

# THE DEFEAT OF THE MIDIANITES

BIBLE TEXT : Judges 7 :9-25 ; 8 :1 -35

LESSON 194 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)..

## BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

### Judges 7:9-25

<sup>9</sup> And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

<sup>10</sup> But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:

<sup>11</sup> And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that *were* in the host.

<sup>12</sup> And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels *were* without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

<sup>13</sup> And when Gideon was come, behold, *there was* a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

<sup>14</sup> And his fellow answered and said, This *is* nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: *for* into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

<sup>15</sup> And it was *so*, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

## BIBLE REFERENCES:

### I Sword of the Lord and of Gideon

1 God allayed Gideon's fear of Midian by permitting him to hear of the fear Midian had for Gideon's God, Judges 7:9-14;

#### **Joshua 2:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

<sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

<sup>11</sup> And as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he *is* God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

#### **Genesis 35:5**

<sup>5</sup> And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that *were* round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.

#### **Exodus 23:27**

<sup>27</sup> I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.

#### **Deuteronomy 2:25**

<sup>25</sup> This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations *that are* under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

#### **Deuteronomy 11:25**

<sup>25</sup> There shall no man be able to stand before you: *for* the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

2 Gideon's bold and unusual attack on Midian was an act inspired by faith in God, Judges 7:9-20;

#### **Numbers 10:9**

<sup>9</sup> And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresses you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.

#### **Joshua 6:5**

<sup>5</sup> And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long *blast* with the ram's horn, *and* when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

#### **Deuteronomy 32:41-42**

<sup>41</sup> If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.

<sup>42</sup> I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; *and that* with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.

#### **Jeremiah 46:10**

<sup>10</sup> For this *is* the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts

<sup>16</sup> And he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

<sup>17</sup> And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be *that*, as I do, so shall ye do.

<sup>18</sup> When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that *are* with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, *The sword* of the LORD, and of Gideon.

<sup>19</sup> So Gideon, and the hundred men that *were* with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that *were* in their hands.

<sup>20</sup> And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow *withal*: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

<sup>21</sup> And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

<sup>22</sup> And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, *and* to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.

<sup>23</sup> And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites.

<sup>24</sup> And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, Come down against the Midianites, and take before them

hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

3 Midian's hosts were disastrously routed by Gideon, Judges 7:15-23; 8:10;

**1 Samuel 14:20**

<sup>20</sup> And Saul and all the people that *were* with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, *and there was* a very great discomfiture.

**2 Chronicles 20:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

<sup>23</sup> For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy *them*: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

4 The men of Ephraim joined the battle against Midian, Judges 7:24, 25

## II Pursuit of Midian

1 Gideon pacified Ephraim's jealous wrath with a soft answer, Judges 8:1-3;

**Proverbs 15:1**

<sup>1</sup> A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

**1 Samuel 17:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

<sup>29</sup> And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause?

**Genesis 4:4-8**

<sup>4</sup> And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

<sup>5</sup> But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

<sup>7</sup> If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

<sup>8</sup> And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

**Genesis 37:4**

<sup>4</sup> And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

2 The citizens of Succoth and Penuel refused Gideon assistance in the fight with Midian, Judges 8:4-9;

**1 Samuel 25:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master.

<sup>11</sup> Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give *it* unto men, whom I know not whence they *be*?

**Judges 5:23**

<sup>23</sup> Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.

**Obadiah 1:10-14**

the waters unto Bethbarah and Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters unto Bethbarah and Jordan.

<sup>25</sup> And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan.

### Judges 8:1-35

<sup>1</sup> And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply.

<sup>2</sup> And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? *Is* not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?

<sup>3</sup> God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.

<sup>4</sup> And Gideon came to Jordan, *and* passed over, he, and the three hundred men that *were* with him, faint, yet pursuing *them*.

<sup>5</sup> And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they *be* faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

<sup>6</sup> And the princes of Succoth said, *Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?

<sup>7</sup> And Gideon said, Therefore when the LORD hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into mine hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with

<sup>10</sup> For *thy* violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.

<sup>11</sup> In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou *wast* as one of them.

<sup>12</sup> But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

<sup>13</sup> Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid *hands* on their substance in the day of their calamity;

<sup>14</sup> Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress.

### 1 John 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup> Hereby perceive we the love *of* God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

<sup>17</sup> But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of* compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

<sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

3 Gideon promised vengeance against Succoth and Penuel, which was soon carried out, Judges 8:7, 9, 13-17

4 Gideon captured Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian, and executed them for their evil doings, Judges 8:10-12, 18-22

5 Peace reigned for forty years, until Gideon's death, Judges 8:22-35

### NOTES:

#### Godly Encouragement

"And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand. But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: and thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host." With these words God encouraged Gideon in the attack on the hosts of Midian. When the attack upon Midian was once started, there could be no turning back until victory was assured.

