

**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 8:2) 2 But he said to them: "What have I done compared with you? Are not the gleanings of E'phra-im better than the grape harvest of Abi-e'zer?"

\*\*\* w21 July pp. 16-17 pars. 10-11 Avoid Stirring Up Competition—Promote Peace \*\*\*

10 Consider the incident involving Gideon, who was from the tribe of Manasseh, and the men of the tribe of Ephraim. With Jehovah's backing, Gideon and his 300 men had a remarkable victory for which they could have taken great pride. The men of Ephraim met Gideon, not to commend him, but to quarrel with him. It appears that their pride was hurt because Gideon had not invited them from the beginning to join in the fight against God's enemies. They were so focused on protecting the honor of their tribe that they failed to see the big picture—Gideon had just helped to honor Jehovah's name and to protect His people.—Judg. 8:1.

11 Gideon humbly said to the men of Ephraim: "What have I done compared with you?" He then gave them a specific example of how Jehovah had blessed them. As a result, the men "calmed down." (Judg. 8:2, 3) Gideon willingly set pride aside in order to maintain peace among God's people.

(Judges 8:10) 10 Now Ze'bah and Zal-mun'na were in Kar'kor with their armies, about 15,000 men. These were all who remained of the entire army of the Easterners, for 120,000 men armed with swords had fallen.

\*\*\* it-1 p. 299 Beth-jeshimoth \*\*\*

In the time of the prophet Ezekiel, it is included with certain cities of Moab located on the slope of

his frontier and described as "the decoration of the land." (Eze 25:8-10) The prophecy indicates that Jehovah would cause these frontier cities to be opened up, exposing Moab to attack by the "Orientals," or "sons of the East," the nomadic tribes living in the Arabian Desert. (Compare Jg 6:3, ftn; 8:10.) If not earlier, Moab likely took over Beth-jeshimoth and other cities of Reuben following the deportation of that tribe to Assyria.—1Ch 5:26.

(Judges 8:18) 18 He asked Ze'bah and Zal-mun'na: "What sort of men did you kill in Ta'bor?" To this they said: "They were like you, each one looked like the son of a king."

\*\*\* it-2 p. 1221 Zebah \*\*\*

At some unspecified time they also killed members of Gideon's household.—Jg 8:18, 19.

When Gideon defeated their army of 135,000, Zebah, Zalmunna, and 15,000 managed to escape under hot pursuit and made their way to Karkor, quite some distance, but there they were again defeated and finally captured. As Gideon was bringing Zebah and Zalmunna back as humiliated captives at least as far as Succoth, they must have been reminded of their boastful words (or at least the expression of their attitude) preserved in the psalm: "Let us take possession of the abiding places of God for ourselves." (Ps 83:11, 12) After they admitted to having killed his brothers, Gideon personally put to death the two Midianite kings.—Jg 8:4-21.

\*\*\* Ifb lesson 34 p. 84-p. 85 Gideon Conquered the Midianites \*\*\*

## LESSON 34

### Gideon Conquered the Midianites

In time, Israel again turned away from Jehovah and began to worship false gods. For seven years, the Midianites stole the Israelites' animals and destroyed their crops. To escape from the Midianites, the Israelites hid in caves and in the mountains. They begged Jehovah to save them. So Jehovah sent an angel to a young man named Gideon. The angel said: 'Jehovah has chosen you to be a mighty warrior.' Gideon asked: 'How can I save Israel? I am nothing.'

How would Gideon know that Jehovah had chosen him? He put a piece of wool on the ground and said to Jehovah: 'In the morning, if the wool is wet from the dew but the ground is dry, I will know that you want me to save Israel.' The next morning, the wool was soaking wet and the ground was dry! But then Gideon asked that the next morning the wool be dry and the ground wet. When that happened, Gideon was finally convinced that Jehovah had chosen him. He gathered his soldiers to fight the Midianites.

Jehovah told Gideon: 'I will give the Israelites victory. But because you have so many soldiers, you might think that you won the battle by yourselves. Tell anyone who is afraid that he should go home.' So 22,000 soldiers went home, and 10,000 remained. Jehovah then said: 'There are still too many soldiers. Bring them to the stream, and tell them to drink the water. Keep with you only those who watch out for the enemy while they drink.' Only 300 of the men stayed alert while they drank. Jehovah promised that these few men would conquer the 135,000 Midianite soldiers.

During that night, Jehovah told Gideon: 'Now is the time to attack the Midianites!' Gideon gave his men horns and large jars with torches hidden inside. He told them: 'Watch me, and do exactly what I do.' Gideon blew his horn, smashed his

jar, waved his torch, and shouted: 'The sword of Jehovah and of Gideon!' All of his 300 men did the same. The Midianites were terrified and ran wildly in all directions. In the chaos, they began to attack one another. Once again, Jehovah helped the Israelites conquer their enemies.