

Judges 7:1 - 8:32

Gideon:

The Fifth Judge:

Part II: The Resolution

I. Review

A. Prologues

1. Background (1:1 - 2:5)
2. Overview (2:6 - 3:11)

B. The Major Judges:

1. Ehud Ben-Gera, the Left-Handed Benjamite, assassinated Eglon, King of Moab and captured the Fords of Jordan (3:12-31)
2. Deborah and Barak Ben-Abinoam defeated Jabin, King of Canaan's army, and Sisera, the commander, was killed by Jael (4 - 5)
3. Gideon Ben-Joash
 - i. The Call of Gideon (6:11-16)
 - ii. Gideon tests God the first time. (6:17-24)
 - iii. Religious Reform Within His Own Family (6:25-32)
 - iv. The Gathering of Troops (6:33-35; 7:1)
 - a. Midianites and Allies (135,000): Valley of Jezreel¹ north of the Hill of Moreh near En-Dor
 - b. Israel (32,000 from Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali): En-Harod, 4 miles south of the Midianites
 - v. Gideon tests God the second and third times. (6:36-40)

II. Details

F. The Deliverance

6. Choosing of Only 300 Men (7:1-8)
7. Gideon spies on the Midianites. (7:9-14)

¹ Valley of Jezreel: Jezreel means "God scatters" or "God sows"; also known as the Plain of Meggido; King Ahab later kept a palace somewhere in this plain and he and Jezebel died there; site of numerous battles in history: Pharaoh Thutmose III defeated a Canaanite army there in 1468 BC; Barak earlier defeated the Canaanites there (4:13); King Josiah of Judah died in battle against Pharaoh Neco II of Egypt there in 609 BC (2 Ki 23:29; 2 Ch 35:20-24); Napoleon defeated the Turks there in 1799 (taking advantage of the flooding of the Kishon River); British General Allenby defeated the Palestinian Turks there in 1917

8. The Battle (7:15-23)
 9. Gideon calls for reinforcements to pursue the enemy southeast. (7:24)
 10. Ephraim takes the fords of the Jordan and kills Oreb and Zeeb. (7-24 - 8:3)
 11. Gideon pursues the enemy across the Jordan and captures Zebah and Zalmunna. (8:4-12)
 12. Gideon punishes the cities of Succoth and Penuel². (8:13-17)
 13. Execution of Zebah and Zalmunna (8:18-21)
 14. Gideon rejects the offer to be king. (8:22-23)
 15. Gideon makes an ephod³. (8:24-27)
- A. Rest for one generation (40 yr) (8:28)**
- B. The Leader Dies (8:29-32)**

III. Application and Discussion

- H. Was there any significance in choosing the 300 men who lapped?**
- I. What was the logic behind Gideon's battle plan?**
- J. Why did Gideon attempt to placate the wrath of Ephraim yet punished the cities of Succoth and Penuel?**
- K. Why did Gideon make the "ephod"?**
- L. Was having 70 sons a good thing or a bad thing?**

² Penuel: the place where Jacob wrestled with God

³ Ephod: in this case, probably a memorial statue or ornament