

Gideon's Army and the Battle of Midian

Judges 6:12, 7:1-25

Israel did evil in the sight of Yahweh so Yahweh gave them into the hand of Midian for seven years. Gideon, also known as Jerubbaal, was chosen by Yahweh to fight the army of Midian. They camped by the spring of Harod, and the army of Midian was north of him on Mount Moreh, in the valley.

Yahweh said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, that Israel not glorify itself against Me, saying, My hand has delivered me. Cry in the ears of the people, saying, "whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return and leave Mount Gilead."

Twenty two thousand of the people returned and ten thousand were left. Yahweh said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Bring them down to the water, and I will refine them for you there."

Gideon brought the people down to the water. Yahweh said to him, "Everyone who laps of the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set him apart. And everyone who bows on his knees to drink, set apart."

The number of those lapping with their hand to their mouth was three hundred men. All the rest of the people bowed down on their knees to drink water. Yahweh said to Gideon, "I will deliver you by the three hundred men who lapped, and shall give Midian into your hand."

Gideon sent away every man of Israel, each to his tent. But he kept the three hundred men. The camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

It happened on that night, Yahweh said to him, "Rise up, go down to the camp, for I have given it into your hand. If you are afraid to go down, you and your young man Purah go down to the camp. You shall hear what they say and afterward your hand shall be made stronger, and you shall go down against the army."

He went down, he and his young man Purah, to the edge of the battle alignment in the camp. Midian and Amalek, and all the sons of the east, were lying in the valley.

Gideon came; and, behold, a man was telling a dream to his companion. He said, "Behold, I have dreamed a dream and a cake of barley bread was tumbling into the camp of Midian. It came to the tent and struck it, and it fell, and turned it upside down; and the tent fell down." His companion answered and said, "This is nothing but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel. Elohim has given Midian and all the army into his hand." It happened when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and its interpretation, he worshiped. He returned to the army of Israel and said, "Rise up, for Yahweh has given the army of Midian into your hand."

He divided the three hundred men into three companies. He put a ram's horn in the hand of all of them, and empty jars, and torches inside the jars. He said to them, "Look at me, and do this; even behold, I am coming to the edge of the camp. It shall be, as I do, so you shall do. I shall blow with a ram's horn, I and all who are with me. You shall blow with the ram's horns, you also all around the camp, and shall shout, **For Yahweh and for Gideon!**"

Gideon came, and the hundred men with him, to the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch. They blew with the ram's horns, and shattered the jars in their hand.

The three companies blew with their ram's horns, and broke the jars, and held the torches in their left hand; and in their right hand the ram's horns, and they cried out, "**A sword for Yahweh and for Gideon!**"

Each one stood in his place, all around the army. All the army ran, and they shouted, and they fled.

The three hundred blew the ram's horns, and Yahweh caused the army to fight against each other with their own swords. The army fled and the men of Israel from Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh, chased Midian.

Gideon sent messengers to all the hills of Ephraim, saying, "Come down to meet Midian, and capture the waters before them as far as Beth-Barah and the Jordan." Every man of Ephraim was called up, and they captured the waters and they captured the two rulers of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb.

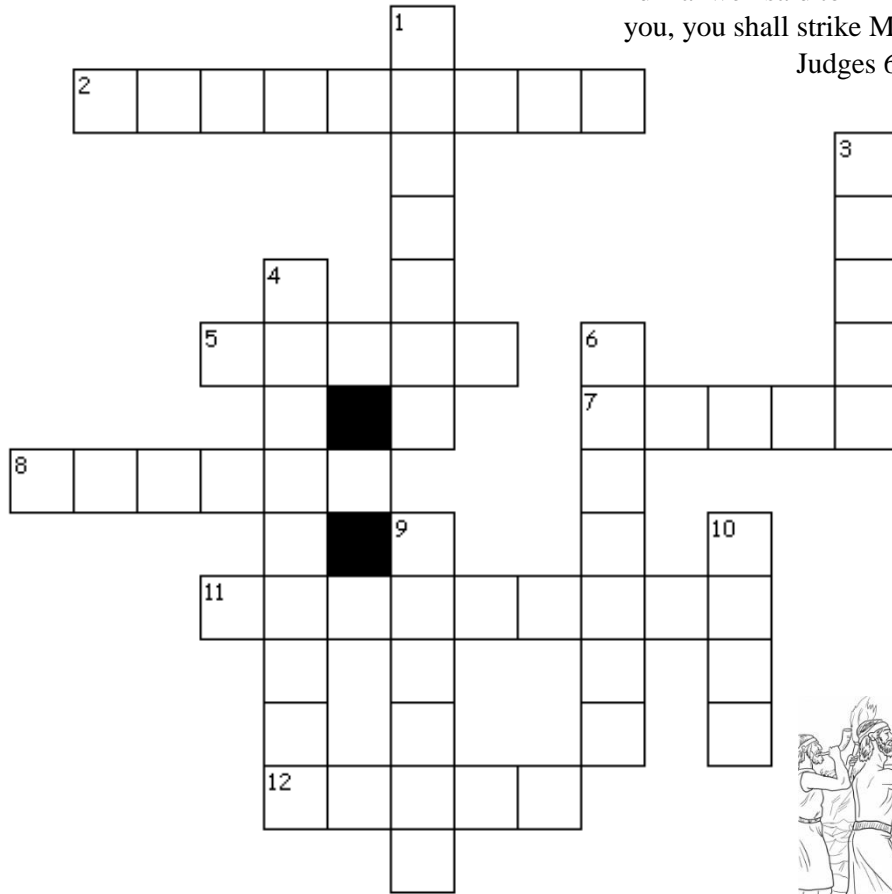


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And Yahweh said to him, because I am with you, you shall strike Midian as one man.

Judges 6:16



Across

2. What did Gideon put in the hands of all the people?
5. The number of those lapping with their hand to their mouth was _____ hundred.
7. What was the name of the young man that Gideon took with him to the edge of the Midian camp?
8. How many thousands of men turned back when Gideon told the fearful and trembling to leave?
11. What other name was Gideon also known by?
12. Gideon came to the edge of the Midian camp and heard a man telling a _____ to his companion.

Down

1. What did Gideon and the army put inside the jars?
3. What was the name of Gideon's father?
4. Gideon and the army blew the Ram's Horns and _____ the jars in their hands.
6. Gideon sent messengers to the hills of which tribe, saying "come down to meet Midian?"
9. In which book of the bible can you find this story?
10. What did they Midian army do when they heard Gideon and his army?

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R A M S H O R N S S K P R D Y
C C W A P D J R W H N M A A A
G P P A A A A A G O E A V E N
T N T E T J L D U U E C N R U
C O L N Y E E N Z T S Q L B D
D I R T O L R M A E R D E Y P
G Z P C I E N A I D I M A E U
D M Y V H B D J F S J P R L B
E Z E R J E K I W I U Z S R R
A R M Y W R S O G R X K I A K
T O N G U E B C A Q H U E B F
L S M I G F V H E J C K R J A

Army

Barley Bread

Bows

Camp

Deliver

Dream

Empty Jars

Gideon

Gilead

Israel

Knees

Laps

Midian

Purah

Rams Horns

Ran

Shouted

Tongues

Torches

Water

And the messenger of Yahweh appeared to him, and said to him, Yahweh is with you, mighty warrior of valor.

Judges 6:12

