

Judges 6-8

# GIDEON

Man of *Fear*, Man of *Faith*



**Paul J. Scharf, M.Div.**

Church Ministries Representative

[foi.org/scharf](https://foi.org/scharf) • [pscharf@foi.org](mailto:pscharf@foi.org)

**Our mission is focused:**  
**The Friends of Israel is a**  
**worldwide evangelical ministry**  
**proclaiming Biblical truth**  
**about Israel and the Messiah,**  
**while bringing physical and spiritual**  
**comfort to the Jewish people.**



Passion for God's Word.  
Compassion for God's Chosen People.



A cluster of colorful fireworks in shades of pink, yellow, and purple exploding in the upper right area of the blue background.

# Happy Purim!

from The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry



# Psalm 83:4

They have said, “Come, and let us cut  
them off from being a nation,  
That the name of Israel may be  
remembered no more.”







# WALKING OVER BROKEN GLASS

IN BLOGS, JEWISH HISTORY BY [PAUL SCHARF](#) / NOVEMBER 3, 2023 / [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



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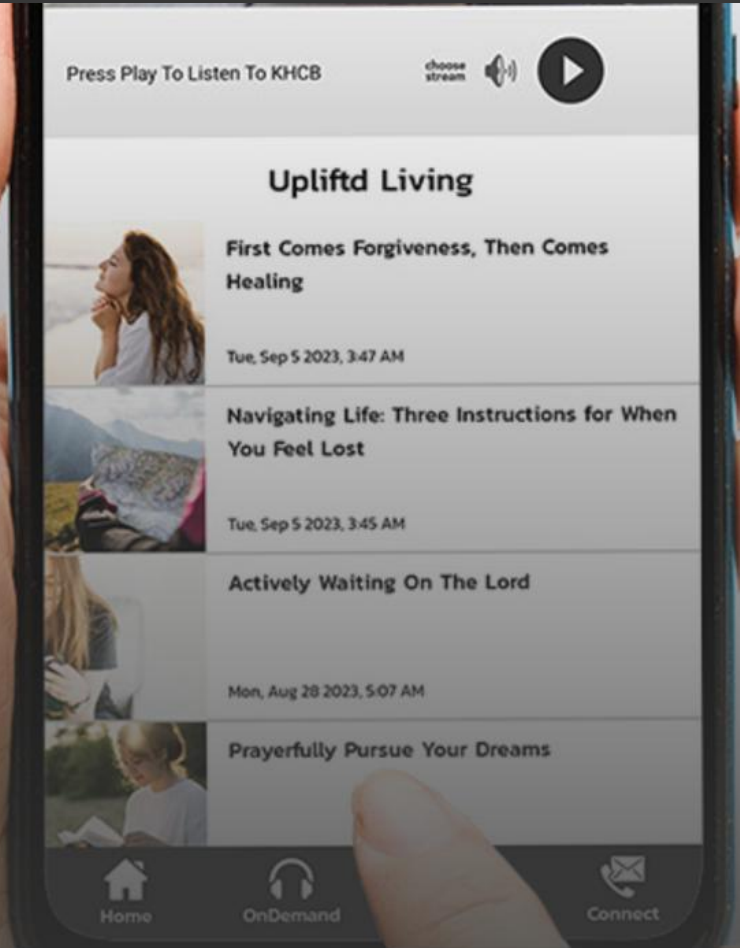
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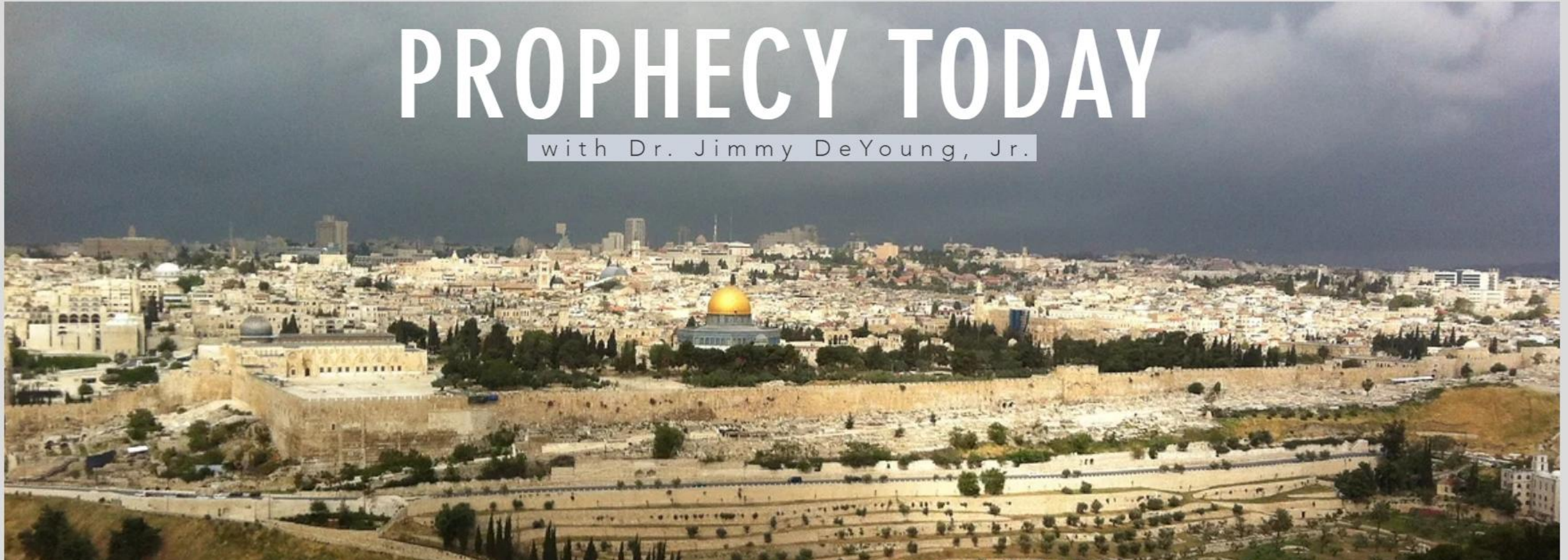
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NKJV 843 4 years



Join Us in Portage to Begin the New Year 1/7/2024

Dear Friends, We will be representing The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry at Grace Bible Church in Portage, WI, on Sunday, Jan. 7. Paul will be speaking at 10 a.m., on the...



FEATURED

## What's Ahead for Israel?

Paul Scharf | Signs Intensifying

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Many Anxio..

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previously featured

The Captain of Salvation-  
Hebrews 2:10

Ken Wimer

SERMONAUDIO.COM/PSCHARF

**Thursday,  
April 10,  
11 a.m. –  
Passover**



sermon**audio**.com  
*"faith cometh by hearing"*

A faint, stylized world map composed of a grid of dots, centered in the background of the lower half of the image.

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Passion for God's Word.  
Compassion for God's Chosen People.

**Dear Friends,**

We are deeply grateful for the generous outpouring of response we received during the closing days of the year as we sought to reach full financial support. Of course, we're anxious to know the final statistics, and we'll share them as soon as we are able.

The New Year began with a glorious Sunday with our friends at Bad Axe Church in Viroqua, Wis.! We'll be with this historic congregation all month. I know that all the folks there would really appreciate your prayers as they sort through numerous decisions which must be made following the retirement of their longtime pastor.

**Every Blessing!**



**Paul J. Scharf, M.Div.**  
Church Ministries Representative





**Paul J. Scharf, M.Div.**

Church Ministries Representative

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# Gideon: Man of Fear

Paul J. Scharf - Fri, 03/07/25 12:00 am

► Fear ► Gideon ► Courage ► Faith

The word "FEAR" is rendered in large, three-dimensional, weathered metal letters. The letters are a dull, greyish-brown color with visible rust and texture. They are set against a dark, textured background that looks like a dark stone or metal surface. The lighting is dramatic, coming from the upper left, casting long, dark shadows to the right of the letters.

