



AS GIDEON'S STRENGTH INCREASED **HIS NEED FOR GOD DECREASED**

MIDIAN 135,000 VS. GIDEON 32,000

Judges 6:36a Then Gideon said to God...

MIDIAN 135,000 VS. GIDEON 10,000

Judges 7:2 The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength.

Judges 7:4a But the LORD told Gideon,

MIDIAN 135,000 VS. GIDEON 300

Judges 7:7a The Lord told Gideon...

MIDIAN 2 VS. GIDEON 300+

1. GIDEON FORGOT ABOUT GOD'S GRACE

Judges 8:5-7 When they reached Succoth, Gideon asked the leaders of the town, "Please give my warriors some food. They are very tired. I am chasing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian." ⁶ But the officials of Succoth replied, "Catch Zebah and Zalmunna **first**, and then we will feed your army." ⁷ So Gideon said, "After the LORD gives me victory over Zebah and Zalmunna, I will return and tear your flesh with the thorns and briars from the wilderness."

Judges 6:36-40

Judges 8:13-17 Gideon returned from the battle by way of Heres Pass. ¹⁴ There he captured a young man from Succoth and demanded that he write down the names of all the seventy-seven officials and elders in the town. ¹⁵ Gideon then returned to Succoth and said to the leaders, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna. When we were here before, you taunted me, saying, 'Catch Zebah and Zalmunna first, and then we will feed your exhausted army.'" ¹⁶ Then Gideon took the elders of the town and taught them a lesson, punishing them with thorns and briars from the wilderness. ¹⁷ He also tore down the tower of Peniel and killed all the men in the town.

2. GIDEON TOOK THE GLORY FOR GOD'S STRENGTH

Judges 8:22-27 Then the Israelites said to Gideon, “Be our ruler! You and your son and your grandson will be our rulers, for you have rescued us from Midian.” ²³ But Gideon replied, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son. The LORD will rule over you! ²⁴ However, I do have one request—that each of you give me an earring from the plunder you collected from your fallen enemies.” (The enemies, being Ishmaelites, all wore gold earrings.) ²⁵ “Gladly!” they replied. They spread out a cloak, and each one threw in a gold earring he had gathered from the plunder. ²⁶ The weight of the gold earrings was forty-three pounds, not including the royal ornaments and pendants, the purple clothing worn by the kings of Midian, or the chains around the necks of their camels. ²⁷ Gideon made a sacred ephod from the gold and put it in Ophrah, his hometown. But soon all the Israelites prostituted themselves by worshiping it, and it became a trap for Gideon and his family.

3. GIDEON TURNED FROM GOD'S WAYS

Judges 8:28-31 That is the story of how the people of Israel defeated Midian, which never recovered. Throughout the rest of Gideon’s lifetime—about forty years—there was peace in the land. ²⁹ Then Gideon son of Joash returned home. ³⁰ He had seventy sons born to him, for he had many wives. ³¹ He also had a concubine in Shechem, who gave birth to a son, whom he named Abimelech.

Judges 8:32-35 Gideon died when he was very old, and he was buried in the grave of his father, Joash, at Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer. ³³ As soon as Gideon died, the Israelites prostituted themselves by worshiping the images of Baal, making Baal-berith their god. ³⁴ They forgot the LORD their God, who had rescued them from all their enemies surrounding them. ³⁵ Nor did they show any loyalty to the family of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon), despite all the good he had done for Israel.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.