

Judges 7:1 - 8:32
Gideon - Part 2
Lesson 4

God chose Gideon, an unlikely young farmer, to lead His people to victory. Although Gideon doubted his abilities, God was patient and brought him to a position where he could be used mightily.

Gideon & the Midianites - 7:1-25

1. The name given to Gideon in 6:32, Jerub-Baal (meaning *let Baal contend*) is used in 7:1. What does that name say to you?
2. The Lord's preparation of Gideon's army began in an unusual way. Please explain using Judges 7:1-3.
3. According to "The Law" in Deut. 20:1 & 8, what and why was this allowed?
4. With over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the army leaving in fear, what does that tell you about Midian?
 - About Israel?
5. God said to Gideon there were still too many men. Next He was to "sift" them. What does "sift" mean to you?
6. What was God's sifting process and the result? (vs. 7:4-8)
7. With the army complete, the supplies were transferred to the fighting men and they were ready to go. The night before the battle, what was Gideon's mental state and how did God reassure him? (vs. 7:9-14)

8. What was Gideon's response to what he heard? (vs. 7:15)
9. What weapons did they take to fight these mighty Midianites? Please comment. (vs. 7:16)
10. What was their battle strategy? (vs. 7:17-18)
11. Describe how the battle went? (vs. 7:19-22)
12. Gideon sent for reinforcements. Which tribes were called upon and why do you think these particular tribes were called? (vs. 7:23-25)

The Consequences of Victory - 8:1-32

13. The tribe of Ephraim grumbled and complained after the victory. What happened? (vs. 8:1-3)
14. A matter had come up during the battle regarding the city of Succoth that needed to be dealt with. What tribe was the city of Succoth part of? (Joshua 13:24-28)
15. What was the situation? (vs. 8:4-9)
 - Why do you think Succoth (& Peniel) did this?

16. How did Gideon deal with this situation? (vs. 8:10-17)
17. Zebah & Zalmunna, the two Midianite kings, were dealt with next. What happened? (vs. 8:18-21)
18. Victory at last! What was the request of these thankful people? (vs. 8:22)
19. Gideon's answer was right on. What did he say? (vs. 8:23)
20. He did have a request though. Explain his request and comment on Judges 8:24-26.
21. What was the result of this tribute? (vs. 8:27)
22. What was recorded as Gideon's epitaph? (vs. 8:28-32)

Think about it!

Gideon's choices drove his life and had a powerful effect on those around him. His one military campaign was a huge success and afterwards his faith in the Lord was strong; *"I will not rule over you ... the Lord will rule over you."* How different his legacy turned out, however, from Joshua's. Both were used by God but of Joshua we read *"Joshua, son of Nun, servant of the Lord died at 110 ... Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua."* Joshua 24:29,31. And of Gideon, *"He made the gold into an ephod. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshipping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family."* Judges 8:27.

What legacy will you leave for your family by the choices you make today? Think about it!