[sharperiron.org](http://sharperiron.org)



# Gideon: Man of Faith

Paul J. Scharf - Fri, 03/14/25 12:00 am

► Faith ► Gideon ► Fear ► Courage

The word "FAITH" is rendered in large, three-dimensional, light green block letters. The letters are positioned on a dark green, slightly textured background. Each letter has a subtle shadow beneath it, giving it a sense of depth and making it appear to float or sit on the surface.

sharperiron.org

Judges 6-8

# GIDEON

Man of *Fear*, Man of *Faith*



**Paul J. Scharf, M.Div.**

Church Ministries Representative

[foi.org/scharf](https://foi.org/scharf) • [pscharf@foi.org](mailto:pscharf@foi.org)





PSALM 119:105 KJV

**THY WORD IS A  
LAMP UNTO  
MY FEET  
AND A LIGHT UNTO  
MY PATH**



The Gideons  
International



# ***Background to Judges***





Creation



The Flood



Christ's  
First  
Coming



Christ's  
Second  
Coming

Ages  
Past

Eden

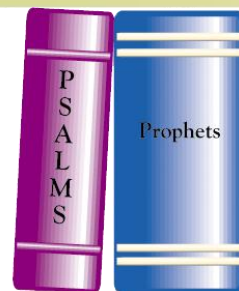
Old  
Testament

Silent  
Years

Church Age

Millennium

Ages  
to  
Come





I WILL  
**BLESS THOSE WHO  
BLESS YOU,**

---

AND I WILL  
**CURSE HIM WHO  
CURSES YOU;**

---

AND IN YOU  
**ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH  
SHALL BE BLESSED.**

---

GENESIS 12:3



NATION	START	END	TIME SPAN
Caananites	3000 B.C.	1000 B.C.	2000
Assyria	2500 B.C.	612 B.C.	1,888
Ammorites	2100 B.C.	1600 B.C.	500
Babylonians	1900 B.C.	539 B.C.	1361
Hittites	1600 B.C.	710 B.C.	890
Moabites	1300 B.C.	582 B.C.	718
Edomites	1300 B.C.	500 B.C.	800
Philistines	1200 B.C.	600 B.C.	600
Arameans	1200 B.C.	732 B.C.	468
Chaldeans	1000 B.C.	539 B.C.	461

## ISRAEL







**The book of Joshua  
covers roughly 30 years.**



**The book of Joshua  
covers roughly 30 years.**

**The book of Judges  
covers roughly 350 years.**

**The book of Joshua  
covers roughly 30 years.**

**The book of Judges  
covers roughly 350 years.**

**That is nearly nine percent of the  
entire Old Testament record!**



*When Joshua died,  
God did not appoint a person  
to succeed him as the military  
and political leader of the entire  
nation of Israel.*



**DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE**  
**“Notes on Judges: Introduction”**

*Instead, each tribe  
was to proceed to conquer  
and occupy its allotted territory.*



**DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE**  
“Notes on Judges: Introduction”



*Many, going back to ancient Jewish sources, believe the author of Judges to be none other than Samuel—the last judge of Israel (Acts 13:20).*



**“Samuel Judges Israel”**



# **CHRONOLOGY OF OLD TESTAMENT PATRIARCHS AND JUDGES**

**Moses**  
**(1520-1405)**

**Gideon**  
**(1180-1165)**

**Samuel**  
**(1070-1025)**



*Though the land had been  
generally conquered and occupied  
under Joshua, many important  
Canaanite strongholds*



***RYRIE STUDY BIBLE***  
***“Judges: Introduction,” p. 567***

*had been bypassed,  
leaving their subjugation  
to individual Israelite tribes.*



***RYRIE STUDY BIBLE***  
***“Judges: Introduction,” p. 567***





**This was a major test  
for the people of Israel  
in the plan and purposes of God.  
See Judges 2:20-23.**

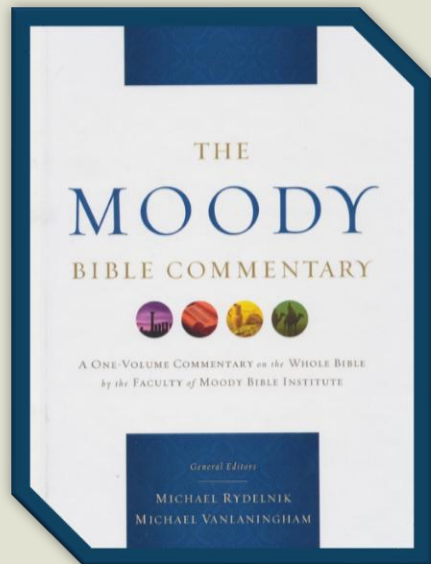




**This time period  
of the Judges  
has been called  
“Israel’s Dark Ages.”**



*Judges recounts the turmoil  
of the tribes during the years  
following the failure  
to occupy the land completely.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
**“Judges,” John McMath, p. 355**

# CHRONOLOGY OF OLD TESTAMENT PATRIARCHS AND JUDGES







**Dr. Merrill Unger's title  
for the book of Judges is  
“The Monotony  
and Misery of Sin”**

“They forsook the LORD  
and served Baal  
and the Ashtoreths.”

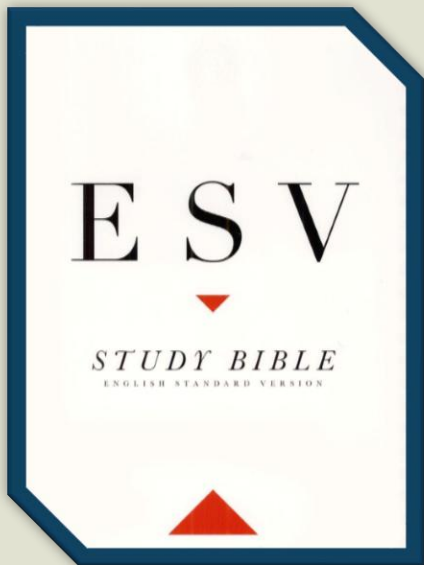
**Judges 2:13, NKJV**

“And they took their daughters  
to be their wives,  
and gave their daughters  
to their sons; and they  
served other gods.”

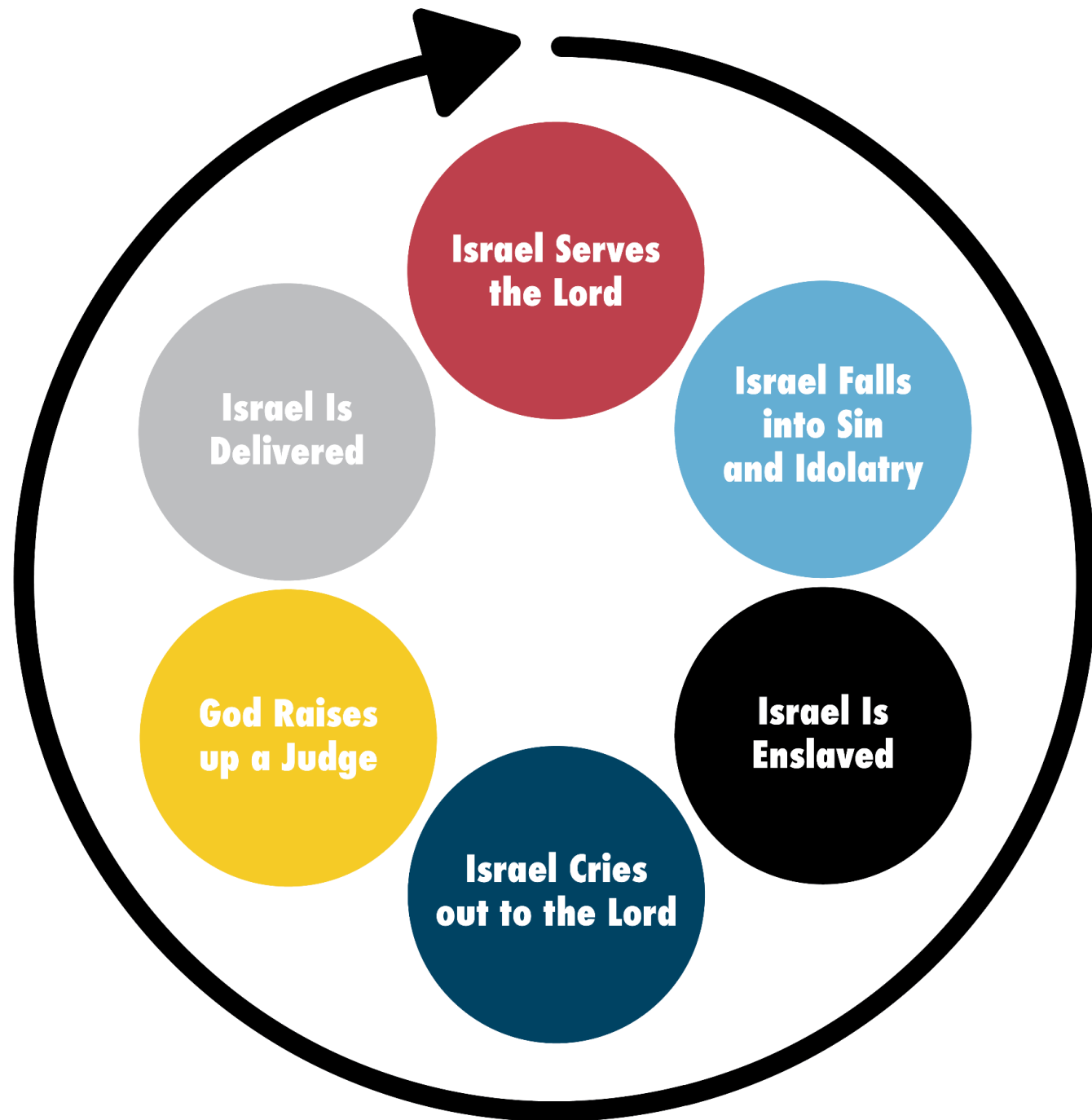
**Judges 3:6, NKJV**



*Israel's history unfolded in this period  
in a cyclical or repetitive way:  
each cycle took Israel further downward  
in its debasement and apostasy.*



