

Judges Chapter 6 - The Preparation of Gideon

I. God Punishes Israel's Idolatry (vv. 1-6)

A. Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord

1. Prostituted themselves to other gods
2. Failed to obey the commandments of God
3. Intermarried with pagan people
4. Forgot the Lord and served the Baals and the Asherahs
5. Wickedness increased with each generation

B. God's punishment of Israel by the hands of the Midianites

1. Seven years of harvest raids
2. Amalekites and other easterners also participated
3. Israel was forced into the hills

C. Israel cried out to the Lord for help

II. God Sends a Prophet to Israel (vv. 7-10)

III. The Call of Gideon (vv. 11-24)

A. His commissioning

B. His objection

C. Reassurance from the Lord

D. A sign of authentication

IV. A Charge to Clean House (vv. 25-32)

A. The Divine command

B. Gideon's obedient response

C. The angry response of the community

D. A father's defense of his son

V. Gideon Prepares for Battle (vv. 33-40)

A. The Midianites attack again

B. Gideon gathers his forces

C. Gideon seeks reassurance from the Lord

Lessons:

- 1) Our worship must be constrained by God's Word and his instructions to us.
- 2) Crying out to God should never be our last resort.
- 3) We must be sensitive to hearing God's voice in the midst of trials and not just seek relief from whatever circumstances we are facing.
- 4) God being with us is enough!
- 5) Before we can effectively follow Christ, we must smash our idols.
- 6) God is faithful even when our faith is weak.