



“Open Church – Open Bible”

Clabon Bogan Jr. – Interim Pastor



Sunday Church School

June 14, 2020

“The Call of Gideon” – Judges 6:11-24

“Open Church – Open Bible”

“Judge 6:11-24”

¹ **Judges 6:11-24** Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which *was* in Ophrah, which *belonged* to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide *it* from the Midianites.

² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD *is* with you, you mighty man of valor!"

³ Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD *is* with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where *are* 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."

⁴ 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?"

“Open Church – Open Bible”

“Judge 6:11-24”

¹⁵ So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan *is* the weakest in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house."

¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

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 *it* before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back."

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 *them* out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented *them*.

²⁰ The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay *them* on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so.

“Open Church – Open Bible”

“Judge 6:11-24”

²¹ Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was 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.

²² Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face."

²³ Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die."

²⁴ So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“The Call of Gideon”



As God’s people, we are classified as being “**the called** [klētos= invited; appointed] **according to His purpose** [prothesis– setting forth; proposal; the shewbread in the OT that was exposed before God] (Rom. 8:28).

- We are the “sanctified ones” in Christ, called to be “Saints” [hagios – consecrated]

In both the OT and NT there was a call to specific areas of ministry and service, which extended beyond ones’ call to salvation and Holy relationship.

Israel was called to a unique role in the world, but some Israelites were called to serve the Lord in special ways.

- However, not all those who were called were anxious to do what God asked.
 - When Moses was called at the burning bush, he offered numerous excuses for not responding to God’s summons (Exod. 3:1—4:17).
 - When Jeremiah was called to be a prophet, he protested that he was too young (Jer. 1:4-10).
 - As for Jonah, he just up and ran contrary to the direction he was ordered



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“The Call of Gideon”



In contrast, others willingly responded to God’s call like Isaiah who responded by declaring, “Here am I; send me” (Isa. 6:8).

In the NT, we find the four fishing partners who answered Christ’s call, “Follow me, and I will make you to become fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19).

Our lesson focus, Gideon, was one of those who balked at first at God’s call, something with which some of us might identify.

Last week you were introduced to Israel’ cycle of sin and deliverance caused by:

- a) The Death of Joshua which promoted disloyalty to God
 - b) The Torah is forgotten and the means of recalling God’s protection is forgotten
 - c) The influence of the people of the land whom they were supposed to get rid of
 - d) Selfish and personal desires replaced Holy instructions (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)
- Seven years of bondage under the Midianites had brought Israel to its lowest level.
 - Instead of “riding on the high places” (Deut. 32:13), they were hiding in the dens!



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“The Call of Gideon”



The Israelites were not even allowed to harvest their grain, which explains why we find Gideon hiding in the winepress.

- God’s prophet (Judges 6: 7–10) reminded the people of their unbelief and sin
- Then God’s Angel—Christ Himself—visited Gideon to prepare him for his victory.

Although God had forsaken His people temporarily; He was now working through chosen individuals (2:18).

- **Psalm 30:5** For his anger *endureth but* a moment; **in his favor is life**: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning

Our lesson today will be divided into four parts:

- I. GIDEON’S DOUBT—Judg. 6:11-15
- II. GIDEON’S REASSURANCE—Judg. 6:16-18
- III. GIDEON’S GIFT TO THE ANGEL—Judg. 6:19-21
- IV. GIDEON WORSHIPS THE LORD—Judg. 6:22-24



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“The Call of Gideon”



I. GIDEON’S DOUBT—Judg. 6:11-15

- In the verses 1-10 we learn that Israel once again “did evil in the sight of the Lord” and the enemy God used to oppress them was Midian— a nation that was (vs. 1) distantly related to them through one of Abraham’s children (Gen. 25:1-4).
- They found themselves impoverished because of attacks by Midian along with the Amalekites who destroyed their crops and thus they had no food for their livestock
- The oppression forced them to cry unto the Lord (V 7) and in response, God sent an unnamed prophet to remind them of the His goodness toward them (V 8-10)
- God’s intention was to deliver Israel by the hand of a man we would first meet when an angel appears to him.
- I fear of the enemies he was threshing wheat in a wine vat rather than on the hillside where the wind could blow away the chaff.
 - God would use the son of a Baal shrine caretaker (6:25-25) to be His deliverer



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“The Call of Gideon”



- Being identified as an **Abiezrite** (ab-ee-haw-ez-ree), his pedigree can be traced back to Joseph’s son Manasseh (I Chron 7:17-18)
- While he was working threshing wheat, he was visited by “**the angel of the Lord,**” which is often accepted as a theophany or appearance of Christ Himself
- The first words spoken by the Angel should have been reassuring to Gideon, but they were not; as it did not appear as though God was with Israel.
- Nor did Gideon see himself as God saw him -- a “mighty man of valor” (6:12).
[GOD DOES NOT SEE US AS WE ARE – RATHER AS WHAT WE WILL BECOME]
- Although Gideon did not see himself as such, this title nevertheless anticipated what he would become with the Lord’s help.
[V 13 indicates just because of what we’re doing for God no ill should come to us]
[Scripture does not teach that we will always have good fortune and happiness]
- Gideon also reminded the Angel of the miracles God had performed for Israel in the past, and based on this history, their current plight looked like abandonment
- Apparently, it did not enter his mind that they had forsaken the Lord and their current difficulties were in fact the result of their backsliding.



