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Lesson 80 Gideon Defeats the Midianites – Part 1	
<ul> <li>Text: Judges 7:8-23</li> <li>Setting: circa 1249 B.C. near the valley of Jezreel</li> <li>Main Characters: God and Gideon (Jerubbaal)</li> <li>Plot: Gideon defeats the Midianite horde with a small army.</li> <li>Key word(s): "the of the LORD " (7:18,20)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Climax: Judges 7:20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the 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.</li> </ul>

## Review

 (6:33-7:7) Gideon, ever struggling with the need for assurance in God's promises, tested God twice by "putting out the fleece." God graciously acquiesced to Gideon's weaknes, but responded with two tests for Gideon's faith: reducing his army's number from thirty-two thousand down to ten thousand and then again down to a mere \_\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Barley Cake Dream**

- 2. (vv 9-12) The same night of the fleece-sign, God told Gideon to attack the Midianite camp; but if he was too afraid to begin the assault, he could have one more sign of sure victory:
  - a. Gideon was instructed to go down to the edge of the Midianite encampment along with his servant . There he would hear something that would embolden him for his mission.
  - b. Gideon did so, and, with Phurah in tow, they reconnoitered the Midianite camp and overheard two soldiers talking:
    - i. (v 13) One soldier told his comrade that he had a dream wherein a \_\_\_\_\_\_ cake rolled into a Midianite tent, knocked it down, and turned it inside out.
    - ii. (v 14) The other soldier gave the interpretation of the strange dream, saying, "This is nothing else save the sword of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host."

APPLICATION  $\rightarrow$  A barley cake is an appropriate symbol for Gideon since he was visited by an angel while he threshed wheat (6:11) and made a cake of unleavened flour for his angelic visitor (6:19). Additionally, barley cake was considered by many as a "\_\_\_\_\_\_ food," which coincides with Gideon's estimation of himself (cf 6:15). Furthermore, the humble barley cake was also a fitting representation of Gideon's small army, whose chances of defeating the Midianites were the same as a small barley loaf sturdy army tent being destroyed by.

iii. Hearing the dream's interpretation, Gideon immediately \_\_\_\_\_\_ God. His faith emboldened, he returned to his band of three hundred and announced, "Arise; for the Lord hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian."

APPLICATION  $\rightarrow$  God gave Gideon this final assuring sign the very night he was to attack the Midianites. Matthew Henry notes, "Divine consolations are given in to believers not only strongly but \_\_\_\_\_\_."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 344.

## Blowing Trumpets, Breaking Pitchers, and Burning Lamps

- 3. (vv 16-18) Returning to base camp, Gideon instructed the three hundred soldiers how they will defeat the Midianite horde:
  - a. Each Hebrew soldier was to take a trumpet and pitcher (left from those soldiers that had departed earlier, cf. v 8) and place a \_\_\_\_\_\_ (KJV:lamp) inside the pitcher.

- b. The 300 were split into the bands of 100, which would encircle the entire Midianite encampment.
- 4. (vv 19-23) God blessed Gideon's plan, and it worked flawlessly. The Midianites and their confederates were thrown into confusion, which lead to massive "\_\_\_\_\_\_" casualties and a hurried retreat.

APPLICATION  $\rightarrow$  Matthew Henry gives us an edifying word when he compares Gideon's victory to "the destruction of the devil's kingdom in the world by the preaching of the everlasting gospel, the sounding of that trumpet, and the holding forth of that light out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vessels, for such the ministers of the gospel are, in whom the treasure of that light is deposited, 2 Co. 4:6, 7. Thus God chose the *foolish things of the world to confound the wise*, a barley-cake to overthrow the tents of Midian, that the *excellency of the power might be of God only;* the gospel is a sword, not in the hand, but in the mouth, the sword *of the Lord and of Gideon*, of God and Jesus Christ, him that sits on the throne and the Lamb."<sup>3</sup>

**Answer Key:** Key word(s): sword • 1. 300 • 2. a. Phurah; b. i. barley; ii. Gideon  $\rightarrow$  commoner's; iii. worshiped  $\rightarrow$  seasonably • 3. a. torch; c. legion • 4. friendly fire  $\rightarrow$  earthen

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005), 278. <sup>3</sup> Henry, 344.