

GIDEON'S BATTLE

Judges 7:1-8:32

Let's look at the unusual man that God used in unusual ways

I. THE ENCAMPMENT (7:1-15)

A. THE BATTLEFIELD (1)

B. THE ARMY (2-8)

1. Too many at 32,000 (2-6)
2. Just right at 300 (7-8)

C. THE GENERAL (9-15)

1. Fearful (9-11)
2. Encouraged (12-14)
3. Worshipful (15a)
4. Confident (15b)

II. THE VICTORY (7:16-8:21)

A. THE PLAN EXPLAINED (7:16-18)

- With very unmilitary equipment

B. THE "ATTACK" IMPLEMENTED (7:19-22)

1. Gideon's army obeyed (19-21a)
2. Midian's army fled (21b-22)

C. THE VOLUNTEERS RECALLED (7:24)

1. Summoned and willing
2. They weren't allowed to "attack" but were permitted to pursue

D. THE DISGRUNTLED ADDRESSED (7:25-8:3)

1. Ephraim's call-out (7:24-25)
2. Ephraim's complaint (8:1-2)
3. Gideon's calming (8:3)

E. THE 300 ENDURE (8:4-9)

1. Pursuing when weary (4)
2. Pressing on when disappointed (5-9)

Over please >

F. THE ENEMY ROUTED (8:10-12)

2.

1. By a surprise attack (10-11)
2. With the Midian kings being captured (12)

G. JUDGMENT DELIVERED (8:13-21)

- This is the only place we see Gideon really acting as a judge

1. To the unhelpful (13-17)
2. To the murderers (18-21)

III. **THE OUTCOME** (8:22-32)

A. GIDEON'S WISDOM (22-23)

1. Declining a dynasty (22-23a)
2. Declaring God's rule (23b)

B. GIDEON'S DOWNFALL (24-27)

1. Began with an innocent request (24)
2. The result of an honorable gift (25-26)
3. Culminating in a sinful ephod (27)

C. GIDEON'S BIOGRAPHY (28-32)

1. An enemy subdued (28)
2. A family enlarged (29-31)
3. A death that was pleasant (32)

IV. **SOME OBSERVATIONS**

A. GOD USES FAULTY LEADERS

1. Gideon was faithless > See 6:15-16 and 36-40
2. Gideon was fearful > Note 6:22-23, 25-27 and 7:9-11

B. GOD USES THE TINY TO DESTROY THE TERRIFYING

- 300 to 135,000 are odds of 450-1

C. GOD CONFIRMS THAT ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

1. For the lappers (7:4-7)
2. For the mockers (8:5-17)
3. For the killers (8:18-21)

CONCLUSION: God uses the unusual to do the unlikely!