“Open Church – Open Bible”



“The Call of Gideon”

- Undaunted by Gideon’s erroneous assumption, the Angel of the Lord commanded Gideon to go in the strength he had and promised God’s deliverance
- Don’t forget, this was not something Gideon initiated; he was being sent by Israel’s God, therefore, he could not fail.
- If God calls us, He will also equip us, as He did in Gideon’s case.

II. **GIDEON’S RESSURANCE -- Judg. 6:16-18)**

- Responding to Gideon’s doubts, especially in his own abilities, God reassured the reluctant deliverer that neither he nor the nation had been forsaken.
- The promise to Gideon, “**Surely I will be with thee**” (V 16), is one all true believers should cling to (e.g., Like Peter sinking into the waters of Galilee- Matt. 14)
- There promises that apply to all believers, not just those called to special tasks or ministries (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5)
- It is one thing to know that the Lord is with us in troubling circumstances, but it is another thing to know that we will be victorious.



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“The Call of Gideon”



- Still not convinced what the Angel promised was going to occur, Gideon asked for two additional signs to be revealed through a fleece (v 36-40)
- It is not clear when Gideon realized he was in the presence of Divinity, but at this point his faith is weak
- Although God allowed this test, just as He did with Thomas (John 21:20), we are better served by diligently exploring God’s Word and walking by faith.
- With angelic appearances in Scripture, once they have delivered their message, they don’t stay around; but Gideon asked the Angel of the Lord to stay in order that he might give Him an offering (a present – V 18)– the Angel conceded

III. GIDEON’S GIFT TO THE ANGEL—Judg. 6:19-21

- Gideon prepared a common animal sacrifice of a young goat.
- Along with the meat, Gideon took a large quantity of flour and made some unleavened bread; as in the Passover (Exod. 12:8)



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“The Call of Gideon”



- The **acceptance of Gideon’s sacrifice** would indicate the acceptance of his person; but it required an express assurance of the divine blessing, given in some unknown manner, to restore his comfort and peace of mind.
- Probably much to the surprise of Gideon, the Angel instructed him to place the meat and bread upon “this rock,” possibly part of the winepress.
- Thus, the **miraculous fire** that consumed it and the **vanishing of the stranger**, not by walking, but as a spirit in the fire, filled Gideon with awe.

IV. GIDEON WORSHIPS THE LORD—Judg. 6:22-24

- With the sudden departure of the Angel, either by ascending into heaven or simply disappearing (vs. 21), Gideon was now convinced that he had been in the presence of a divine messenger.
- This lends support to the view that the Angel had appeared to Gideon incognito.



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“Lessons from the Study”



- Gideon immediately built an altar to Yahweh to mark the spot of this manifestation.
- He named that altar *“Yahweh is Peace”* to celebrate the fact that he had seen the *Angel face to face without tasting death.*
- However, this is not a good example for us to follow. “Jehovah-shalom” means “The Lord is our peace,” and if that is so we trust Him on His word
- Peace is a state of tranquility or quietness of spirit that transcends circumstances and with our dialogue with God we obtain peace that we can’t even comprehend (Phil. 4:6-7)
- As we act, we can take comfort from the fact that He is at work within us, “both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13).



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“The Call of Gideon”



1. What was Gideon’s family background?
2. How did the Angel first address Gideon? Why did he address him this way?
3. What was Gideon’s perspective on Israel’s current situation?
4. How did Gideon attempt to excuse himself from the Angel’s request?



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“The Call of Gideon”



5. What did Gideon request from the Angel?
6. What was the gift Gideon offered to the Angel? What happened to the sacrifice?
7. What did Gideon name the place? Why?

“Open Church – Open Bible”

Communication Information

Thank you for sharing today at the “Open Church-Open Bible Ministry at the Christ Baptist Church.

If this lesson has been a blessing to you, and you desire to support Christ Baptist , please go to <http://www.cbcburlingtonnj.org/>, click on the **GIVE tab at the top of the page and follow the prompts**

**Or Send Your Donations by Mail to
Christ Baptist Church, PO Box 10, Burlington NJ 08016**

A copy of this lesson can be obtained by going to the **CBC Website at <http://www.cbcburlingtonnj.org/>, **Click at the SUNDAY SCHOOL TAB**
A copy of the Weekly Lesson PDF will be available for downloading**

www.cbcburlingtonnj.org e-mail churchoffice@cbcburlingtonnj.org 609.387.1234