gideon to sacrifice his father's young bullock and even a second bullock of seven years old unto the Lord. This refers to the fact that the bullock has been fattened for seven years. In addition to that, he was to tear down the altar of Baal in which his father had, and cut down the grove that's by it. Baal is *"the sun god,"* and Asherah is the *"nature goddess."*

Once Gideon was called, that also meant the family would have to come in line also. There was to be no other god before Gideon. There was no straddling with the cultic god and the true and living God. You can't worship God and turn around and worship Baal. Now, Gideon's father's name was Joash which meant *"Yahweh has given"*, yet he was apparently a priest of Baal since he maintained a Baal altar as well as the grove. <sup>1</sup>For a son to destroy a father's altar would be a serious offence. *Grove worship* was associated with the worship of Baal and Asherah. This situation gives us a glimpse into the terrible spiritual condition of the people of Israel just one century after entering into the Promised Land. They were not only willing to compromise

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/judges/07.html>  
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with pagan religion, but now they had become totally confused with their own religion.

**6:26 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.** So, before Gideon could change the nation, he had to change things in his home. This is God preparing Gideon for the big things. This victory will lead to bigger victories! Matthew 25:21b says *"...thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."* So, before going to the bigger trial, he had to start with the small thing, like tearing down Baal! It was at night when the Lord spoke to Gideon about building an altar unto the Lord his God upon the top of the rock in this ordered prepared place. And with the second bullock, he was to offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove that was torn down, meaning everything had to be torn down and burnt up in that place before the altar of the Lord was to be built and placed there. This completed the instruction of Gideon's assignment!

## II. THE ACTION JUDGES 6:27

**6:27 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.** This took great faith and great faith led to action in Gideon, yet he's still fearful to do this. He started on this right away. This had to be an enormous task for him, that might have been small for others— to go get 10 men of his servants to help him, for he was afraid of his family and of the men of the city which prevented him from doing this by day. So, he and the 10 men of his servants did what the Lord had instructed during the night.

## III. THE AFTERMATH JUDGES 6:28-32

**6:28 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.** Well, early in the morning when the men of the city rose up, they looked and saw that the altar of Baal was torn down, and the grove that was by it was also cut down as well. They also see that the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.

**6:29 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.** It was out in the open now, and the men of the city began saying to one another, who could have done this? Now, these men of the city were there to worship this Baal idol, and not finding it there has upset them. The idol had to be big, and the area had to be large that would accommodate all those people. So this Baal idol was too large just for Gideon to destroy. That's why he also needed so many men to help him destroy the idols and grove. Well, the cat's in out of the bag. They know who has done this, and called out the name of Gideon, son of Joash.

**6:30 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.** Well this is Gideon's deepest fear. The men of the city came for Gideon, and wanted to kill him. They go to Gideon's father Joash, and they say *"...Bring out your son, that he may die."* They even tell the reason because he cast down the altar of Baal and the grove by it, but they are the ones that are in the wrong by worshiping idols instead of the true and living God. But they cannot see this yet!

**6:31 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**





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**for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.** These are some powerful words coming from Gideon's father: Joash replied, *'Are you trying to support Baal? Are you trying to save him? He that pleads for him, we will kill whoever does this. We will kill them by morning. Is Baal really a god? Then he can defend himself when someone destroys his altar.'* God used Gideon's father to speak up for him. The father saw what Gideon had done, and that it took an act of bravery. The fact that Baal had been unable to stop Gideon's actions, implies that his father no longer believed that Baal was a god. The father was stunned by such action on the part of his son (who had been previously known for his cowardice) was truly turned around!

**6:32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.** So that day they named Gideon *"Jerubbaal."* This means *'Let Baal fight him'* because he cut down Baal's altar.

## SUMMARY:

After God called Gideon to be Israel's Deliver, he immediately asked him to tear down the altar of the god Baal and cut down the grove that's by it—Baal *"the sun god"* and Asherah the *"nature goddess."* He was to sacrifice his father's young bullock and even a second bullock of seven years old unto the Lord. Israel had willingly compromised with pagan religion. It was at night when the Lord spoke to Gideon about building an altar unto the Lord his God upon the top of the rock in this ordered prepared place. And with the second bullock, he was to offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove that was torn down, meaning everything had to be torn down and burnt up in that place before the altar of the Lord was to be built and placed there **(6:25-26)**.

This took great faith and great faith led to action in Gideon, yet he's still fearful to do this. He took 10 men of his servants to help, for he was afraid of his family and of the men of the city which prevented him from doing this by day. So, he and the 10 men of his servants did what the Lord had instructed during the night **(6:27)**.

The men of the city rose early in the morning, looked and saw that the altar of Baal was torn down and the grove that was by it was also cut down as well. They also saw that the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built. They're saying to one another who could have done this, for they were there to worship this Baal idol, and not finding it there, has upset them. There were those who knew who had done this, and called out the name, Gideon, son of Joash. Well this is Gideon's deepest fear. The men of the city came for Gideon, and wanted to kill him. They go to Gideon's father, Joash, and they say *"...Bring out your son, that he may die"* because he cast down the altar of Baal and the grove by it. But really they are the ones who are in the wrong by worshiping idols instead of the true and living God. Gideon's father, Joash replied, *'Are you trying to support Baal? Are you trying to save him? He that pleads for him, we will kill whoever does this. We will kill them by morning. Is Baal really a god? Then he can defend himself when someone destroys his altar.'* God used Gideon's father to speak up for him. The father saw what Gideon had done and that it took an act of bravery. The fact that Baal had been unable to stop Gideon's action, implies that his father no longer believed that Baal was a god. The father was stunned by such an action on the part of his son (who had been previously known for his cowardice) was turned around. So, that day they named Gideon *"Jerubbaal."*

This means *'Let Baal fight him'* because he cut down Baal's altar **(6:28-32)**.

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