

Lesson #10 – Using Unusual Weapons

We studied last week that God raised up judges to lead the Israelites after they had mingled with the heathens of Canaan and become sinful also. The first 3 judges were Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar. However, after each judge died, the Israelites would fall back into sin.

God let some of the nations overcome the Israelites and make them slaves. After a while they came under the rule of Jabin the Canannite king. He was very powerful with 900 chariots and many horsemen. The captain of his host was a man named Sisera.

God raised up a woman judge named Deborah who wanted to get the Israelites out of slavery again. She had her court or office under a palm tree, and people came to her for advice.

Deborah sent for Barak and asked him to gather 10,000 men to fight Sisera and the army. Barak was afraid to do this, and he asked Deborah to go with him. Deborah agreed, but she warned Barak that he would receive no honor for the victory but it would go to a woman.

Ten thousand men followed Deborah and Barak. The Lord was with them and the Israelite army was winning the battle. Sisera fled on foot and ran to the tent of Jael where he thought he would be safe.

Jael took him in to her tent and Sisera fell asleep. She then put a tent peg through his temple (head) as he slept. She received the honor Deborah talked about, and Israel was at rest 40 years.

When Deborah died, Israel sinned again. Once again they asked God for help. This time God sent an angel to a young man named Gideon who was a man of valor or honor. The Angel asked Gideon to deliver Israel from the oppressive Midianites.

Gideon asked for a sign that God would be with him for Gideon was not a warrior. God agreed but first Gideon was to take 10 men and tear down the idol of Baal's altar and build a new altar to the true God. The idol worshippers were angry when they saw that their idol was destroyed, and they were ready to fight.

Gideon placed a wool fleece on the ground that night. If it was wet and the ground dry, he would know God was with him. The next morning, Gideon wrung out a bowl

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of water from the fleece. The next night the fleece was to be dry and the ground wet. This was so, and Gideon accepted the challenge to fight.

Gideon had 32,000 men to fight but God said that was too many. He was to send any man home who was afraid, and 22,000 went home. Only 10,000 remained, but God said that was still too many.

Gideon took the men to the water to drink. Any who knelt down and lapped the water like a dog were to go home. After this only 300 were left. Gideon's army surprised the Medianite Army that night. His men had trumpets and torches with covers over them.

When Gideon gave the word, his men broke the covers and the flaming torches lighted the way. They blew the trumpets and shouted, "The sword of the Lord and Gideon." The Midianites awoke and ran and fought each other to get away.

A great victory was won by God that night as 300 men showed their faith in God. Gideon became a great leader for the people because of his courage.

True and False Questions

- T F 1. There was no woman judge.
- T F 2. Deborah judged under a palm tree.
- T. F 3. Barak was a brave man.
- T F 4. Deborah helped Barak.
- T F 5. Sisera fled the battle.
- T F 6. Jael was a good friend.
- T F 7. Gideon was a rich man.
- T F 8. An angel came to Gideon.
- T F 9. Gideon needed a sign.
- T F 10. The Israelite Army got down to 500 men.
- T F 11. Gideon destroyed the idols.
- T F 12. Gideon's army had torches and trumpets.
- T F 13. The Midianites won the battle.
- T F 14. God won the battle with Gideon's army.