

# **Judges 7**

## **Judges 7.1-3**

**V1** – Gideon and his army were camped near Shechem

**V2** – **Message from God?** There are too many people with you.

-**Problem with that?** After the victory, the people would take credit for the victory themselves

-Interesting reasoning on God's part – he did not want another problem of pride among the Israelites

**Where have we seen this policy before?** In the battle of Jericho

-Also, in the New Testament on the subject of baptism – no pride there

**V3** - **How did God tell Gideon to cut the number down?** Tell everyone who is afraid that they can go home

-**Result?** 22,000 went home; 10,000 stayed

## **Judges 7.4-8**

**V4** – There were still too many men

-**Message from God?** I will tell you how to cut down on the number

**V5** – **What division was to be made?** Those who lapped water like a dog VS. those who raised the water to the mouth by hand

**V6** – **How many raised the water to the mouth by hand?** 300

**V7** – **Which group did God want?** The 300

**Why?** The theory that most commentaries take: Those who raised water to the mouth would be more alert – better able to see the enemy, not so vulnerable

-The other group would be the careless ones

-There is a great lesson here for us to be watchful about the enemy (Satan)

**V8** – **What did these 300 men have?** Food and trumpets

## **Judges 7.9-14**

**V9** – God told Gideon that he had given the enemy camp to Gideon

**V10** – **What did God suspect?** That Gideon was still afraid

-**What did God tell Gideon to do?** Go with his servant down to the outskirts of the enemy camp

**V11** – God wanted them to hear what was being said in the enemy camp

**V 12** – **How was the camp described?** Very numerous – like locusts and camels, like sand on the seashore

**V 13** – **What did Gideon overhear?** An enemy soldier was telling a friend about a dream – a loaf of bread hit the Midianite camp and knocked a tent flat  
**-By human reasoning, what could a loaf of bread do as a weapon?** Absolutely nothing

**V 14** – **Interpretation of the dream?** It meant that Gideon would defeat the Midianites

## **Judges 7.15-18**

**V 15** – **Gideon's reaction to the dream?** Bowed and worshipped God  
-He told his men that God had given the enemy into their hands

**V 16** – **How did Gideon divide up his men?** 3 groups of men with trumpets and pitchers, with torches inside the pitchers

**V 17** – **Gideon's instructions?** Do as I do

**V 18** – **What were they to shout after they blew the trumpets?** "For the Lord and for Gideon"

## **Judges 7.19-23**

**V 19** – The Jews had 3 "watches" of the night: sunset – midnight/midnight to cock-crowing/cock-crowing to sunrise  
**-When did this attack take place?** Midnight

**V 20-21** – **What did the men of Gideon do?** They held their torches in the left hand and the trumpet in the right hand  
-They smashed the pitchers holding the torches  
**See *Beacon Bible Commentary, II, 143*** – About one man in 100 had a trumpet (ram's horn) among the Israelites – so in the original group of 30,000, there were have been about 300 trumpets  
**-What did the men shout?** "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon"

**V 21** – **Where were the men of Gideon standing?** In a circle around the camp  
-**Each man stood in his own place**  
**-Why would this have terrified the Midianites?** Torches, trumpets, shouting (in Hebrew) in the middle of the night  
-How many times will a strange sound wake us up in the middle of the night

**V 22** – **Result?** Midianites and Amalekites were confused and killed each other ("friendly fire" today)

**V 23** – Men from Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh chased the enemy

## **Judges 7.24-25**

**V 24** – Gideon asked the men from Ephraim to help in the pursuit of the Midianites – as far as the Jordan River

**V 25** – **Who was killed?** The 2 commanders of the Midianites: Oreb and Zeeb – killed and beheaded

### Lessons from *Judges 7*:

1. God encourages us when we need it (as he encouraged Gideon)
2. God doesn't need great armaments to win a battle
3. God will fight our battles for us, but we have to do our best and obey his commandments  
-It was the "sword of the Lord" that won the battle.

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