***ESV STUDY BIBLE***  
**“Introduction to Judges,” p. 433**







**In Judges 6, we are  
in the fourth of seven cycles**

**In Judges 6, we are  
in the fourth of seven cycles**

**Gideon is the fifth judge  
of 12 overall**

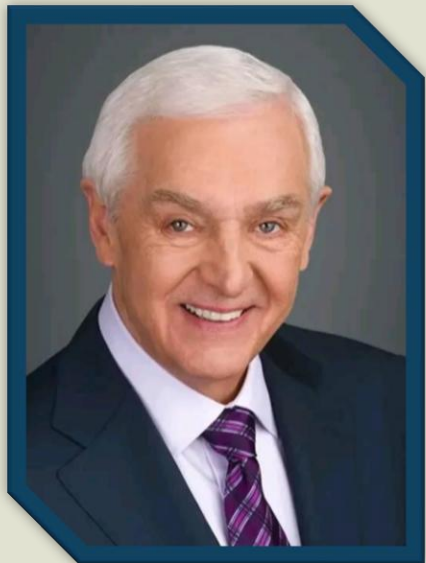
**In Judges 6, we are  
in the fourth of seven cycles**

**Gideon is the fifth judge  
of 12 overall**

**Gideon is the  
fourth major judge**

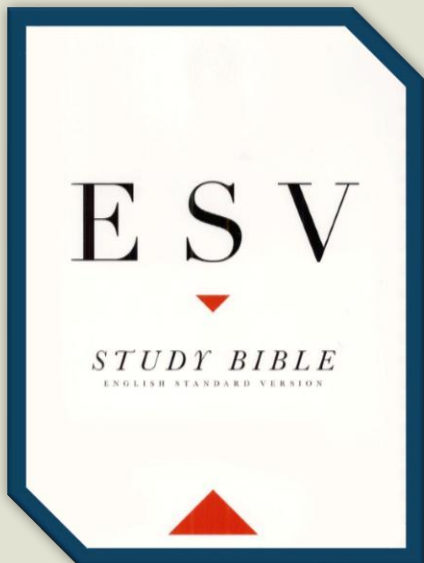


*These cycles of sin-oppression-repentance-deliverance formed a downward spiral in which the Israelites become increasingly corrupt and more like the Canaanites.*



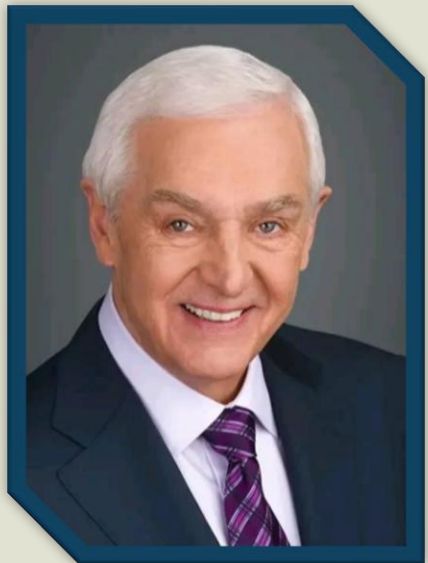
***THE JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE***  
**“Judges—Book Introduction,” p. 312**

*By the end of the book,  
Israel had violated  
its covenant with God  
in almost every way imaginable.*



***ESV STUDY BIBLE***  
**“Introduction to Judges,” p. 433**

*The worst long-term consequence  
of the people failing to teach  
and transfer their covenant history  
is that they failed to cleanse Canaan  
of its pagan tribes.*



***THE JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE***  
**“Judges—Book Introduction,” p. 311**





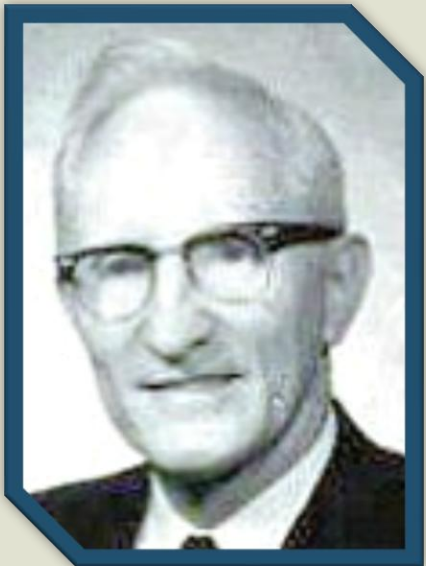
**The book of Judges  
is an illustration or outworking  
of God's prophetic plan  
for His people—outlined  
in Lev. 26 and Deut. 28.**

“You shall carry much seed  
out to the field  
but gather little in,  
for the locust  
shall consume it.”

**Deuteronomy 28:38, NKJV**



*Judges takes its name  
from the 12 Spirit-anointed  
military leaders the Lord raised up  
to deliver the nation.*

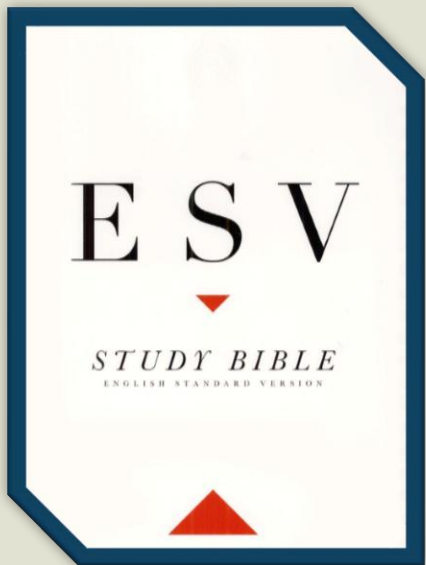


**DR. MERRILL F. UNGER**  
*Unger's Bible Handbook, p. 169*

# JUDGES AND THE ISRAELITE OPPRESSORS

Judge	Years of Judging	Oppressor	Reference in Judges
Othniel	40	Mesopotamia	3:7-11
Ehud	80	Moab	3:12-30
Shamgar	unknown	Philistia	3:31
Deborah & Barak	40	Canaan	4:1-5:31
Gideon	40	Midian	6:1-8:28
Tola	23	unknown	10:1-2
Jair	22	unknown	10:3-5
Jephthah	06	Ammon	10:6-12:7
Ibzan	07	unknown	12:8-10
Elon	10	unknown	12:11-12
Abdon	08	unknown	12:13-15
Samson	20	Philistia	13:1-16:31

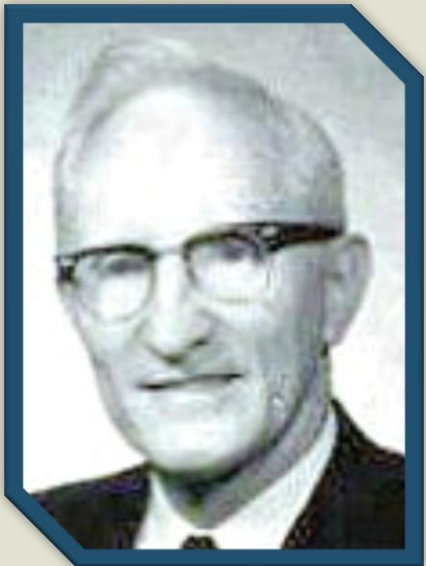
*Even though they had severe flaws,  
four of these judges are mentioned  
among the heroes of the faith  
(Hebrews 11).*



***ESV STUDY BIBLE***  
**“Introduction to Judges,” p. 437**

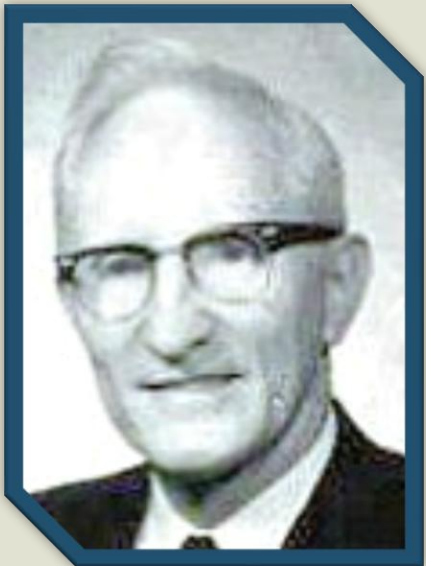


*As a loose confederacy  
around the central shrine at Shiloh,  
the young nation had no  
stable central government,*



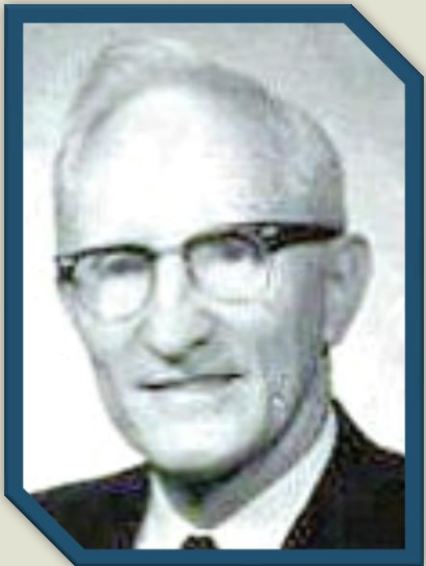
**DR. MERRILL F. UNGER**  
*Unger's Bible Handbook, p. 169*

*and forsaking the Lord,  
it became an easy prey  
for enemy invasion.*



**DR. MERRILL F. UNGER**  
*Unger's Bible Handbook, p. 169*

*The judges first delivered the people,  
then ruled over them.*



**DR. MERRILL F. UNGER**  
*Unger's Bible Handbook, p. 169*



“You shall appoint judges  
and officers in all your gates,  
which the LORD your God  
gives you,

**Deuteronomy 16:18, NKJV**

according to your tribes,  
and they shall judge  
the people  
with just judgment.”

