

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE LORD SENT A PROPHET UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

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SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 12, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **JUDGES 6:1-13**

Judges 6:6-10, 6: *And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD. 7:* *And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, 8:* **That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel,** *which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; 9:* *And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; 10:* *And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.*

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message January 12, 2020

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Today we are going to deal with a man God called by the name of Gideon.
- b. Moses had passed his staff to Joshua.
- c. Joshua has now died, and the Bible says in **Judges 17:6, In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.**
- d. Israel entered the land with high anticipation, with the main message of love and obedience.
- e. They failed to carry out the plan God had revealed to them through Moses and Joshua.
- f. There was one apostate situation after another; a general falling away. We are reminded in the last days many shall fall away. **1 Timothy 4:1, Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**
- g. That leads us today in the area in which we want to preach; from a series of verses in **Judges Chapter 6.**
- h. Gideon is the next judge to come forth and as we analyze the Scriptures, this is the **fourth apostasy.**
- i. In other words, the Israelites, because of their disobedience, had been delivered into the hands of the Midianites.
- j. **Judges Chapters 6-8** recalls the mighty hand in which God used to restore the children of Israel.
- k. In the background this evening we will mentioned that none of these judges were particularly great; they did not have the national influence that Moses and Joshua had.
- l. Each was insignificant, insufficient and inadequate in most cases; just the place for God to use them.
- m. Today we will talk about Gideon, who in the eyes of most Christians was an outstanding man of God. Gideon became a great warrior **only after God touched his heart.**
- n. We will follow Gideon before God got a hold of him, as to what he was doing and what he was involved in.
- o. Although Gideon was able to carry out God's plan, we must understand that God uses the weak to accomplish what He wants to achieve. God is not looking for sacrifice, He is looking for obedience. **1 Corinthians 1:27, But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 1 Samuel 15:22, And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.**

- p. The Bible says in **1 Corinthians 1:26**, *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 1 Corinthians 15:58, Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*
- q. When we consider ourselves to be weak and inadequate, we are really strong in God's sight because we are willing to listen to Him. **2 Corinthians 12:10**, *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*
- r. The Midianites and the Amlekites were people who were driven out of the land but Israel ignored what God told them and did evil in the sight of the Lord.
- s. As a result of this there was disaster.
- t. With that introduction, let's follow the course and see what we can ascertain from God's Word today.

3. EIGHT POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.

1. **Judges 6:1**, *And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.*
2. The Midianites were harassing; raiders, if you will.
3. As Israel attempted to go about their work and do what they were suppose to do, they were plagued by this group of people.
4. Seven years was the duration before God spoke to Gideon to provide some relief.
5. Notice God delivered them into the hand of the Midianites because of their disobedience.

b. And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel.

1. **Judges 6:2**, *And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.*
2. The children of Israel fled from their homes and live in caves, dens and strongholds.
3. There is in abundance of evidence in Israel today that they lived in these caves especially during the time of the Judges.
4. **The Word of God is indeed true**; there is no question about it. The only thing we have to do is find the Preserved Word of God and study the details of Scriptures rightly divided and it will give us a correct view of not only history but a road map into the future. **2 Timothy 2:15**, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
5. Having left the administration of Deborah, the children of Israel were being blessed.
6. When they sinned they were delivered into the hands of the Midianites.
7. Although Israel was many in number, they had a very rough time.
8. Both the Midianites and the Amlekites came up against Israel and destroyed the increase of the Earth.
9. They left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.

c. For both they and their camels were without number.

1. **Judges 6:5**, *For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude: for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.*
2. The Midianites came against the children of Israel; they were like a plague of grasshoppers.
3. Remember, God gave Israel over to the Midianites.
4. If God had not permitted this to happen, the Midianites could not have affected them at all.
5. The Midianites were such a large company until they could not be numbered.
6. The Midianites saw Israel and their good crops, so they raided their crops and their territory.
7. Israel fled away and lived in caves away from their homes.

d. The children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of the Midianites.

1. **Judges 6:7**, *And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of the Midianites,*
2. Israel, unlike America, realized when they got away from God, there were strange things happening in their lives.
3. Certainly, if you can't remain in your own home because you are plagued by the enemy, it is time to start figuring out what is wrong and return to the Creator.

Ecclesiastes 12:1, Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

4. God has devised a simple plan of salvation for mankind.
 - a. The Bible says for our belief in the death, the burial and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, He will give us righteousness in exchange for our belief. **1 Corinthians 15:1**, Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2: By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3: For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: Romans 4:3, For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Romans 3:21-22, But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22: Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
 - b. He will change our destination from Hell to Heaven. This plan of salvation is open to anyone and everyone who wants to confess Jesus as their personal Saviour. **Revelation 22:17**, And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
 - c. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23**, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
 - d. In **Romans 3:10**, the Word says, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
 - e. Also in **Romans 10:9**, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

e. The Lord sent a prophet unto the children of Israel.

