



Wednesday
January 13, 2021

Judges

1

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The cycle of sin, judgment, oppressive conditions and the cry of God's people for deliverance repeated. 6:1-10
 - A coalition of the Midianites and Amalekites come upon the land annually to devour the harvest of what the Israelites had grown and to take their livestock. Their presence is compared to a plague of locusts.
 - The people took refuge in caves and walled cities.
 - God sent a prophet to remind the people of the reason for their distress. Again, the necessity for a prophet to deliver this message shows the failure of the priests and Levites to teach God's Word to the people.

2

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - The angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon to call and commission him for the task of delivering Israel from the oppression of the coalition of the Midianites and Amalekites.
 - This is another instance of a theophany-God physically appearing to a person.

3

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - The angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon to call and commission him for the task of delivering Israel from the oppression of the coalition of the Midianites and Amalekites.
 - The fact that the One speaking to Gideon received a sacrifice made to Him supports the fact that this was an appearance of God and not an angel. Angels whom people seek to worship, rebuke those who do so. (see Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9)

4

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - The angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon to call and commission him for the task of delivering Israel from the oppression of the coalition of the Midianites and Amalekites.
 - Gideon's response when the sacrifice was consumed gives further credence to being in the presence of Yahweh.

5

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - The setting: Gideon is beating out wheat in a winepress in order to hide from the invading armies. Winnowing of wheat was normally done out in the open so the wind would separate the wheat from the chaff.

6



7

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - God's address to Gideon as a "mighty man of valor" shows that God sees us from the potential He can turn into a reality.

8

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - Gideon's responses to God are a sad commentary of the way the sinfulness of God's people obscures the character and glory of God.
 - A skeptical, even cynical, view of God's presence and care.
 - The hazard of interpreting God's actions by our circumstances rather than His revelation. Gideon's assessment was that God had abandoned His people but the truth was that God was active in bringing this judgment on His people because of their sin and had assured many times in His Word that He would never forsake them.

9

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - Gideon slowly began to realize that this may be no ordinary person speaking to him.
 - The LORD turned to face Gideon and gave him the command to deliver Israel from the hand of Midian.
 - Gideon responds with a realization that this was someone with authority but protests his innate inability to do what is being asked.

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The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - Gideon slowly began to realize that this may be no ordinary person speaking to him.
 - At the assurance that Yahweh would be with him to enable Him to accomplish this task, Gideon offers to bring a sacrificial offering to Him as a way to know if this is indeed the God of Israel speaking with him.

11

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - Gideon slowly began to realize that this may be no ordinary person speaking to him.
 - God confirmed His identity by making fire spring from the rock and completely consuming the sacrifice and then vanishing from sight.
 - Gideon realizes that he has been in the presence of Yahweh

12

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - The call of Gideon
 - Gideon slowly began to realize that this may be no ordinary person speaking to him.
 - God reassures Gideon that he will not die due to this. From this point forward Gideon hears from God and knows that it is God who is speaking to him.
 - Gideon responded by building an altar there to Yahweh.

13

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - Deliverance begins with a direct challenge to the idolatry of Israel.
 - God directs Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal that his father had erected and cut down the Asherah beside it. (Asherah was represented by a tree or pole).
 - He then directs Gideon to build an altar to Yahweh with stones (see Exodus 20:25) and offer one of the bulls used to pull down the altar of Baal as a burnt offering using the wood from the Asherah to fuel the offering.

14

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
 - Deliverance begins with a direct challenge to the idolatry of Israel.
 - The men of the city seek to put Gideon to death for this act, but his father defends him indicating that if Baal is indeed a god, he should be able to defend himself.
 - As a result of this they call Gideon Jerubbaal which means contender with Baal.

15

Lessons

- Never form your view of God or His activity solely from your circumstances or the events you see unfolding around you.
- None of us are able in our own strength to function effectively in God's kingdom work. Therefore, we should never see our inability as a criterion for disqualification for the work for which God clearly calls us.
- It is reasonable to carefully determine that we have heard from God.
- Our loyalty to God must transcend every other loyalty.
- We can confidently entrust our lives to God as we walk in obedience to Him.