**Deuteronomy 16:18, NKJV**

“May the LORD, the Judge,  
render judgment this day  
between the children of Israel  
and the people of Ammon.”

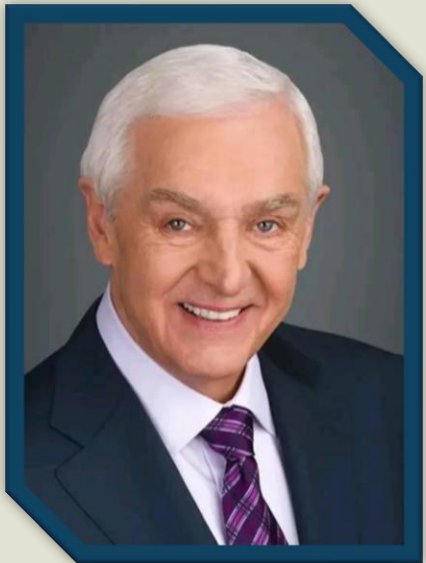
**Judges 11:27b, NKJV**





**The book of Judges  
anticipates better days ahead  
when the nation of Israel  
would be ruled by a godly king:**

*Judges is a striking portrait  
of a people without a king,  
making readers long for the  
one true King, Jesus.*



***THE JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE***  
**“Judges—Book Introduction,” p. 312**



**The book of Judges  
anticipates better days ahead  
when the nation of Israel  
would be ruled by a godly king:**

**The book of Judges  
anticipates better days ahead  
when the nation of Israel  
would be ruled by a godly king:**

➤ **17:6**

**The book of Judges  
anticipates better days ahead  
when the nation of Israel  
would be ruled by a godly king:**

➤ **17:6**

➤ **18:1**



**The book of Judges  
anticipates better days ahead  
when the nation of Israel  
would be ruled by a godly king:**

➤ **17:6**

➤ **18:1**

➤ **19:1**

**The book of Judges  
anticipates better days ahead  
when the nation of Israel  
would be ruled by a godly king:**

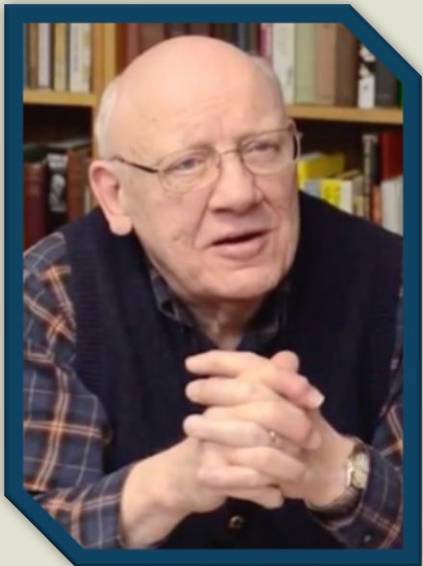
- **17:6**
- **18:1**
- **19:1**
- **21:25**

“In those days *there was*  
no king in Israel;  
everyone did *what was* right  
in his own eyes.”

**Judges 21:25, NKJV**

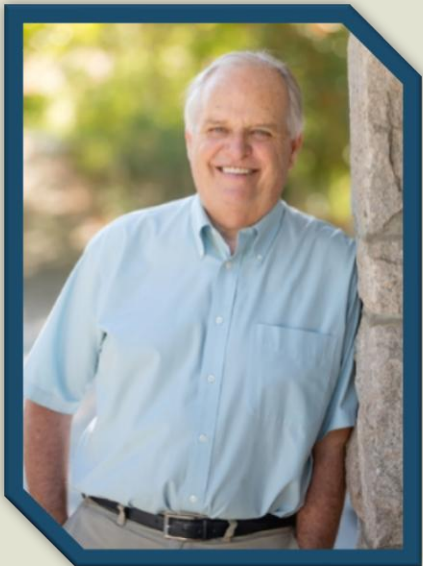


*Judges is the book of “no king”....  
The world today is living  
in the Book of Judges  
because there is  
no king in Israel.*



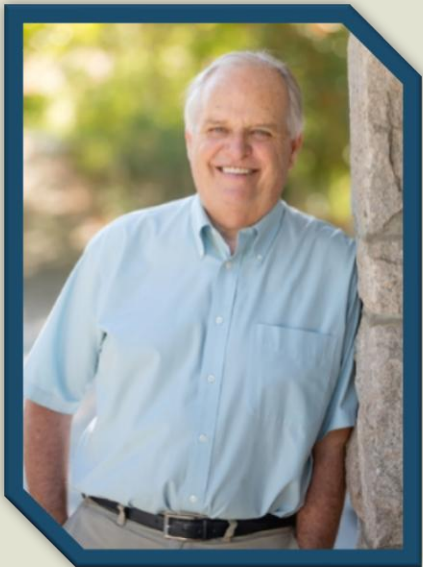
**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 170*

*Few periods of history  
are so much like our own  
as the time of the Judges....*



**GARY INRIG**  
*Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay, p. 9*

*It describes a time of moral,  
spiritual, and ethical anarchy,  
a society without standards.*



**GARY INRIG**  
*Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay, p. 13*





**According to Unger,  
as we move from Joshua  
to Judges, we go from:**

**According to Unger,  
as we move from Joshua  
to Judges, we go from:**

- **victory to defeat**



**According to Unger,  
as we move from Joshua  
to Judges, we go from:**

- **victory to defeat**
- **freedom to servitude**

**According to Unger,  
as we move from Joshua  
to Judges, we go from:**

- **victory to defeat**
- **freedom to servitude**
  - **faith to unbelief**

**According to Unger,  
as we move from Joshua  
to Judges, we go from:**

- **victory to defeat**
- **freedom to servitude**
  - **faith to unbelief**
- **progress to declension**





▪ **spiritual vision  
to earthly emphasis**

- **spiritual vision  
to earthly emphasis**
- **fidelity to apostasy**



- **spiritual vision  
to earthly emphasis**
- **fidelity to apostasy**
  - **joy to sorrow**

- **spiritual vision  
to earthly emphasis**
- **fidelity to apostasy**
  - **joy to sorrow**
- **strength to weakness**

- **spiritual vision  
to earthly emphasis**
- **fidelity to apostasy**
  - **joy to sorrow**
- **strength to weakness**
  - **unity to anarchy**

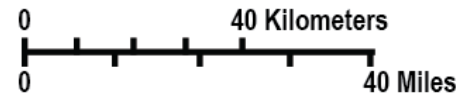


- **spiritual vision  
to earthly emphasis**
- **fidelity to apostasy**
  - **joy to sorrow**
- **strength to weakness**
  - **unity to anarchy**
  - **sin judged to sin  
lightly regarded**

# ***Introducing Gideon***



# ISRAEL



- Cities
- ▲ Mountains

Mediterranean Sea

LEBANON

SYRIA

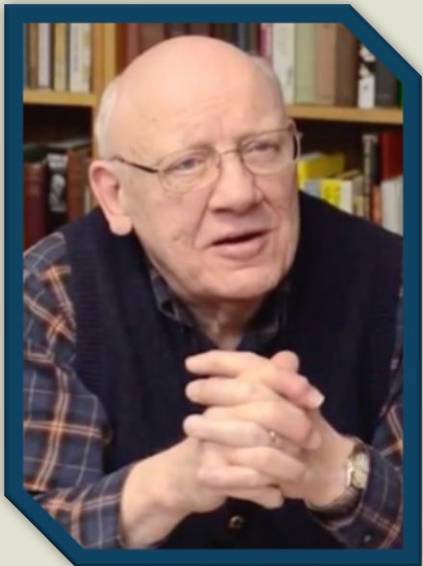
Gaza

Dead Sea/  
Salt Sea



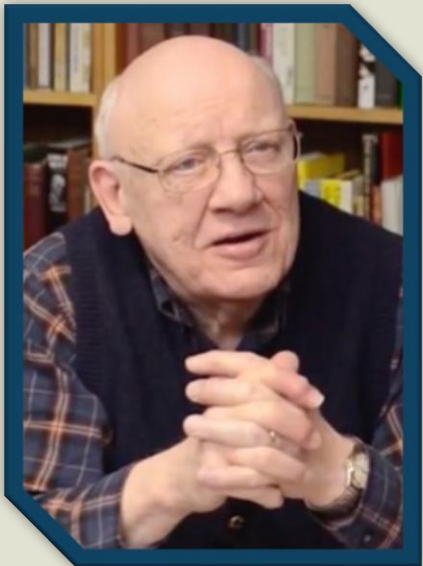


*... more space is devoted to Gideon  
in the Book of Judges (100 verses)  
than to any other judge;*



