If God doesn't judge America, He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.
Ruth Graham

Prayer Study #477

GIDEON AS A TYPE OF WARRIOR IN THE LAST DAYS

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CHARACTERISTICS OF GIDEON

1. **HE HAD A PROPHETIC NAME**. Gideon means *He that bruises* or *Great Warrior* or Destroyer. Romans 4:17: *As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations, before Him Whom He believed, even God who quickens the dead and calls those things which be not as though they were.*
2. **HE WAS AN UNLIKELY CANDIDATE**.
   a. **He is full of fear.** Judges 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 Miianites.* Judges 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.*
   b. **He questioned and blamed God for his present circumstances.** Judges 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 has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.* The words Gideon speaks lack FAITH and breath oppression. The Lord had not forsaken Israel. Israel had forsaken the Lord, and that is why they had all these problems.
   c. **He makes excuses to rationalize why He cannot be used by God.** Judges 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.*
   d. He came from an idolatrous family. Judges 6:25: *And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take your father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years*

old, and throw down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the grove that is by it.

3. **ONCE CALLED, HE WALKED IN OBEDIENCE, BUILDING AN ALTAR TO GOD AFTER DESTROYING THE ALTAR TO BAAL.** Obedience is very important to the Lord. Samuel tells us that "Obedience is better than sacrifice" (1st Samuel 15:22). We follow the Pattern Son. *Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and being made perfect* [the perfect or complete sacrifice], *became the Author of Eternal Salvation unto all them who obey Him* (Hebrews 5:9).
4. **HE HAD A NEW NAME.** *Therefore on that day he* [Gideon's father] *called him Jerubbaal* [*Is an idol anything?* Or *Discomforter of Baal*]…(Judges 6:32).
5. **HE HAD THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.** *But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer* [i.e. Abiezer's whole family, probably numbering in the thousands] *was gathered unto him. And he send messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also gathered after him; and he sent messengers unto Asher and unto Zebulon and unto Naphtali and they came up to meet with them.* (Judges 6:34). *Abiezer* means *father of help.* The Lord always supplies help when we walk in obedience and are doing His business.
6. **HE KNEW WHERE HIS HELP CAME FROM.** *And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me, saying, My own hand has saved me* (Judges 7:2). Man tries to work out his own salvation when he really needs only to rely on the Lord for victory.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ARMY

1. **THEY WERE FEARLESS.** WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? BECAUSE FEAR IS THE OPPOSITE OF FAITH. Ephesians 6:16: *Above all, taking the Shield of Faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

   Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand (Judges 7:3).
2. **THEY WERE WATCHFUL.** *And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I*

will try them for you there; and it shall be, that of whom I say unto you, This shall not go with you, the same shall not go. So he brought down the people unto the water; and the LORD said unto Gideon, Everyone who laps of the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, him shall you set by himself; likewise everyone who bows down upon his knees to drink. And the number of them who lapped, putting their hands to their mouth, were three hundred men; but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. And the LORD said to Gideon, By the three hundred men who lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand; and let all the other people go every man unto his place. So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets; and he sent all the rest of Israel ever man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men; and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley. Those who kneeled and drank were not watchful. Those who lapped had a hand free to fight and were able to keep watch. This latter group using their hands to cup up the water symbolizes the five-fold ministry and the anointing.

TYPES OF WEAPONS FOR LAST DAYS' WARFARE

And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers [clay pitchers] (Judges 7:16).

1. **THE WORD:** *When I blow with a trumpet, I and all who are with me, then blow you the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The Sword of the LORD and of Gideon* (Judges 7:18). We know the sword in scripture represents the Word of God. Ephesians 6:17: *And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.* The Word of God essentially is the story of Christ and the Cross.
2. **TRUMPETS:** *So Gideon, and the hundred men who were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch* [close to 11 PM]; *and they blew the trumpets…*(Judges 7:19).

   Trumpets represent prophetic utterance. In the Last Days prophecy will be increasingly important. That is why many

false prophets will be operating in the time before the Second Coming. Yet we have this promise from the Word: *Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He reveals His secret unto His Servants the Prophets* (Amos 3:7). And Revelation 19:10 reminds us: *And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See you do it not; I am your fellowservant and of your Brethren who have the Testimony of Jesus: Worship God, for the Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy.*

3. **LAMPS:** The Lamp represents the Holy Spirit. 2nd Samuel 22:29: *For You are my Lamp, O LORD, and the LORD will lighten my darkness.*
4. **BROKEN PITCHERS:** 2nd Corinthians 4:7: *But we have this treasure* [Christ in you, the Hope of Glory] *in earthen vessels that the excellency of the Power may be of God, and not of us.*

THE VICTORY

Judges 7:20: *And the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers and held their lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal; and they cried, The Sword of the LORD and of Gideon. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp; and all the host ran and cried and fled. And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the hosts, and the host fled…* The Midianites, thinking the enemy was upon them, not being able in the dark to tell who was friend or foe, mistook their own people who were running from the pursing Israelites and killed one another.

The Midianites lived in what is now Western Saudi Arabia and Southern Jordan.