The Lord desired to deliver Israel from the hands of their oppressors. who were the Midianites. But there had to be a leader for the fighting men of Israel, a man who would remain undaunted and undismayed at whatever might come to pass in the heat of the battle. If Gideon was fully persuaded that God in truth had given the hosts of Midian into the hands of Israel, he would be invincible. Thus God encouraged Gideon, to embolden him and bolster his faith.

Gideon, acting upon the word of the Lord, went down to the hosts of Midian and listened to their conversations. Hearing a soldier tell his companion a dream, he learned that in the camp there was a great fear of God's people. This was not the first time the heathen nations had felt the fear of God. The Canaanites, who had first felt the strength of Israel's armies as they entered into Canaan from the desert and from Egypt, were well acquainted with the terrors of God's judgments. Doubtless, many of these memories still lingered in those lands, and it was not difficult for God to stir them to life again.

briers.

<sup>8</sup> And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered *him*.

<sup>9</sup> And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.

<sup>10</sup> Now Zebah and Zalmunna *were* in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand *men*, all that were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: for there fell an hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword.

<sup>11</sup> And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host: for the host was secure.

<sup>12</sup> And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited all the host.

<sup>13</sup> And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun *was up*,

<sup>14</sup> And caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and enquired of him: and he described unto him the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, *even* threescore and seventeen men.

<sup>15</sup> And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, *Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men *that are* weary?

<sup>16</sup> And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.

<sup>17</sup> And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.

<sup>18</sup> Then said he unto Zebah and

## Shout for Battle

"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; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are" (I Corinthians 1:27, 23). Gideon's battle against Midian is positive proof of this portion of Scripture. How different are God's ways than man's, and how effective! The peculiarity of Gideon's method of warfare did not detract from its effectiveness. Inspired by the Lord, Gideon divided his men into three companies, and armed each man with a trumpet, and a pitcher with a lamp inside.

Surrounding the camp of Midian at night, Gideon gave the order for battle: "Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do." With a true spirit of leadership Gideon went first into the battle, and commanded his men to follow after. Likewise Paul the Apostle told his followers, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1). There will be no defeat to the one who follows the great Captain, Jesus Christ. (**Hebrews 13:20** <sup>20</sup> Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **1 Peter 5:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.)

Blowing their trumpets, breaking their pitchers, and holding their lights, the men of Gideon shouted in unison, "The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon." The shouts of Gideon's men, the breaking of the pitchers, the blowing of the trumpets, and the light of the lamps suddenly shining forth, all convinced the men of Midian that the hosts of Israel were upon them. In the ensuing confusion every man thought his neighbor was his enemy; and they turned their swords upon one another, with the resultant loss of 120,000 Midianites in the battle. Thus did God begin to give Gideon the victory over the Midianites.

Gideon, in pursuit of the routed Midianites, sent messengers to Ephraim to cut off the men of Midian when they reached the fords of Jordan. This Ephraim did while the men of Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh pursued Midian another way. The men of Ephraim captured two of the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, whom they slew. Gideon's faith and obedience to God brought a great victory to Israel.

## Jealous Hearts

Now the people of the tribe of Ephraim were desirous of sharing in a victory they had done very little to accomplish. If they had been truly desirous of fighting Midian, they could have lifted their hearts to God, asking for aid as Gideon had evidently been doing when the angel of God called upon him to deliver Israel. Ephraim's sudden boldness did not deceive Gideon at all, and Gideon proved himself a true child of God by the answer he gave them.

He belittled himself and his achievements in comparison to their accomplishments in that they had taken two of the Midian princes captive. "The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression" (Proverbs 19:11). This was Gideon's action. He could have said much to the Ephraimites about their sudden boldness, but he left them with God, who knows the hearts of all men and shall in the end bring every work into

Zalmunna, What manner of men *were they* whom ye slew at Tabor? And they answered, As thou *art*, so *were* they; each one resembled the children of a king.

<sup>19</sup> And he said, They *were* my brethren, *even* the sons of my mother: *as* the LORD liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not slay you.

<sup>20</sup> And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, *and* slay them. But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he *was* yet a youth.

<sup>21</sup> Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou, and fall upon us: for as the man *is*, so *is* his strength. And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took away the ornaments that *were* on their camels' necks.

<sup>22</sup> Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.

<sup>23</sup> And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.

<sup>24</sup> And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they *were* Ishmaelites.)

<sup>25</sup> And they answered, We will willingly give *them*. And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the earrings of his prey.