**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 113*

*and Gideon is the only judge  
whose personal struggles  
with his faith are recorded.*



**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 113*

**Gideon was from the tribe of Manasseh,  
the son of Joash the Abiezrite.  
He was also called “Jerubbaal” (Judg. 6:32;  
7:1) and “Jerubbesheth” (2 Sam. 11:21).**

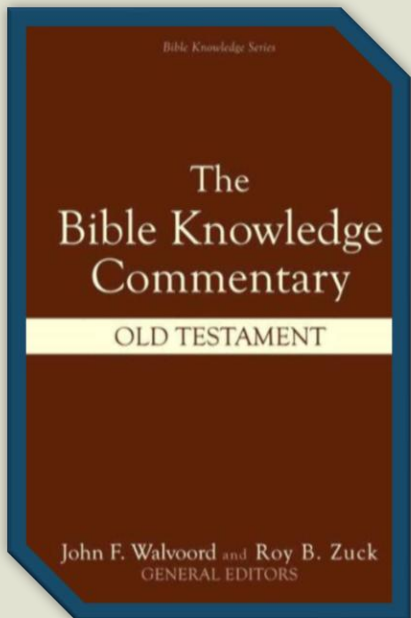
**Gideon’s 7 years of judging  
resulted in 40 years of peace.**

**Gideon’s oppressors were the Midianites,  
Amalekites, and “People of the East.”**

**Judges 6:1—8:32; Hebrews 11:32**



*This is the last period of peace  
recorded in the Book of Judges.*



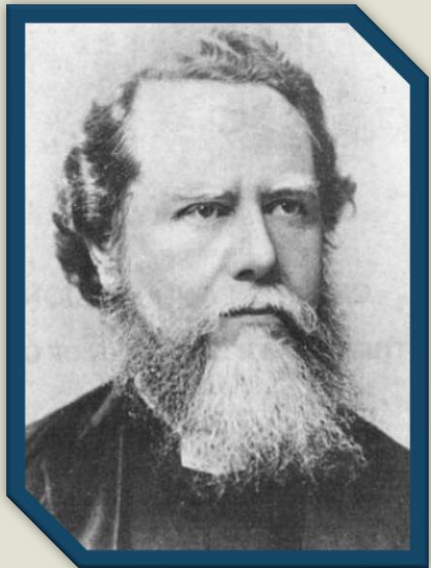
***BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY***

***“Judges,” F. Duane Lindsey, p. 396***

# ***Chapter 6 – Man of Fear***



*All God's giants have been weak men—  
who did great things for God  
because they reckoned on God  
being with them.*



***HUDSON TAYLOR***  
Founder, China Inland Mission



“... God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.”

**1 Corinthians 1:27b, NKJV**

**vv. 1-5 –**  
***PROBLEM***

*Every year,  
as sure as income tax,  
Midian's buzzards come.*



**DALE RALPH DAVIS**  
*Judges: Such a Great Salvation, p. 91*

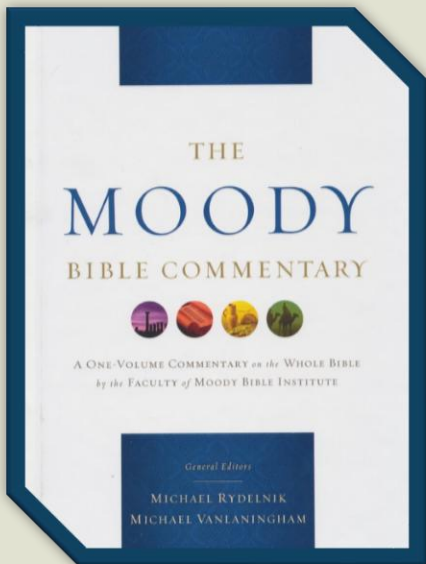




The background is a solid blue color. Overlaid on this are several semi-transparent geometric shapes, including large triangles and a central hexagon. Faint, repeating Hebrew text is visible in the background, appearing as a watermark or texture. The text is in a traditional Hebrew font and is oriented horizontally.

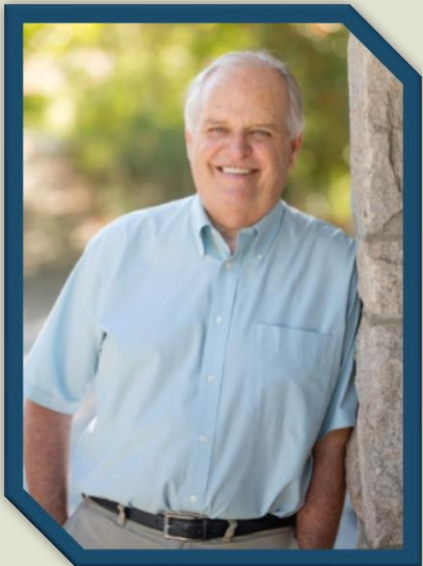
# ***The Midianites***

*The Midianites were probably  
a broad collection of related tribes,  
led by separate “kings” or “princes,”  
without a common political focus.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
**“Judges,” John McMath, p. 370**

*... an alliance of desert people,  
led by the Midianites,  
a Bedouin people from deep  
in the Arabian Desert.*



**GARY INRIG**  
*Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay, p. 93*

The background is a solid blue color. Overlaid on this are several semi-transparent geometric shapes, including large triangles and a large hexagon. Faint, repeating Hebrew text is visible across the background, appearing as a watermark or texture. The text is in a traditional Hebrew font and is oriented horizontally.

# ***The Midianites***





➤ **Descended from  
Abraham and Keturah—  
Gen. 25:2 (fourth child)**

- **Descended from Abraham and Keturah—Gen. 25:2 (fourth child)**
- **Bought Joseph and sold him to Potiphar—Gen. 37:27-36**



- **Descended from Abraham and Keturah—  
Gen. 25:2 (fourth child)**
- **Bought Joseph and sold him to Potiphar—Gen. 37:27-36**
- **Moses fled to Midian and married a Midianite, Zipporah—Ex. 2:15-22**



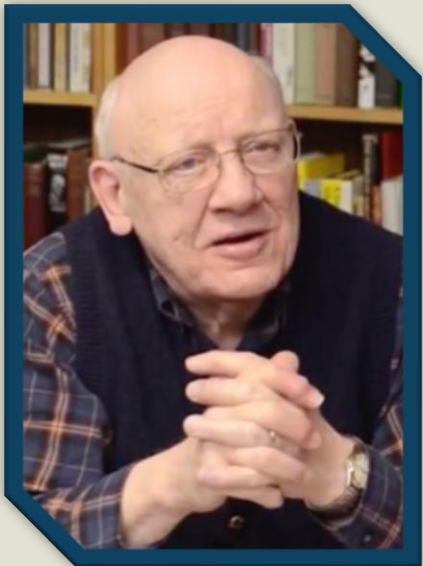


➤ **Oppressed Israel  
in the days of Balaam  
—Num. 22:7**

➤ **Oppressed Israel  
in the days of Balaam  
—Num. 22:7**

➤ **Were judged through Moses  
—Num. 31:1-24**

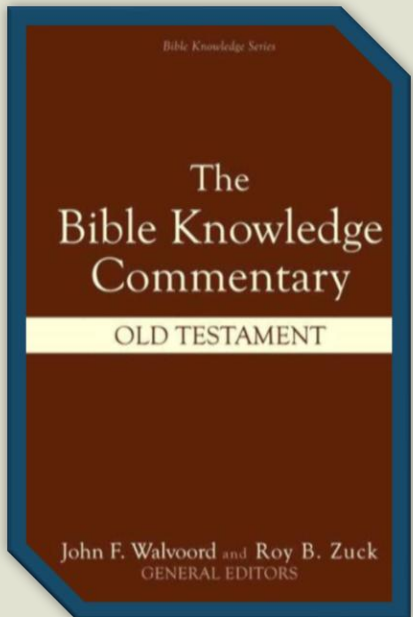
*This is the first mention in the Bible  
of camels being used in warfare,  
and certainly they would have given  
their riders speed and mobility  
on the battlefield.*



**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 118*



*... camels ... range of distance and speed  
(as high as 100 miles per day)  
made them a formidable  
long-range military threat.*



***BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY***

***“Judges,” F. Duane Lindsey, p. 391***

v. 6 –  
***POVERTY***

**v. 7 –**  
***PRAYER***

**VV. 8-10 –**  
***PREACHER***



**VV. 11-24 –**  
***CONFRONTING***





**“The Angel of the Lord Appears to Gideon”**

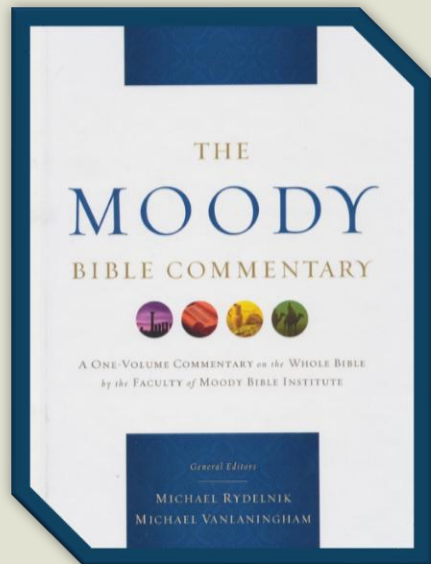




**The Angel of the LORD  
= the LORD, a theophany.  
See vv. 11, 12, 14, 16, 20, 21**

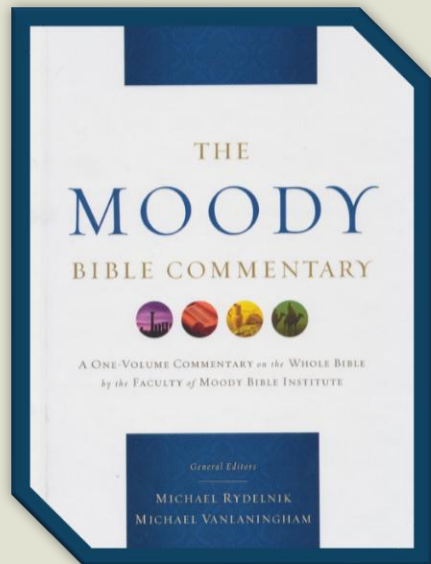


*Wheat was normally threshed on a wide, flat beaten area called a threshing floor. The best ones were on high ground in the midst of the fields.*



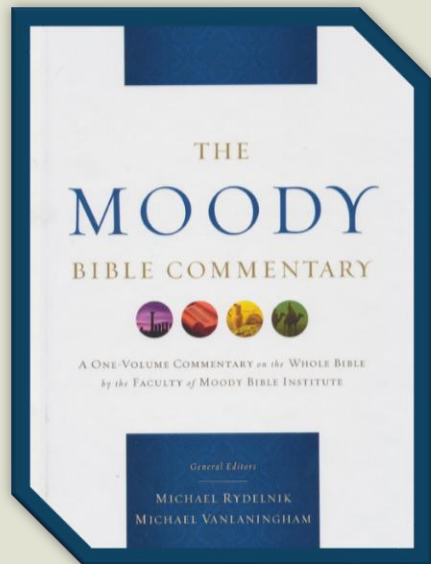
***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
***“Judges,” John McMath, p. 371***

*This process was normally a time of communal celebration and was easily visible to anyone passing by. But the Midianite threat made any such event impossible.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
**“Judges,” John McMath, p. 371**

*Gideon was so fearful  
of the Midianites  
that he prepared this grain  
in a secluded wine press.*



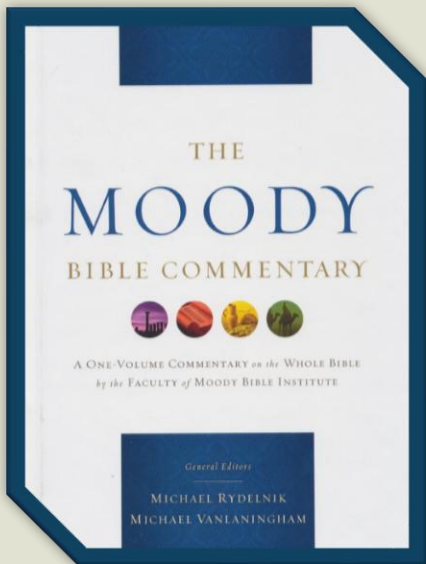
***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
**“Judges,” John McMath, p. 371**



**World's largest  
wine vat –  
Heidelberg Castle,  
Germany**

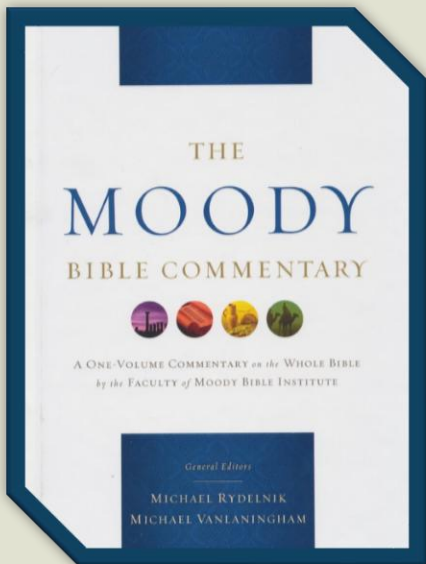


*He no doubt hoped  
to be able to thresh enough grain  
for a meal or two.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
**“Judges,” John McMath, p. 371**

*This speaks of the desperation  
of the people  
under the oppression  
of the Midianite raiders.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***

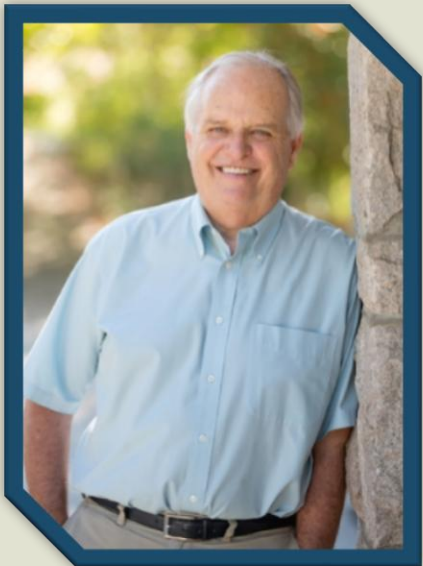
***“Judges,” John McMath, p. 371***

*When God looks at a man or a woman,  
He doesn't see them for what they are  
but He sees them as to what  
they can become by His  
transforming presence.*



**DR. MARK HITCHCOCK**  
“Gideon & the 300” (9/7/24)

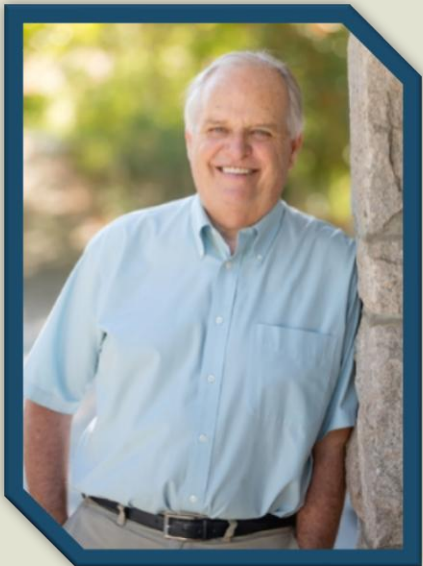
*There was never  
a less likely liberator  
than Gideon....*



**GARY INRIG**  
*Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay, p. 96*



*He is a defeated, discouraged man,  
filled with doubts and fears.*



**GARY INRIG**  
*Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay, p. 96*



**Gideon was the lowest  
in the house of the weakest clan  
of the smallest tribe.  
But God promised to be with him!**

*“My grace is sufficient  
for you, for My strength  
is made perfect  
in weakness.”*

**2 Corinthians 12:9, NKJV**





I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?

*My help comes from the Lord,*  
who made heaven and earth.