1. **Judges 6:8-9**, That the Lord sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; 9: And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land;
2. This prophet whom the Lord sent reviewed passed blessings of this nation.
3. To strengthen Christians at Chesswood Baptist Church today; when we feel down and out we must reflect on past blessings that God has provided for us. Be anxious for nothing. Philippians 4:6-7, Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
4. In other words He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings. **Ephesians 1:3**, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
5. We need to reflect on those blessings from God and as we consider those blessings, we can only do it by being a student of the Preserved Word of God. **2 Timothy 2:15**, Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Psalms 119:105, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
6. As Israel was oppressed by the Midianites, God sent a prophet to provide direction for them.

f. I am the Lord your God; but ye have not obeyed my voice.

1. **Judges 6:10**, And I said unto you, I am the Lord your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.
2. The minute Israel got in trouble they started griping, complaining, and whining.
3. Instead of complaining about the troubles we have, we need to review what got us in that particular situation.
4. We need to go back and see what God has instructed us to do and whether we are on course in carrying out His plan and His mission.
5. The Lord has instructed Chesswood Baptist Church to go into the nursing homes, to gather our youth, to support missionary efforts as our resources will allow and to share the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ with a lost and dying world. **Mark 16:15**, And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
6. He has also instructed us to work the ministry, edify the body of Christ and to strengthen the saints. **Ephesians 4:12**, For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the

edifying of the body of Christ: **Timothy 3:15**, *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

g. The Lord is with thee.

1. **Judges 6:11-12**, *And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abi-ezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. **12: And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.***
2. The conception of Gideon in Christian circles many times is that he was a hero and an outstanding man.
3. The truth from the Word of God is, Gideon was not a hero until God got a hold of him and changed his life. The reference to being an outstanding man of valour spoke of his potential not his present state.
4. This angel is none other than the pre-incarnate Christ.
5. Gideon is threshing wheat by the winepress along with his dad.
6. The winepress was located at the bottom of the hill. They would bring grapes from the top of the hill down to the winepress.
7. If you want to thresh wheat efficiently, you would need to go to the top of the hill in order to make maximum use of the wind to blow the chaff away. The bottom of the hill was certainly not a place to do this job effectively.
8. God has called a man who is frustrated, not only because he was hiding the wheat from the Midianites, but he was filled with fear and had a self- image that was almost zero.
9. God was able to see through all this and called Gideon and used him in a mighty way.
10. This should be a wake-up call for Chesswood Baptist Church; **God has not saved anyone by His grace that is not endowed with a Spiritual gift of some type.**
11. **He has called each of us to do a work for Him; we must find out our Spiritual gift and exercise it to the glory of God.**
12. Notice God refers to Gideon as a mighty man of valour.
13. As we look at the aforementioned information, Gideon was a coward and afraid of that the Midianites would come and take the wheat, but God saw his potential.
14. **God sees within us the potential we have and all we have to do is allow Him to order our steps. Psalm 37:23**, *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.* **Psalm 119:133**, *Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.*
15. The term "mighty man of valour" startled Gideon.

h. Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all of this befallen us?

1. **Judges 6:13**, *And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.*
2. It is interesting to know that the angel of the Lord did not say he was with Israel at that time.
3. As a matter of fact **we must understand when we are out of fellowship with the Lord there is a problem between us and Him.**
4. We must have a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit at all times in order to stay in the will of God and maintain fellowship with Him. **1 John 1:9**, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* **Titus 3:5**, *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*
5. We can never lose a relationship, we can never lose peace with God, but we can lose the peace of God as sin enters into our lives and we get out of God's will. **Romans 5:1**, *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:* **Philippians 4:7**, *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* **Colossians 3:15**, *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*
6. Gideon wanted to know where the miracles where he had heard of from his forefathers.
7. Gideon was wrong in his estimation that God had left Israel. He was filled with doubt and fear. **Hebrews 13:5**, *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such*

things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. **2 Timothy 1:7**, For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. **Proverbs 3:5-6**, Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **6:** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

8. God had not left Israel; Israel had removed themselves from God as America has done. **Romans 11:2**, God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,
9. Many of us have too many talents for God to use us; we are too strong in our own strength. The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 12:10**, Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. **Nehemiah 8:10**, Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**
10. It takes patience to wait on God and wait we must, because He has the solutions to all of our problems. **Isaiah 40:31**, But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
11. Gideon was in a sad spiritual state.
12. His inferiority complex was about to put him in a situation where he would have been no good at all without the intervention of Almighty God.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. The Word of God has indeed has spoken to our hearts today.
- b. God is able to use you and I my friend; He is able to take our fear away and henceforth, He is able to put us forth to do a mighty work for Him. **1 John 4:18**, There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
- c. **Luke 5:10**, And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, **Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.**
- d. God tells us to go into the highways and the hedges and compel people to come to Christ. **Luke 14:23**, And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
- e. In order to lead people to Christ we must be saved and born again.
- f. Jesus tells us in **Romans 3:23**, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- g. **Romans 3:10**, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
- h. **Romans 10:9-10**, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10:** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- i. Would you please stand?

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