

God Calls Gideon

Key Verse: *“The angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.”*
—Judges 6:12

Selected Scripture:
Judges 6:1-24

The Israelites were delivered into the hand of the Midianites for seven years, since they had done evil in the sight of the Lord. The nation was greatly impoverished because each year the Midianites destroyed their crops and took their animals. The Israelites hid themselves in dens and caves and eventually cried unto the Lord for help.—Judg. 6:1-7

Gideon, an Israelite from the tribe of Manasseh, was threshing wheat in a winepress in order to hide it from the Midianites, when an angel appeared and said, “The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.” Gideon replied, “If the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? ... The LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” (vss. 11-13) Actually, it was not God that had forsaken them, but it was the Israelites who had been unfaithful to the Lord’s instructions.

The Lord, through the angel, looked upon Gideon and replied, “Go with this determination of yours and deliver Israel from Midian’s domination.” Gideon humbly replied, “How will I deliver Israel? Look—my family is the weakest in Manasseh, and I’m the youngest in my father’s household.” The Lord replied, “I’ll be with you, and you’ll defeat Midian—every single one of them!”

—vss. 14-16, *International Standard Version*

Gideon then asked for a sign to indicate if it was indeed the Lord who had told him these things. He prepared a young goat, along with unleavened bread and broth, and brought it to the angel. The angel instructed Gideon to lay the meat and unleavened bread upon a rock and to pour out the broth. The angel took the end of his staff and touched the meat and unleavened cakes. Fire came out of the rock, consuming the meat and unleavened cakes, and the angel departed. Gideon exclaimed, “Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.”—vss. 17-22

Gideon was called and chosen by God because of his humility and heart devotion in wanting to please the Lord. Truly, as the Lord later told the Prophet Samuel, “The LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”—I Sam. 16:7

What an encouraging divine principle to continually keep in mind! It will help rid us of having any doubt as to whether God has called us to the heavenly calling and accepted our consecration. It will also subsequently encourage us if we ever feel astonished at the thought that the Lord will accept our limited, imperfect, abilities and efforts; and that if we are faithful to him unto death, he will resurrect us as a divine, spirit being.—Rev. 2:10

The Apostle Paul admonishes, “Consider, brethren, God’s call to you. Not many who are wise with merely human wisdom, not many of position and influence, not many of noble birth have been called. But God has chosen the things which the world regards as foolish, ...[and] the things which the world regards as destitute of influence, ... and the things which the world regards as base, ... to prevent any mortal man from boasting in the presence of God.”—I Cor. 1:26-29, *Weymouth New Testament* ■