



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## JUDGES 6:11-18

### LESSON: GIDEON'S CALL —June 11, 2017

#### INTRODUCTION:

**Chapter 6:1-10** After Israel's victory over the Canaanites and the land resting for forty years, the cycle of apostasy – punishment- deliverance is repeated because the children of Israel did evil in the eyes of God. They worshipped idols and forgot God's commandments. Perhaps after God had given them victory over the Canaanites, they were faithful in their worship to God, but that faithfulness did not last. The consequence of Israel's sin was that God handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. Each year for seven years the Midianites, the Amalekites, and people from the east would come upon the Israelites land like a plague infecting and destroying the land. These people would come each year at harvest time in so great a number that they were like locusts descending upon the land. They would come with their camels and their tents and there were so many of them they were beyond counting. They would destroy the produce of the earth, leave the land desolate as far as Gaza, take the sheep and the ox, and threaten the very lives of the Israelites. So, when the Midianites descended upon the land, the Israelites would retreat to the caves and hide themselves in dens in the mountains. This invasion happened every year for seven years, leaving the Israelites starving in utter poverty (**6:1-6**).

The Israelites became impoverished and suffered and cried out to God for relief. God heard the cries of the Israelites and sent a prophet to preach to the Israelites. This prophet was a man, (the Bible does not tell us his name) who preached the following message: Thus says the Lord God of Israel: *'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. Also I said to you, I am the Lord your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But you have not obeyed My voice'* (**6:7-10**)

#### LESSON: I. A VISIT BY THE ANGEL OF THE LORD Judges 6:11-12

**6:11** 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. While the Israelites awaited further answer from God, the angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth (oak) tree which belonged to a man named Joash the Abiezrite of the tribe of Manasseh watching Gideon as he hid from the Midianites threshing wheat! The angel of the Lord is none other than Christ Himself— the appearance of God in human form as the angel of the Yahweh. The location of Ophrah is uncertain, but here Gideon was literally hiding in the winepress where he was threshing wheat; beating out the grain secretly to keep it hidden from the enemy. He feared that they would steal it if he was caught.

*Normally, wheat was threshed (grain separated from the wheat stalks from the useless outer shell called chaff) in an open area on a threshing floor by oxen pulling threshing sledges over the stalks where the wind could blow away the lighter chaff when the farmer tossed the beaten wheat into the air.*

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**6:12** And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, **The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.** The name "*Gideon*" (he who cuts down) means "*Destroyer*," "*Mighty warrior*" or "*Feller (of trees)*." God chose Gideon, a young man from an otherwise unremarkable clan from the tribe of Manasseh, to free the people of Israel from Midian, and to condemn their worship of idols. When the Angel of the Lord said that the Lord was with Gideon, what he meant, and what Gideon understood him to be saying, confused him. So, when the Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said, "*The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor*" it meant that he was a man against whom no one would be able to stand against, and that he would have success wherever he went.

## II. AN ANSWER TO DOUBTS Judges 6:13-14

**6:13** 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.** Gideon questions the angel, for he failed to see how God was going to work through him. Gideon reminds the angel of his present and past circumstances, that if the Lord is with them, why then has all this happened to them? It must be remembered that this was a new generation who had not seen the miracles of the past. They didn't see the miracles which their fathers told them about: bringing them up from Egypt. But now he only sees the Lord has forsaken them and delivered them into the hands of the Midianites. So, Gideon's questions began with, "*...if the Lord..., ...why then...?, ...and where be all the miracles...? ...and Did not the Lord...?*" Gideon can't see the positive.

**6:14** 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?**— The angel of the Lord was God Himself speaking, telling **Gibeon**, "**Go in this might.**" What might? Well, He called him **mighty man of valour** (6:13). God saw his potential!

- Gideon had the **might** of the humble, threshing wheat on the winepress floor.
- Gideon had the **might** of the caring, because he cared about the low place of Israel.
- Gideon had the **might** of knowledge, because he heard of God doing great things in the past.
- Gideon had the **might** of the spiritually hungry because he wanted to see God do those great works he's heard about.
- Gideon had the **might** of the teachable, because he listened to what the Angel of the Lord said.
- Gideon had the **might** of the weak, and God's strength is perfected in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Going in the strength that God has given him, he was to save Israel from the hands of the Midianites. The angel's assurance points to: "**Have not I sent thee?**" Now, Gideon has to recognize this message from God and receive that he is a mighty man of valor. It is important to know that God sends us, but it's even greater to know that He's with us and going before us.

## III. THE PERSISTENCE OF DOUBTS Judges 6:15-18

**6:15** 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.** He continues to sell himself short; even his family. He made excuses for himself to the Lord. He interjected that his family in Manasseh was poor, and that he was the least in his father's house. He was the youngest son of his family and they were an insignificant family from a militarily impoverished tribe. In essence, he was saying that he was not qualified for this task; neither

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was his family, nor his tribe.

**6:16** And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. Nevertheless, God is still assuring Gideon by telling him that He would be with him as Gideon strikes down the Midianites, with a force as if he and God were one man. **Gideon** will soon become the **fifth judge** over Israel.

**6:17** And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me. Well, the nerve of Gideon, he asks for a sign; some kind of visual proof from the angel that comes from the presence of God. He can't believe that he's truly found grace in the sight of God; that God would be with him, or that God is sending him to strike down the Midianites.

**6:18** 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. Gideon didn't want the angel of the Lord to leave until he brought forth an offering. And the angel of the Lord agreed to tarry there until Gideon comes back.

## SUMMARY:

Gideon, the son of Joash the Abiezrite was hiding from the Midianites as he threshed wheat by the winepress, when the angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel of the Lord sat under an oak tree speaking to him, saying that the Lord is with him— mighty man of valour. (**6:11-12**).

Gideon's question was that if the Lord was with them, why had the Midianites come upon them, and where are all the miracles their fathers told them of? Gideon confesses the Lord has forsaken them and delivered them into the hands of the Midianites. The angel of the Lord was God Himself speaking, telling Gideon, "*Go in this might*" meaning go in the strength He had given him to save Israel from the hands of the Midianites. God affirms to him— "*Have not I sent thee?*" In short, God recognizes in Gideon something that Gideon does not see himself (**6:13-14**).

Gideon thought so little of himself, and was so filled with doubt and unbelief. He interjected that his family in Manasseh was poor, and that he was the least in his father's house. But, God was patient with him, telling him that He would be with him. God sees our potential for what we can become, as He works in our lives. 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 (**6:15-18**).