

JUDGES 6 vs 1

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The author of this book is uncertain, some suggest Samuel, the high priest. It was written around 1050-1000bc. The events in the book cover the stormy period of the history of Israel between their return from Egypt until the time a monarchy was set in place. The judges were military and civil leaders during the confederacy of the 12 tribes plus Ephraim and Manasseh who occupied the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Book of Judges



The Lord calls on Gideon,

¹ And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

² And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of Midian the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strongholds.

³ And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up with the Amalekites, and the children of the east, and went against them;

⁴ so they camped against them, and destroyed the produce of the earth, as far as Gaza, and left no sustenance in Israel, or for the sheep, ox, or ass.

⁵ For they would come up with their cattle and their tents, and they came like a multitude of locusts; both they and their camels were innumerable: and they came to the land to destroy it.

⁶ So Israel was brought low because of Midian; and the children of Israel cried to the LORD.

⁷ And it happened, when the children of Israel cried to the LORD because of Midian,

⁸ that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, Thus says the LORD the God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you out of the house of slavery;

⁹ and I delivered you from the hands of the Egyptians, and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and dispossessed them before you, and gave you their land;

¹⁰ And I said to you, I am the LORD your God; you will not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live:

but you have not obeyed Me.

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11 Then the angel of the LORD came and sat under an oak that was in Ophrah, that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite: as his son Gideon threshing wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him,

The LORD is with you, the One who is a mighty warrior.

13 Then Gideon said to him, Oh my LORD, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? and where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? But now the LORD has abandoned us, and given us into the hand of Midian.

14 And the LORD looked at him, and said, Go in your strength, and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have not I sent you?

15 And he said to Him, O LORD, how will I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in the house of my father.

16 But the LORD said to him, Surely I will be with you, and you will defeat Midian as one man.

17 So Gideon said to Him, If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who speaks with me.

18 Please do not depart, until I come back to You, and bring out my offering, and set it before You.

And He said, I will wait until you come again.

19 Then Gideon went in, and prepared a lamb, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour: he put the meat in a basket, and the broth in a pot, and brought it out to him under the oak, and presented them.

20 And the angel of God said to him, Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

21 Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and unleavened cakes; and fire arose from the rock, and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.

22 When Gideon perceived that He was the angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O LORD God! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.

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23 And the LORD said to him, Peace be to you; do not fear: you will not die.

24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

25 Now the same night, it happened that the LORD said to him, Take the young bull of your father, and a second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it:

26 and build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of this rock, in an orderly manner, and take the second bull, and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you will cut down.

27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD said to him: and so it was, because he feared the household of his father, and the men of the city, to do it by day, that he did it by night.

28 When the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was pulled down, and the Asherah grove by it was cut down, and the second bull was offered on the altar that was built.

29 And they said to one another, Who has done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash did this thing.

30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he has pulled down the altar of Baal, and because he cut down the Asherah that was by it.

31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, Will you contend for Baal? Or will you deliver him? Whoever will plead for him, let him be put to death by morning: if he is a god, let him contend for himself, because someone has pulled down his altar.

32 Therefore on that day he named him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal contend against him, because he had pulled down his altar.

33 Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east assembled themselves together, and crossed over, and camped in the valley of Jezreel.

34 So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezrites gathered to follow him.

35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; and they were also gathered to follow him: and he sent messengers to Asher, and to Zebulun, and to Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

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³⁶ And Gideon said to God, If You will deliver Israel by my hand, as You have said,

³⁷ behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if the dew is on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that You will deliver Israel by my hand, as You have said.

³⁸ And it was so. When he arose early the next morning, and squeezed the fleece together, he wringed out the dew from the fleece, a bowl full of water.

³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, Do not let Your anger burn against me, that I may speak once more: please let me test once more with the fleece; let it now only be dry on the fleece, and let there be dew on all the ground.

⁴⁰ And God did so that night: for it was dry only on the fleece, and there was dew on all the ground.

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