

# Gideon

## What God Can Do With a Few

### Judges 7:1-8

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The story of Gideon, a judge over Israel, centers on one particular event—his victory over Midian with an army of but 300 men. This victory, though the signature event of his life, is only a part of a larger, more interesting story. Let's have a look at the BIG PICTURE.

#### **An Overview of Gideon's Life (Jud. 6:1-8:35)**

- Israel given into the hands of Midian for seven years.
- The Angel of the Lord appears to Gideon.
  - Deliverance promised.
  - Gideon requires signs
  - He destroys the idolatrous shrine of his father, but only under the cover of night.
  - His father intercedes for him.
- Midian and the Amalekites come against Israel.
  - Gideon requires two more signs.
  - God reduces Gideon's army.
  - With 300 men, God brings Gideon a great victory.
  - Israel enjoys forty years of peace.
  - When Gideon died, Israel goes back to idols.

#### **What Lessons Might We Learn?**

- Numbers are not the whole story (cf. Deut. 8:11-18; I Sam. 14:6).
  - Our plans must include God.
  - We can and must think BIG even when our resources are small (cf. Rev. 3:8-10).
- Faith changes our perspective (Heb. 11:1; II Cor. 5:7).
  - Moses (Heb. 11:24-27).
  - Abraham (Gen. 15:6).
  - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (Dan. 3:16-18).
- Providence is a powerful thing (Acts 27:14-44).
  - Esther (Esth. 4:14).
  - Joseph (Gen. 45:1-8).

Gideon was not a man of great faith; he needed constant reassurance. Yet, God was able to use him in a great way. Strength, resources, numbers, and all such things have a place, but never can they compare with the place of God. Let's give God our little bit and see what might happen (cf. Eph. 3:20-21; Jer. 9:23-24).