

The Gideon Army

Part Two of *The Threshing Floor*

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Gideon, one of Israel's judges, received a visitation from the Lord while threshing (processing) wheat (Jdg. 6). The angel of the Lord said to him: "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!" His response (v.13) was proof of the disheartened state existing even among those in Israel who had *not* become disconnected from God's faithfulness and His miraculous delivering power. Because of their idolatrous ways, the Lord had turned Israel over to the oppression of the Midianites. In fact, Gideon was threshing wheat, not on a threshing floor, but in a winepress to keep the Midianites from stealing it. Threshing floors were critical to the overall livelihood of the people. It was there that the grain in which God had blessed Israel with during that harvest season was processed. Israel's enemies knew this and often made them a strategic focus of attack. This greatly lowered the overall morale within Israel during that time.

- Hopelessness and despair were beginning to gain an upper hand.
- Those things that God's favor and blessings secured for them were now being stolen.
- The people of Israel were heavy laden with worry and concern for things that God's covenant favor would otherwise provide and secure.
- God warned Israel such things would happen if they turned their back on Him and His covenant of provision—that they would live in fear of their enemies (Lev. 26:16-17).

To what degree is this true for many Christians in this nation today? How many are having their health, sense of destiny and hope, and spiritual strength and joy stolen?

God is now seeking to raise up an army and restore the Church's hope as He did with Israel. When God separated those He would use to defeat the Midianites, what process of elimination did He use? In the natural, His final choice for Gideon's three hundred was determined by how the soldier got down and drank water from a stream. The three hundred drew water in such a way that would allow them to still be alert to their surroundings. This reminds me of the New Testament scripture texts that exhorts us to be sober or sober-minded: 1 Ths. 5:6-8; 1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8; Tit. 2:2-6; 1 Pt. 1:13, 5:8. This is also one of the criteria for church leadership as revealed in these verses. Those who God will use to lead His people to victory must be walking in victory over those things that keep their spirits and minds from being sober.

How has our church leadership influenced the saints?

I see many in the Church who have no clue as to what God is presently doing in this nation. They are either fatalistic and are looking only to be "raptured" or are neutralized from being effective for God's Kingdom through the false doctrines, influences, and teachings of men. (Read these two complimentary articles from the website: *A Commentary on 2 Thes. 2* and *What the Early Church Fathers Taught About the Rapture of the Church*.) We cannot be alert and fit for the Master's use, if the next thing we believe God is going to do in the earth is rapture us out of here before it gets too

bad. No, we must labor by His Spirit in earnest expectation of that day. We cannot be alert and believe lies of seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, including the traditions and mindsets of men.

Are you ready? God is selecting candidates for His last day's army. He is about to unleash a Gideon's army upon this generation. No longer shall the "threshing floors" of the Lord be places for thieves and oppressors, but places of judgment, purging, and abundance for God's people (See Dan. 2:35; Isa. 21:10; Jer. 15:7, 51:2, 33; Hos. 13:3; Mt. 3:11-12; Lk. 3:17)

The Lord told King David to purchase the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite and there he built an altar (1 Chr. 21). This stopped a plague of judgment against them that was provoked by David's census of Israel. This was the place, hundreds of years earlier on Mt. Moriah, that Abraham offered up Isaac as a sacrifice and would later be the same place upon which Solomon would build the temple (2 Chr. 3:1). The winnowing (judging or sifting), testing, and separation processes typical of the threshing floor can be viewed as a natural depiction of the preparation of us for the true worship of God.

The threshing floors of Israel were intended to be the places of the Lord's natural provision and livelihood. Today they represent God's desire to purify and judge His people, thereby making a way for His glory to permanently abide among them. Arise, the Lord is with you, you mighty people of valor. God will avenge you of your adversaries if you endure the threshing floor.



Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotes are from New King James Version of the Holy Bible. All definitions were taken from the Strong's Concordance of the Online Bible software.

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