

JUDGES CHAPTER 7

¹ And Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) rose early, and all the people with him, and encamped at the fountain of Harod. And the camp of Midian was to the north of him, *reaching* from the hill of Moreh, in the valley. ² And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people that are with you *are too* many, so that I may not deliver Midian into their hand, lest at any time Israel boast against Me, saying, 'My hand has saved me.' ³ And now speak in the ears of the people, saying, 'Who is afraid and fearful? Let him turn and depart from Mount Gilead.'" And there returned of the people twenty-two thousand, and ten thousand were left.

⁴ And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too numerous; bring them down to the water, and I will purge them there for you; and it shall come to pass that of whom I shall say to you, This one shall go with you, even he shall go with you; and of whomever I shall say to you, This one shall not go with you, *even* he shall not go with you." ⁵ And he brought the people down to the water; and the Lord said to Gideon, "Whoever shall lap of the water with his tongue as if a dog should lap, you shall set him apart; likewise whoever shall bow down upon his knees to drink." ⁶ And the number of those that lapped with their hand to their mouth was three hundred men; and all the rest of the people bowed upon their knees to drink water. ⁷ And the Lord said to Gideon, "I will save you by the three hundred men that lapped, and I will give Midian into your hand; and all the *rest of the* people shall go everyone to his place." ⁸ And they took the provision of the people in their hand, and their horns; and he sent away every man of Israel, each to his tent, and he strengthened the three hundred. And the army of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

⁹ And it came to pass in that night that the Lord said to him, "Arise, go down into the camp, for I have delivered them into your hand. ¹⁰ And if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant. ¹¹ And you shall hear what they shall say, and afterwards your hands shall be strong, and you shall go down into the camp." And he went down with Purah his servant to the extremity of the *companies of fifty*, which were in the camp. ¹² And Midian and Amalek and all the children of the east *were* scattered in the valley, as numerous as locusts; and there was no number to their camels, but they were as the sand on the seashore in multitude.

¹³ And Gideon came, and behold, a man *was* relating a dream to his neighbor, and he said, "Behold, I have dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread rolling into the camp of Midian, and it came as far as a tent, and struck it, and it fell, and it turned it up, and the tent fell." ¹⁴ And his neighbor answered and said, "This is none other than the sword of Gideon, son of Joash a man of Israel: God has delivered Midian and all the host into his hand."

¹⁵ And it came to pass when Gideon heard the account of the dream and the interpretation of it, that he worshipped the Lord, and returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Rise up, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into our hand." ¹⁶ And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and put horns in the hands of all, and empty pitchers, and torches in the pitchers. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "You shall look at me, and so shall you do; and behold, I will go to the beginning of the camp, and it shall come to pass *that* as I do, so

shall you do. ¹⁸ And I will blow the trumpet, and all you with me shall blow *your* trumpets round about the whole camp, and you shall say, 'For the Lord and Gideon.'"

¹⁹ And Gideon and the hundred men that were with him came to the extremity of the army in the beginning of the middle watch; and they completely roused the guards, and blew the trumpets, and they smashed the pitchers that were in their hands, ²⁰ and the three companies blew their trumpets, and smashed their pitchers, and held the torches in their left hands, and in their right hands their horns to sound with; and they cried out, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon." ²¹ And *every* man stood in his place round about the camp; and all the army ran, and sounded *an alarm*, and fled. ²² And they sounded with the three hundred horns; and the Lord set *every* man's sword in all the camp against his neighbor. ²³ And the army fled as far as Bethseed Tagaragatha Abel-meula to Tabath. And the men of Israel from Nephtali, and from Asher, and from all Manasseh, came to help, and followed after Midian.

²⁴ And Gideon sent messengers into all of Mount Ephraim, saying, "Come down to meet Midian, and take to yourselves the water as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan." And every man of Ephraim cried out, and they took the water before hand unto Beth Barah and the Jordan. ²⁵ And they took the princess of Midian, even Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and they slew Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. And they pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon from beyond the Jordan.