

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-21 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Judges 6:16) 16 But Jehovah said to him: "Because I will be with you, you will strike down Mid'i-an as if they were one man."

*** w21 March pp. 29-30 par. 14 Jehovah Will Protect You—How? ***

14 We also have the support of myriads of powerful angels. Think of what just one angel can do! (Isa. 37:36) Now consider what a mighty army of angels would be able to accomplish. No man or demon is equal to Jehovah's powerful fighting force. It has been said that one faithful Witness plus Jehovah equals the majority. (Judg. 6:16) How true that is! Keep those thoughts in mind when you feel intimidated by something a workmate, a schoolmate, or an unbelieving relative says or does. Remember, you are not alone in this fight. You are following Jehovah's direction.

(Judges 6:11, 12) 11 Later Jehovah's angel came and sat under the big tree that was in Oph'rah, which belonged to Jo'ash the Abiez'rite. His son Gid'e-on was beating out wheat in the winepress in order to hide it from Mid'i-an. 12 Jehovah's angel appeared to him and said: "Jehovah is with you, you mighty warrior."

** w14 6/15 p. 29 par. 5 Help Others Reach Their Full Potential ***

5 Jehovah trusted Gideon to deliver Israel because He had observed his skills. For one thing, Jehovah's angel had noticed how Gideon threshed wheat with all his might. Something else had caught the angel's attention. In Bible times, farmers usually beat out grain in an open area to take advantage of the wind, which would blow away the chaff. Surprisingly, Gideon was secretly threshing wheat in a winepress in order to conceal his meager harvest from the Midianites. What a clever strategy! No wonder that in Jehovah's eyes, Gideon was more than a cau-

tious farmer—he was a shrewd man. Yes, Jehovah saw his potential and worked with him.

(Judges 6:24) 24 So Gid'e-on built an altar there to Jehovah, and it is called Je-ho'vah-sha'lom down to this day. It is still in Oph'rah of the Abiez'rites.

*** w14 2/15 pp. 22-23 par. 9 Jehovah—Our Best Friend ***

9 What happened next strengthened Gideon's faith and brought him closer to God. Gideon prepared a meal and served it to the angel. When the food was miraculously consumed by fire at the touch of the angel's staff, Gideon realized that the angel was indeed Jehovah's representative. Alarmed, Gideon exclaimed: "Alas, Sovereign Lord Jehovah, for I have seen Jehovah's angel face-to-face!" (Judg. 6:17-22) But did that encounter erect a barrier between Gideon and his God? Certainly not! The opposite occurred. Gideon came to know Jehovah in such a way that he felt at peace with God. We know this from the name given to the altar that Gideon erected at that place—"Jehovah-shalom." That name means "Jehovah Is Peace." (Read Judges 6:23, 24; ftn.)

(Judges 7:7) 7 Jehovah now said to Gid'e-on: "I will save you with the 300 men who lapped the water, and I will give Mid'i-an into your hand. But let all the other people go back home."

*** od chap. 8 p. 84 par. 33 Ministers of the Good News ***

33 Historical events recorded in the Bible demonstrate the exactness of reports and records kept by Jehovah's people. In many cases, the full impact of the Bible account could not be conveyed without reporting the specific numbers. Consider the following examples: Genesis 46:27; Exodus 12:37; Judges 7:7; 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Chronicles 14:9-13; John 6:10; 21:11; Acts 2:41; 19:19.

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*** it-1 pp. 932-933 Gideon ***

Gideon lived in a very turbulent time of Israel's history. Because of their unfaithfulness to Jehovah, the Israelites were not enjoying the fruits of their labor. For a number of years, neighboring pagan nations, especially the Midianites, had invaded Israel at harvesttime with hordes "as numerous as the locusts." The hand of Midian proved to be so heavy upon them for seven years that the Israelites made underground storage places for themselves in order to conceal their food supplies from the invaders.—Jg 6:1-6.

Called to Serve as a Deliverer. To avoid discovery by the Midianites, Gideon was threshing grain, not out in the open, but in a winepress, when an angel appeared to him, saying: "Jehovah is with you, you valiant, mighty one." This prompted Gideon to ask how this could be true, in view of the Midianite oppression of the nation. When told that he would be the one to deliver Israel, Gideon modestly spoke of his own insignificance. But he was assured that Jehovah would prove to be with him. Therefore Gideon asked for a sign so that he might know that the messenger was really Jehovah's angel. He brought a gift of meat, unfermented cakes, and broth, and at the angel's direction he placed the items on a big rock and poured out the broth. The angel touched the meat and unfermented cakes with his staff, and fire began to ascend out of the rock and to consume the offering, whereupon the angel vanished.—Jg 6:11-22.

That very night Jehovah put Gideon to the test by commanding him to tear down his father's altar to the god Baal, to cut down the sacred pole alongside it, to build an altar to Jehovah, and then to offer his father's young bull of seven years (evidently a bull that was considered sacred to Baal) upon it, using as firewood the sacred pole. With due caution, Gideon did so at night with the aid of ten servants. When the men of the city got up in the morning and saw what had happened and then learned that Gideon was responsible, they

clamored for his life. Joash, though, did not deliver up his son to them but retorted to the effect that Baal should make his own defense. Joash then gave his son Gideon the name Jerubbaal (meaning "Let Baal Make a Legal Defense (Contend)"), saying: "Let Baal make a legal defense in his own behalf, because someone has pulled down his altar."—Jg 6:25-32.

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*** it-1 p. 933 Gideon ***

Gideon with his attendant Purah proceeded to scout the enemy camp at night. There Gideon overheard a man relating a dream to his companion. His companion, in turn, interpreted the dream to mean that Midian and all the camp would be given into Gideon's hand. Strengthened by what he had heard, Gideon returned to the camp of Israel, organized the 300 into three bands in order to enable him to approach the camp of Midian from three sides, and gave each man a horn and a large jar, inside of which was placed a torch.—Jg 7:9-16.