

A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament

Sunday School Lessons — by Keith R. Blades

Lesson 36: An Angel Appears to Gideon: Judges 6

Comprehension Questions & Answers

Q1. What had Israel done following the death of Joshua and the elders, and what did God bring upon them as a result?

Answer: *After the elders who had known the LORD's works died, Israel stopped faithfully driving out the nations God had told them to destroy. Instead they made peace treaties with the nations, associated with their idolatries, and began to serve their false gods — in direct disobedience to the LORD. In response God brought upon them the first course of punishment of Leviticus 26: He delivered them into the hands of spoilers who took their harvests, sold them into the hands of their enemies, and made it so that they could no longer stand before their enemies (Judges 2:14-15).*

Q2. What was God's purpose in raising up judges during this period of punishment, and what does this reveal about Him?

Answer: *God raised up judges solely on the basis of His love, mercy, and grace — the Law contract did not require it. His purpose was not simply to afflict Israel, but to bring her to the point of changing her mind, returning to Him, and experiencing His blessing rather than His cursing. The raising up of judges demonstrated God's merciful character: even while justly punishing His rebellious people, He was always working to restore them.*

Q3. What specific oppression did Israel suffer from the Midianites, and what finally moved Israel to cry out to God?

Answer: *Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, so He delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years. The Midianites raided their land and stole their harvests, cattle, and flocks, leaving Israel with nothing and forcing some to hide in mountain dens and caves to escape. The devastation eventually brought the people to the place where 'Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD' (Judges 6:6).*

Q4. What did God see in Gideon's heart that made him the right person to be Israel's deliverer?

Answer: *God saw that Gideon had not gone along with the worship of false gods — even though his own family participated. Gideon knew in his heart that the LORD was the true and living God, that Israel's only hope was in returning to Him, and that God's absence in their current situation was the direct result of Israel's forsaking of Him. Because his heart and mind were right with God, the LORD declared 'Go in this thy might' — Gideon's 'might' was that he believed God.*

Q5. Why did God instruct Israel to ask for signs in Gideon's day, and why is this different from what applies to believers today?

Answer: *In God's program with Israel He had contracted back in Exodus 34:10 to do 'marvels' in their midst, giving them the right to expect signs and wonders. Asking for signs was therefore natural and proper in Israel's dealings with God. However, Paul teaches that this is not part of God's program with us in the present dispensation of Gentile grace — we have the complete written Word of God and are not taught to look for or expect miraculous signs, but rather to trust what God has revealed to us through Paul's letters.*

Fill in the Blank

A. Lesson Concepts

WORD BANK

Gideon | Midian | altar | angel | fleece | idolatry

1. After Joshua and the elders died, Israel fell into _____ by associating with the nations and serving their false gods, which brought God's judgment upon them.
2. God delivered Israel into the hands of _____ for seven years as part of the first course of punishment of Leviticus 26.
3. An _____ of the LORD appeared to _____ and called him to deliver Israel from their oppressors.
4. God told Gideon to tear down his father's _____ to Baal and build a proper altar to the LORD in its place.
5. _____ asked God to confirm his calling by causing the _____ to be wet with dew while the ground around it was dry — and God did so.

B. Key Verses

WORD BANK

Israel | mighty | spoilers

1. **(Judges 6:12)** And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou _____ man of valour.
2. **(Judges 6:14)** And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save _____ from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?
3. **(Judges 2:14)** And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of _____ that spoiled them.

Word Search

Find each word — forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally.

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

Find These Words:

- ☐ OPPRESSION
- ☐ IDOLATRY
- ☐ FLEECE
- ☐ GIDEON
- ☐ ISRAEL
- ☐ JUDGES
- ☐ MIDIAN
- ☐ ALTAR
- ☐ ANGEL
- ☐ BAAL

Words may go forward,
backward, up, down,
or diagonally.

WORD SEARCH — ANSWER KEY

An Angel Appears to Gideon: Judges 6

Each word is highlighted in its unique color.

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

FILL IN THE BLANK — ANSWER KEY

A. Lesson Concepts

1. idolatry
2. Midian
3. angel / Gideon
4. altar
5. Gideon / fleece

B. Key Verses

1. (Judges 6:12) mighty
2. (Judges 6:14) Israel
3. (Judges 2:14) spoilers