

# **Judges 8**

## **Judges 8.1-3**

**V1** – **Who got upset?** Men of Ephraim

- Why?** They felt neglected and not appreciated enough
- They were very upset with Gideon
- Even the best of leaders will always get criticized

**V2** – A very diplomatic answer: The gleaning (harvesting) of Ephraim was better than what the men of Gideon did at the beginning of the battle

**V3** - **Another compliment to them?** You were able to capture Oreb and Zeeb

- Result?** They calmed down a little

## **Judges 8.4-12**

**V4** – **Describe Gideon's men:** Crossed Jordan in pursuit of the Midianites; very tired from the battle

**V5** - **What town did they go to?** Succoth

- Gideon's request?** Please give us bread to eat
- Why?** We are pursuing two Midianite kings (Zebah and Zalmunna)

**V6** – **Answer from the people of Succoth?** You haven't caught them yet (the coward's answer; a lack of faith)

**V7** – **Reply of Gideon?** I will come back and thrash your bodies with briars

**V8** – **Next town?** Penuel – same answer to Gideon

**V9** – **Gideon's reply?** I will tear down this tower (this city was not walled; the people were hiding in a tower)

- We see that the 12 tribes were very disunited
- Some were hostile to others and had a very weak faith

**V10** – **Status of Midianite army?** Only 15,000 men left (out of 120,000)

**V11** – Midianites were not expecting Gideon to pursue them into the desert; they were caught off-guard

**V12** – Two Midianite kings were captured; the army was defeated

## **Judges 8.13-17**

**V 13** – Gideon was returning from the battle

**V 14** – **Who did he capture?** Young man from Succoth

-**Information from him?** Names of leaders of the city (77 men in all)

**V 15** – Gideon then went to Succoth and recalled their words to them

**V 16** – **What did Gideon do?** Beat the men of Succoth with briars

**V 17** – **What did Gideon do to Penuel?** Tore down the tower and killed the men

## **Judges 8.18-21**

**V 18** – We begin to see why Gideon was so vicious against the Midianites

-**What had happened at the city of Tabor?** The men had been massacred by the Midianites

-**The appearance of the men who were killed?** They looked like Gideon

**V 19** – **Whom had these two Midianite kings killed?** Gideon's own brothers

-The kings had shown no mercy – So Gideon would show no mercy

**V 20** – Gideon told his young son to kill these two kings

-**Why did he refuse?** He was still a young boy

**V 21** – **Who killed the two kings?** Gideon

-Gideon took the jewelry of the two kings

## **Judges 8.22-27**

**V 22** – **What did the people request?** That Gideon be made king and establish a monarchy with his descendants after him

**V 23** – **Gideon's reply?** God is our king

-This was an early tendency of the people to want a king – the people wanted to be like the nations around them

-Remember what the people said to Samuel about wanting a king – *1 Samuel 8*

**V 24** – **The request of Gideon?** An earring from each person (gold earrings)

**V 25** – The people agreed

**V 26** – It came to 1700 shekels of gold, as well as ornaments, robes, and neckbands from camels

**V 27** – Ephod = a simple garment worn by a prophet of God

-Gideon intended this ephod to be very elaborate and to commemorate the defeat of the Midianites

- But what happened?** People came to worship it
- Remember the bronze serpent Moses raised in the wilderness – See *Num. 21.8* and *2 Kings 19.4*)
- There seems to be a universal tendency to worship an object, rather than God whom we cannot see

## **Judges 8.28-32**

**V 28** – How long did peace last this time? 40 years

**V 29** – Gideon went home and lived in his own house

**V 30** – How many sons did Gideon have? 70 (he had many wives)

**V 31** – One of his sons? Abimelech (this is preparing us for the next event in the book)

**V 32** – Gideon died

## **Judges 8.33-35**

**V 33** – What happened as soon as Gideon died? The people went back into idolatry

**V 34** – The Israelites forgot all about God

**V 35** – What else did the people not do? They did not show kindness to Gideon's family

Lessons from *Judges 8*:

1. This was a very violent time – there was much bloodshed because the people had forsaken God
2. The people were determined to worship idols  
-It is very easy to do that today – look at the Catholic Church (crucifix, statue of Mary and the other "saints", candles incense, etc.)

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