*Psalms 121:1*







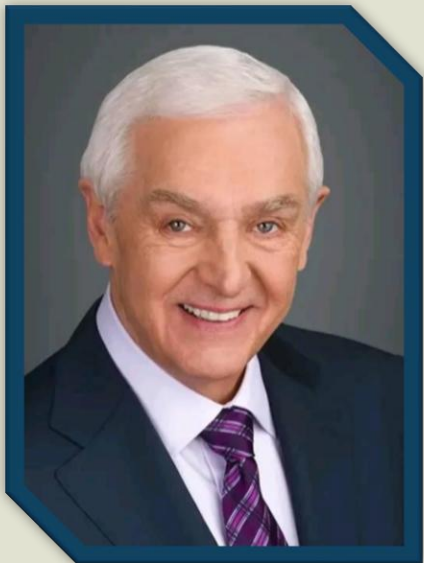
**Apparently, the Midianites  
had already killed Gideon's  
brothers in their raiding of  
Israel—see Judg. 8:18-19.**



**“Gideon Offers a Sacrifice”**



*God's warriors must be with Him  
in worship before they can  
be with Him in warfare.*



***THE JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE***

**Note on Judg. 6:17-35, p. 321**

**WV. 25-32 –**  
***CONVICTING***

*If Gideon is to deliver Israel  
from the Midianites,  
he first has to deliver himself  
from the idolatry*



**DR. MARK HITCHCOCK**  
**“Gideon & the 300” (10/5/24)**

*that led God  
to unleash the Midianites  
upon them in the first place.*



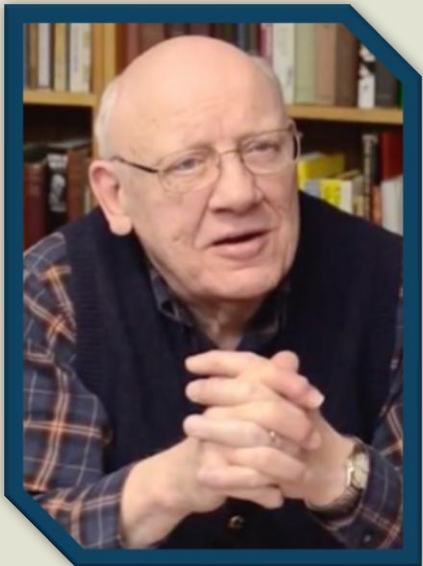
**DR. MARK HITCHCOCK**  
**“Gideon & the 300” (10/5/24)**





**The ultimate issue  
was not the threat  
of the Midianites,  
but the sin of the Israelites.**

*According to God's law,  
it was the idol-whoshipers  
who should have been slain!  
See Deut. 13:6-9.*



**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 117*

**VV. 33-35 –**  
***CONQUEST***



“But the Spirit of the LORD  
clothed Gideon....”

**Judges 6:34, ESV**

**vv. 36-40 –**  
***CONCERNING***





**“Gideon’s Fleece”**



“You shall not tempt  
the LORD your God...”

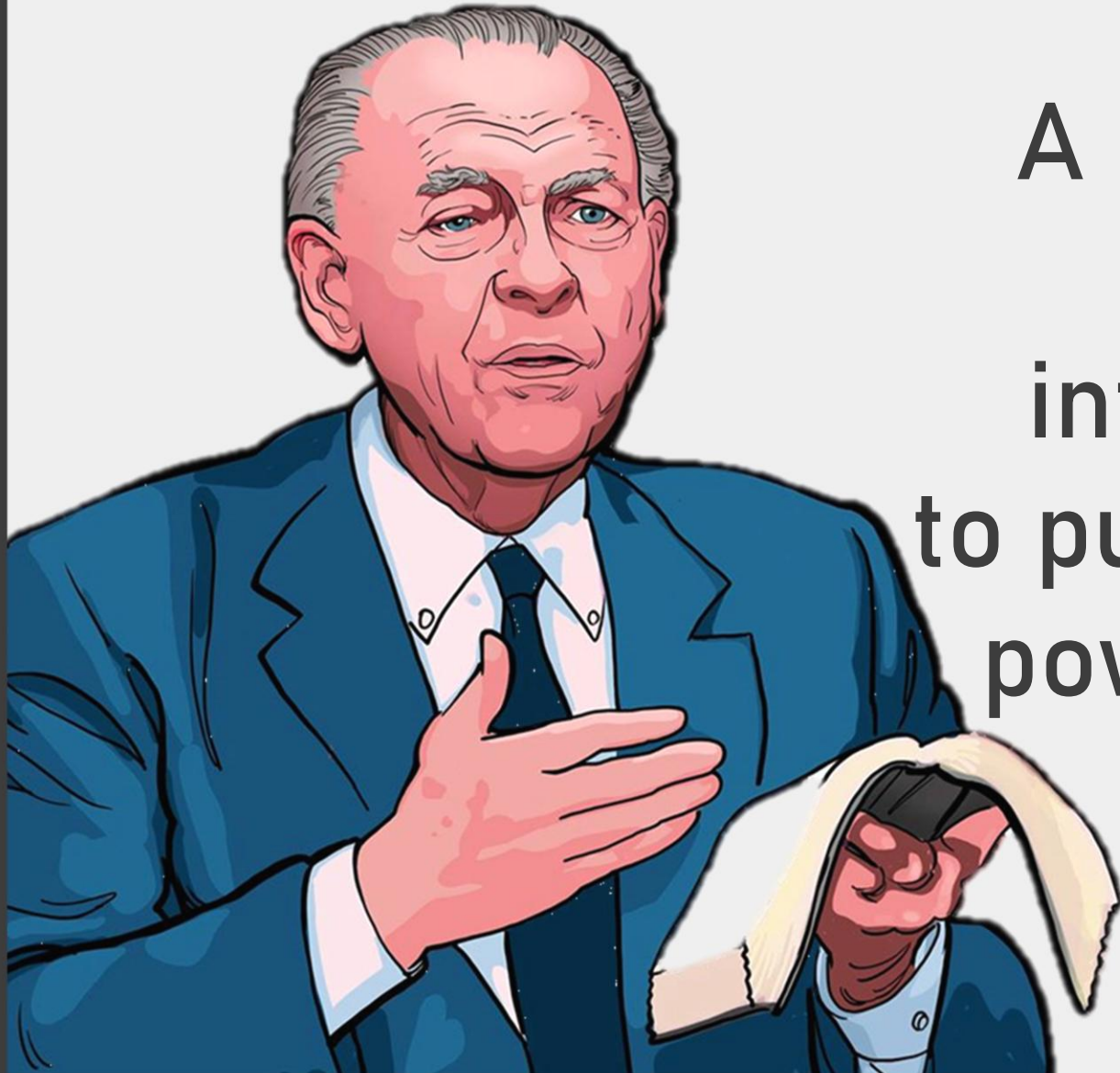
**Deuteronomy 6:16, NKJV**



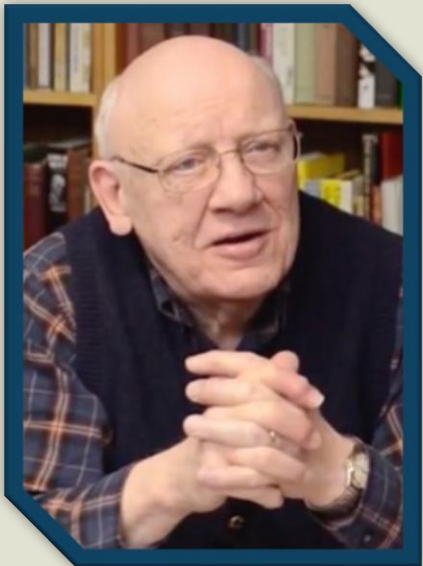
# *Sign Miracle*

A direct and immediate  
intervention of God  
into the physical world  
to publicly demonstrate His  
power or to authenticate  
His messengers.

*Dr. John C. Whitcomb*

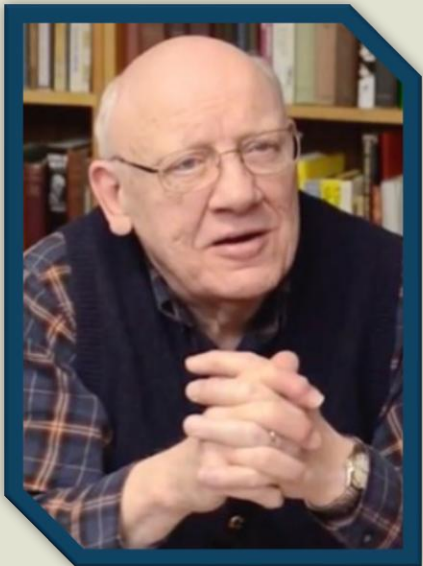


*“Putting out the fleece” is not only  
an evidence of our unbelief,  
but it’s also an evidence of our pride.*



