

JUDGES 7 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



Gideon and his men are victorious,

¹ Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people who were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the army of Midian was on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

² And the LORD said to Gideon, The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, lest Israel brag, and say against Me, My own hand has saved me.

³ Now therefore go, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return and depart from Mount Gilead. So 22,000 people returned; and there remained 10,000.

⁴ And the LORD said to Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. And it will be, that of whom I say to you, This one will go with you, then he will go with you; and of whom I say, This one will not go with you, he will not go.

⁵ So he brought the people down to the water: and the LORD said to Gideon, you will set aside everyone who laps the water like a dog laps with its tongue; and everyone who bends and kneels to drink.

⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bent and kneeled to drink water.

⁷ And the LORD said to Gideon, **By the 300 who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midian into your hand: and let all the other people go, each man to his home.**

⁸ So the 300 people took provisions in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel each man to his tent, and retained the three hundred men: and the army of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹ And that night it happened, that the LORD said to him, Arise, go down against the army; for I have delivered it into your hand.

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¹⁰ But if you fear to go down, go with Purah your servant down to their camp:

¹¹ and you will hear what they say; and afterward your hands will be strengthened to go down against their army. Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outposts of their army that was in the camp.

¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the warriors of the east were laying in the valley as numerous as locust; and their camels were innumerable, as sand on the seashore.

¹³ And when Gideon came, behold, a man who told a dream to his friend, said, Behold, I had a dream, and mark this, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the army of Midian, and it came to a tent, and struck it so that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay flat.

¹⁴ And his friend answered and said, This is nothing other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand God has delivered Midian, and all the army.

¹⁵ And when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and its interpretation, that he bowed in worship, and returned to the army of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD has delivered into your hand the army of Midian.

¹⁶ And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet, with an empty pitcher into the hand of each man, and torches inside the pitchers.

¹⁷ And he said to them, Look at me, and do likewise. When you see me come to the outskirts of the camp, then what I do, you do.

¹⁸ When I and all who are with me blow a trumpet, then you also blow your trumpets around the camp, and shout, **The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.**

¹⁹ So Gideon, and the hundred men who were with him, came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch; and they had just set the new guards: and they blew the trumpets, and smashed the pitchers that were in their hands.

²⁰ And the three companies blew the trumpets, and smashed their pitchers, and held the torches in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing: and they shouted, **The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.**

²¹ And each man stood in his place around the camp; and all the army ran, crying out as they fled.

²² And **the 300** blew trumpets, and the LORD set the sword of one against his fellow, even throughout all the camp: and the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.

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²³ And the men of Israel were summoned from Naphtali, and from Asher, and from all Manasseh, and they pursued Midian.

²⁴ And Gideon sent messengers throughout all the hill country of Ephraim, saying, come down against Midian, and take the waters before them as far as Beth-barah and the Jordan. So all the men of Ephraim gathered, and took the waters to Beth-barah and the Jordan.

²⁵ And they took two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb; and they killed Oreb at the rock Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon from the other side of the Jordan.

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