<sup>26</sup> And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred *shekels* of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that *was* on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that *were* about their camels' necks.

<sup>27</sup> And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, *even*

judgment, whether it be good or evil. The Ephraimites soon proved what they were. We read of no account where Ephraim or any of the other tribes of Israel went with Gideon when he pursued the remnants of the Midianites with his faithful three hundred whom God had chosen for him.

### Uncharitable Neighbors

The men of Gideon had become faint with hunger as they continued their pursuit of the Midianites. Gideon appealed to the citizens of Succoth and Penuel to give his men bread that they might have strength to continue their fight. This plea for aid was refused, and they mocked Gideon's efforts with the taunt, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?"

It is obvious from such an answer that the men of Succoth and Penuel had no faith in Gideon, nor in the God he served. Their hearts were carnal and full of unbelief, and they feared not to refuse aid to one who was fighting a common enemy, 'and who was also a fellow countryman, and possibly a blood relative.

While the men of Succoth and Penuel could not believe it, the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna actually were in the hands of Gideon, for God had already given the victory to Gideon and his men. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Gideon asked help from brethren and was refused, but this did not deter him nor dull his faith, for his confidence was steadfast in God.

Gideon and his men pressed on and won the victory for God and Israel. But Gideon promised to return and punish the men of Succoth and Penuel for their refusal of aid. This promise was soon carried out, exactly as Gideon had said. Such are the rewards of wickedness.

Carnality and unbelief have ever been the foe of faith and righteousness. If the powers of wickedness do not forcibly resist God's work and His people, they do all they can to hinder and impede the work of God, as in the situation with Gideon. The men of Succoth and Penuel, when they refused aid, did not refuse only Gideon, but they refused God; for to refuse a messenger of God is to refuse the One who sent him. (1 Samuel 8:7 <sup>7</sup> And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. Matthew 25:41-46 <sup>41</sup> Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: <sup>42</sup> For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. <sup>44</sup> Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? <sup>45</sup> Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. <sup>46</sup> And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.)

Jesus Christ, in His ministry on earth, suffered much at the hands of unbelievers. His enemies denied His Deity and His miracle-working power; and at last they hurled at Him the crowning insult as He hung on the cross, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Matthew 27:40).

Vengeance was sent upon Gideon's enemies, and it shall be sent upon every enemy of a child of God. Jesus told His disciples: "It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones" (Luke 17:1, 2).

in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.

<sup>28</sup> Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

<sup>29</sup> And Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.

<sup>30</sup> And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives.

<sup>31</sup> And his concubine that *was* in Shechem, she also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

<sup>32</sup> And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

<sup>33</sup> And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baalberith their god.

<sup>34</sup> And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:

<sup>35</sup> Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, *namely*, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel.

## Fruits of Victory

The men of Israel desired Gideon and his sons to rule over them, but he refused. Gideon knew whence his help had come. It was through no might nor power of his own that Israel had been released from the oppression of the Midianites. God had once again manifested His great name and the might of His power for the benefit of His people. Gideon told Israel: "The LORD shall rule over you"; and God did rule over them for the next forty years through the administration of Gideon. "And the country was in quietness forty years."

The victory God gave Israel over the Midianites was one of major proportions. We catch a glimpse, from other passages of Scripture written at a later date, of the feelings of Israel over this great deliverance. A prayer of Asaph against the enemies of Israel who were again rising to attack is recorded for us in the eighty-third Psalm. In that Psalm Asaph prays that God will "do unto them as unto the Midianites. . . . Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna: who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession" (Psalm 83:9-12).

We learn from this prayer that Midian not only had invaded Israel for the usual military reasons of conquest for spoil, but they had dared to defy God in so doing. They had acknowledged the houses were God's, but had dared to steal them from God. That was the reason God rose up against them. Asaph prayed for a similar victory, for he remembered the wonderful deliverance God had given before in like circumstances.

The name of Oreb means "a raven," and the name of Zeeb, "a wolf." But these scavengers of spoil were nothing to God when He wished to overthrow them. The princes of Midian all met an inglorious and shameful end. Isaiah, in his prophecies to Israel, also refers to Midian as their defeat at the hand of God. (**Isaiah 10:26** <sup>26</sup> And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as his rod *was* upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt. **Isaiah 9:4** <sup>4</sup> For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.)

## QUESTIONS

- 1 How did God encourage Gideon to attack Midian?
- 2 Describe Gideon's methods of attack.
- 3 Why did the Ephraimites become jealous of Gideon?
- 4 How did Gideon pacify their anger?
- 5 What was the sin of the men of Succoth and Penuel?
- 6 In what manner did Jesus Christ suffer like indignities?