

TIMELINE OF TRUTH: The Calling of Gideon, the Fearful, Faulty Judge (Judges 6:1-40)

<p>¹ Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD.</p>	<p>1. SIN</p>
<p>So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, ² and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel.</p>	<p>2. SLAVERY</p> <p>a. God's Punishment: He turns them over...</p> <p>b. Israel's Oppressor: Midian</p> <p>c. The Length of the Oppression: 7 Years</p>
<p>Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which <i>are</i> in the mountains.</p> <p>³ So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.</p> <p>⁴ Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. ⁵ For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it. ⁶ So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites,</p>	<p>d. The Suffering of the Israelites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fleeing and hiding</i> • <i>Destruction of food supplies</i> • <i>Repeated invasion</i> • <i>Resulting impoverishment</i>
<p>and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. ⁷ And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites,</p>	<p>e. Children of Israel Cry Out to the LORD</p>
<p>⁸ that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; ⁹ 'and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ 'Also I said to you, "I <i>am</i> the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not obeyed My voice.'"</p>	<p>f. God Responds Through a Prophet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I brought you up from Egypt</i> • <i>I brought you out from bondage</i> • <i>I delivered you from the Egyptians</i> • <i>I drove out the people from the land</i> • <i>I gave you the land</i> • <i>I promised safety (do not fear...)</i> • <i>You have not obeyed my voice</i>
<p>¹¹ Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which <i>was</i> in Ophrah, which <i>belonged</i> to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide <i>it</i> from the Midianites. ¹² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD <i>is</i> with you, you mighty man of valor!" ¹³ Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where <i>are</i> all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."</p>	<p>3. SAVIOR</p> <p>a. The Angel of the LORD Appears to Gideon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Angel of the LORD Sits Under a Tree</i> • <i>Gideon Threshes in Secret</i> • <i>The Angel of the LORD Appears to Gideon</i> • <i>The Angel of the LORD Speaks to Gideon</i> • <i>The Angel of the LORD Labels Gideon</i> • <i>Gideon Responds Cynically to the Angel</i> • <i>Gideon Blames God for Israel's Plight</i>
<p>¹⁴ Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"</p>	<p>b. The LORD Charges Gideon to Save Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The LORD ascribes might to Gideon</i> • <i>The LORD commands Gideon to go</i> • <i>The LORD promises victory</i> • <i>The LORD affirms His own authority</i>
<p>¹⁵ So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I <i>am</i> the least in my father's house."</p>	<p>c. Gideon Questions God's Choice of Him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My clan is the weakest clan in my tribe</i> • <i>I am the least in my father's house</i>
<p>¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."</p>	<p>d. The LORD Again Promises Gideon Victory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God promises His presence</i> • <i>God promises singular victory</i>
<p>¹⁷ Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. ¹⁸ "Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set <i>it</i> before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back."</p> <p>¹⁹ So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought <i>them</i> out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented <i>them</i>.</p>	<p>e. Gideon Seeks His First Sign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gideon asks for proof of God's ID</i> • <i>Gideon prepares a meal as an offering</i> • <i>The AOTL gives instructions</i> • <i>The AOTL touches the offering with his staff & the offering is consumed by fire</i> • <i>The AOTL departs</i>

<p>²⁰ The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay <i>them</i> on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so.</p> <p>²¹ Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that <i>was</i> in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.</p>	
<p>²² Now <u>Gideon perceived</u> that He <i>was</i> the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face."</p> <p>²³ Then the LORD said to him, "Peace <i>be</i> with you; do not fear, you shall not die." ²⁴ So <u>Gideon built</u> an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-<i>Is</i>-Peace. To this day it <i>is</i> still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.</p>	<p>f. Gideon Builds His First Altar to God</p>
<p>²⁵ Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that <i>is</i> beside it; ²⁶ "and build an altar to the LORD your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."</p>	<p>g. God Charges Gideon with a Small Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take your father's young bull • Pull down your father's altar of Baal • Cut down the wooden image • Build a proper altar • Offer a burnt sacrifice (wood & bull)
<p>²⁷ So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the LORD had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do <i>it</i> by day, he did <i>it</i> by night.</p>	<p>h. Gideon Obeys God's Command at Night</p>
<p>²⁸ And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that <i>was</i> beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar <i>which had been</i> built.</p> <p>²⁹ So they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And when they had inquired and asked, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing."</p> <p>³⁰ Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that <i>was</i> beside it."</p>	<p>i. The Men of the City React</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They see • They investigate • They discover • They call out to Joash
<p>³¹ But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he <i>is</i> a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!"</p> <p>³² Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar."</p>	<p>j. Joash Defends Gideon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joash suggests Baal fight for himself • Gideon is assigned the name Jerubbaal
<p>³³ Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.</p>	<p>k. The Midianites & Amalekites Enter Again</p>
<p>³⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. ³⁵ And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.</p>	<p>l. The Spirit of the LORD Moves Gideon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirit moves Gideon • Gideon blows the trumpet (Abiezrites) • Gideon sends runners (3 tribes)
<p>³⁶ So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—³⁷ "look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and <i>it is</i> dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said."</p> <p>³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.</p>	<p>m. Gideon's Seeks His Second Sign from God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gideon already had one sign from God • Gideon already had a small success • Gideon already had great response • God honors Gideon's request • Fleece on ground – dew only on it...
<p>³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew."</p> <p>⁴⁰ And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.</p>	<p>n. Gideon's Seeks His Third Sign from God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gideon asks AGAIN... • God honors Gideon's request • Fleece on ground – no dew on it...
<p>1. God _____ calls those for His purposes.</p> <p>2. God _____ calls those for His purposes.</p>	<p>3. God sees us for what we _____ be in Him.</p> <p>4. God works with us in _____ (Joseph).</p>