

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK OF *JUDGES*** (see Heb.11:32-40 w/1f; see Ps.83; 106,107)
- B. **STRUCTURAL *FOCUS ON GIDEON/ABIMELECH*** (see *NIVSB, Introduction* and *c.6-9 notes*)
- C. ***GIDEON THE GREAT* (c.6-8) vs. *ABIMELECH THE HORRIBLE* (c.9)**
- D. **REVIEW & TRANSITION INTO SERIES ON *RUTH*** (see Ruth 1:1)

II. THE HISTORY OF GIDEON THE GREAT! (Judges 6-8)

INTRODUCTION: REBELLION, RETRIBUTION, REPENTANCE, RESTORATION (2:16f; 3:7-1; etc)

A. REBELLION (6:1a)

B. RETRIBUTION (6:1b-6a; see v.2 w/Heb.11:38)

C. REPENTANCE (6:6b,7)

D. RESTORATION (6:7-8:28; note emphasis)

1. prophet: call to repentance (6:7-10; Ex.20:1f; see Mt.3:2; 4:17; Rom.1-3; 2Cor.7:8-11)
2. the angel of the LORD: Immanuel (6:11-24; see 2:1f; 5:23; 13:3f)
3. covenant: sign of whole burnt offering (6:17-24; see 13:15f; Lev.9:24)
4. restoration: sin removed & righteousness reestablished (6:25-27; v.10)
5. Jerub-baal: Baal *does* contend against him! (6:32f; see 32,33 vs. 34,35; 7:24-8:3)
6. Gideon testing God (6:36-40(12,16); see Mal.3:10/Mt.4:7; see Gen.18:32; Mt.12:20; Mk.9:23f)
7. God testing Gideon (7:2f; 10f; see Heb.11:17; Jms.1:2f; 1Pt.1:7; 4:12)
8. the LORD & Gideon (7:18,20,22; 8:34,35; see 6:12,16; 7:2,7f; see Jn.5:23)
 - a. victory over true enemies (7:25; 8:10-12; 18-21)
 - b. victory over false brethren (Gad, E. of Jordan; see 8:4-9; 13-17 /Acts 20:29,30; 2C.11:26; Gal.2:4)
 - c. result: peace (8:28-32; see 6:23,24; see 2Sam.7:1; Rev.20:7f&21:1f; Mt.11:28)
 - d. faithful: refused to be king (8:22f; see 1Sam.8:7; 10:19; 12:12; Ps.10:16)
 - e. faithless: presumed to be priest (8:21,24-27; see 17:5; 18:14f)

III. LESSONS FROM THIS HISTORY

A. THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD (Heb.11:32f; see Acts 20:27; 2Tim.3:14-17)

B. THE GOODNESS & FAITHFULNESS OF GOD (6:1-12ff (all *Judges*) /Mk.1:15; Acts 2:32; 16:31 /Dt.30:1-3)

C. LORD & GIDEON: FATHER & SON (Jdgs.8:34,35; 7:18,20 /Lk.3:22; 10:16; Jn.5:23; Col.1:19; 2:9; 1Jn.2:23)

D. ONE GREATER THAN GIDEON! (8:21,24-27; Heb.8:5; see Mt.12:41,42; Jn.5:22; 2Tm.4:1)

1. called by God (6:11f,14; see Lk.1:28,35; 3:22)
2. God with him (6:12,16; see Mt.1:23)
3. Spirit upon him (6:34; see Lk.4:18a)
4. to set free oppressed people (6:1f; see Lk.4:18b; Mt.9:36)
5. learned obedience (6:17f, 36f; 7:10f; see Lk.2:52; Heb.5:8)
6. destroyed sin & accomplished righteousness (6:25-27; see Phil.2:5f; 2Cor.5:21)
7. Jerubaal: warrior (6:12,32 /Lk.4:1f; 11:18f,22; Jn.14:30; 2Th.2:8; Rev.1:6; 12:7f; 20:7f /Jdg.7:20; Rev.1:16,etc.)
8. a work of God (7:2; see Lk.6:13; 10:1f; 1Cor.1:26; Rom.9:27; 11:3)
9. destroys true enemies (7:25; 8:10-12; 18-21; see Rev.21:8)
10. destroys false friends (8:4-9; 13-17; see Mt.7:22f; 25:41f)
11. accomplishes peace (8:28; see Rev.20:4f&21:1f; Mt.11:28)
12. no refusal or presumption (8:22,27; see Zech.6:13; Heb.8:1)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. How is the Judges cycle (rebellion, retribution, repentance, restoration) evident in the history of Gideon?
 - a. What was the rebellion?
 - b. What was the retribution?
 - c. What was the repentance?
 - d. Who was the restoration?
7. How did God deliver Israel from the Midianites?
8. What is the connection between God & Gideon? What in the New Testament does this foreshadow?
9. In what ways is Gideon a faithful shadow?
10. In what ways is he only a shadow?
11. How does Romans 7:21-25 parallel Judges? Apply this to yourself.
12. How does Judges 7:20 apply to God's people at the (second) coming of Christ?