**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 118*

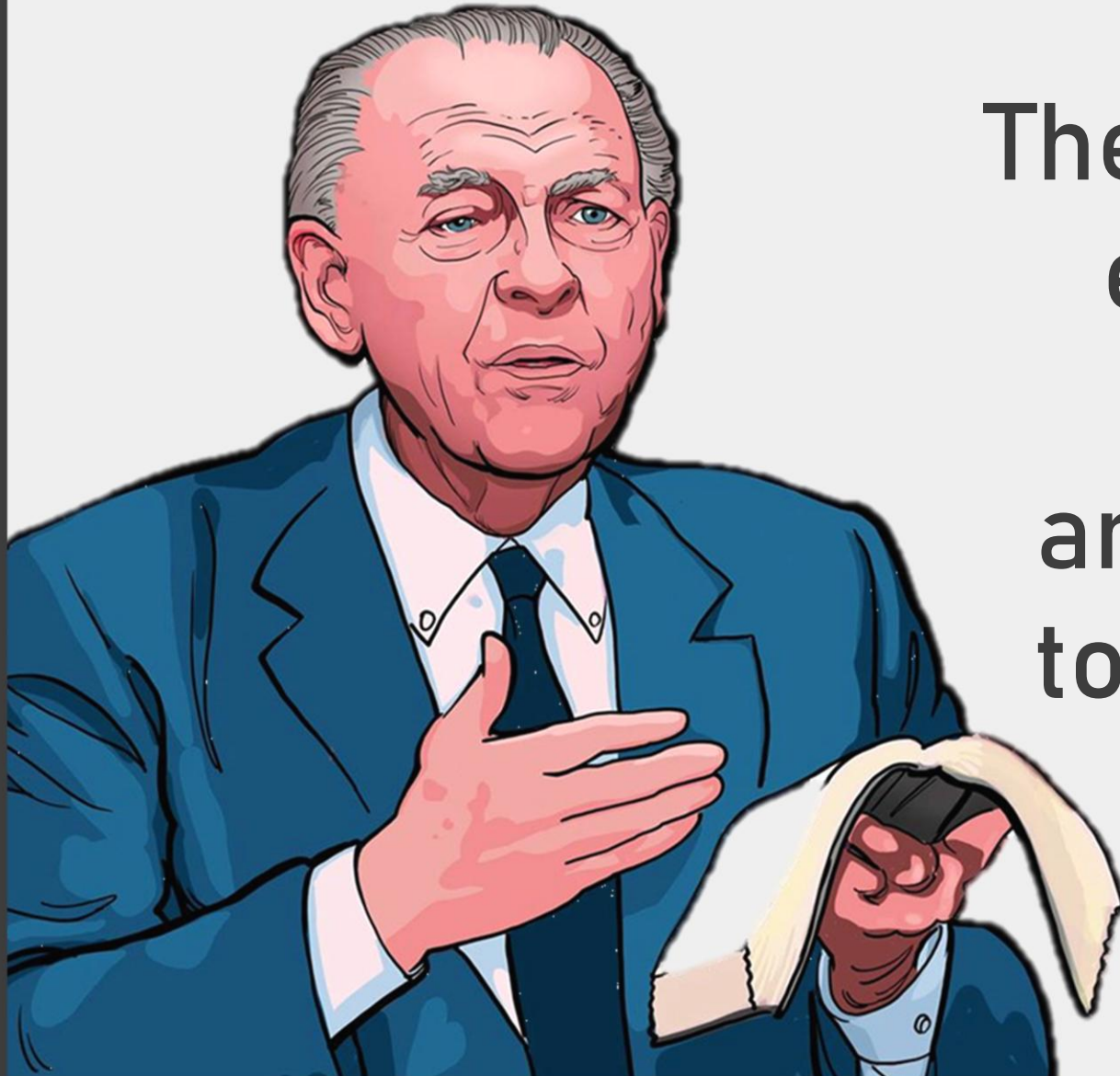
*God has to do  
what I tell Him to do  
before I'll do  
what He tells me to do!*



**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 118*

# *Providence*

The indirect and mediate  
employment by God  
of natural laws  
and events and people  
to accomplish His will.



*Dr. John C. Whitcomb*



YOU WILL SHOW ME THE PATH OF LIFE;  
IN YOUR PRESENCE IS FULLNESS  
OF JOY; AT YOUR RIGHT HAND  
ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE.

PSALM 16:11





TRUST IN THE LORD

*with all your heart,  
and lean not on your  
own understanding;*

IN ALL YOUR WAYS  
ACKNOWLEDGE HIM,

*and He shall direct  
your paths.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*



“The steps of a *good* man  
are ordered by the LORD,  
And He delights in his way.”

**Psalms 37:23, NKJV**



*God wants you to do His will  
way more than you want to do it.*



**DR. MARK HITCHCOCK**  
**“Gideon & the 300” (11/2/24)**

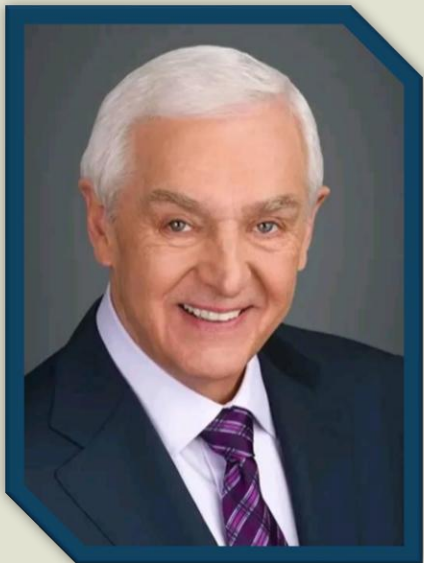


# ***Chapter 7 – Man of Faith***



**VV. 1-8 –**  
***SIFTING***  
***THE TROOPS***

*God would not use Gideon as a leader  
until Gideon recognized  
that he was insufficient  
for the task.*



***THE JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE***

**Note on Judg. 7:2, 3, p. 323**

“And who *is* sufficient  
for these things?”

**2 Corinthians 2:16b, NKJV**



*Fearful and trembling, Gideon ...  
now arrives at the  
well of trembling  
[well of Harod].*



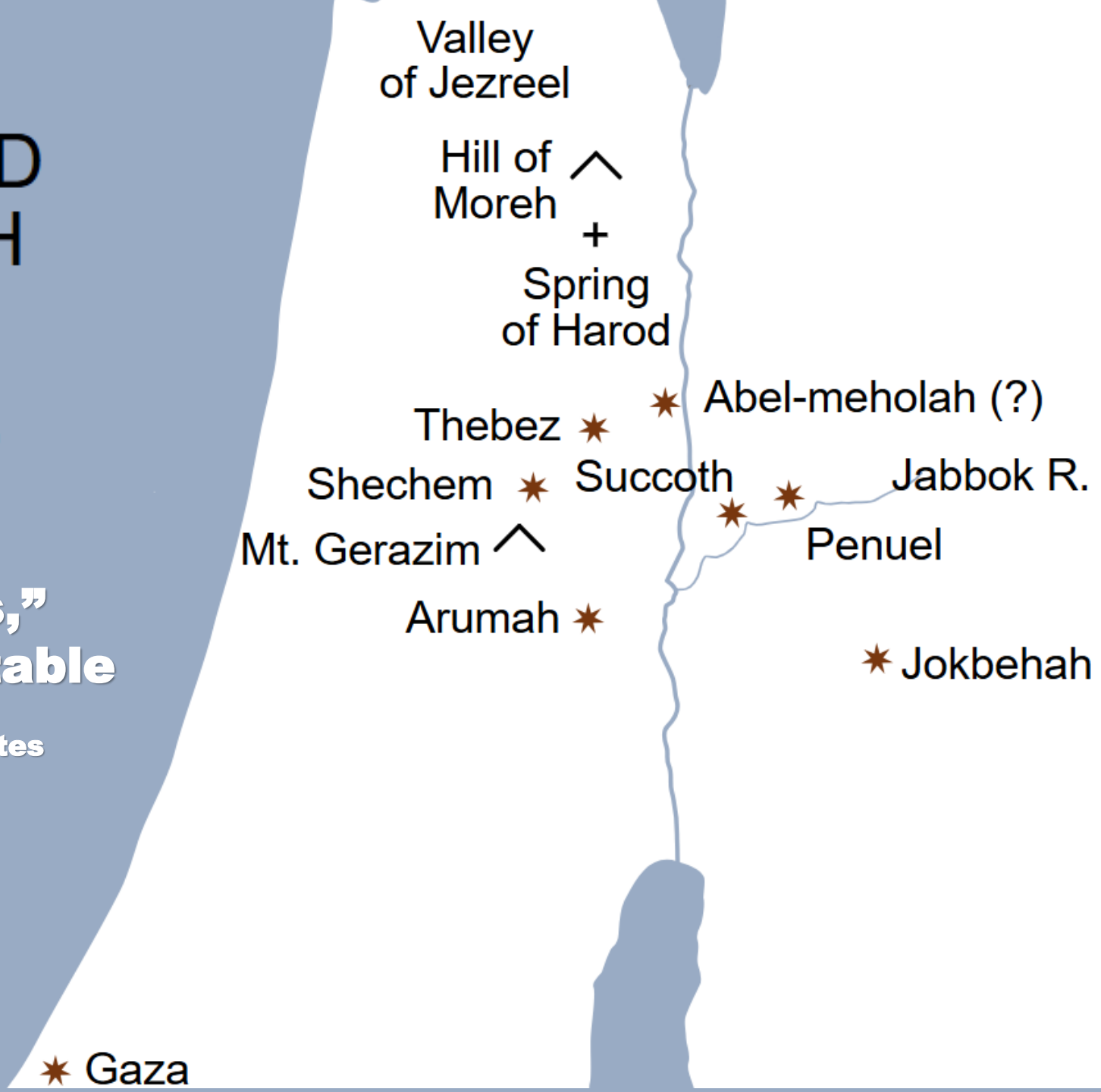
***LIBERTY BIBLE COMMENTARY: OT***  
“Judges,” Edward E. Hindson, p. 474

# GIDEON AND ABIMELECH

## JUDGES 6–9

**“Notes on Judges,”  
Dr. Thomas L. Constable**

<https://soniclight.com/tcon/notes/html/judges/judges.htm>



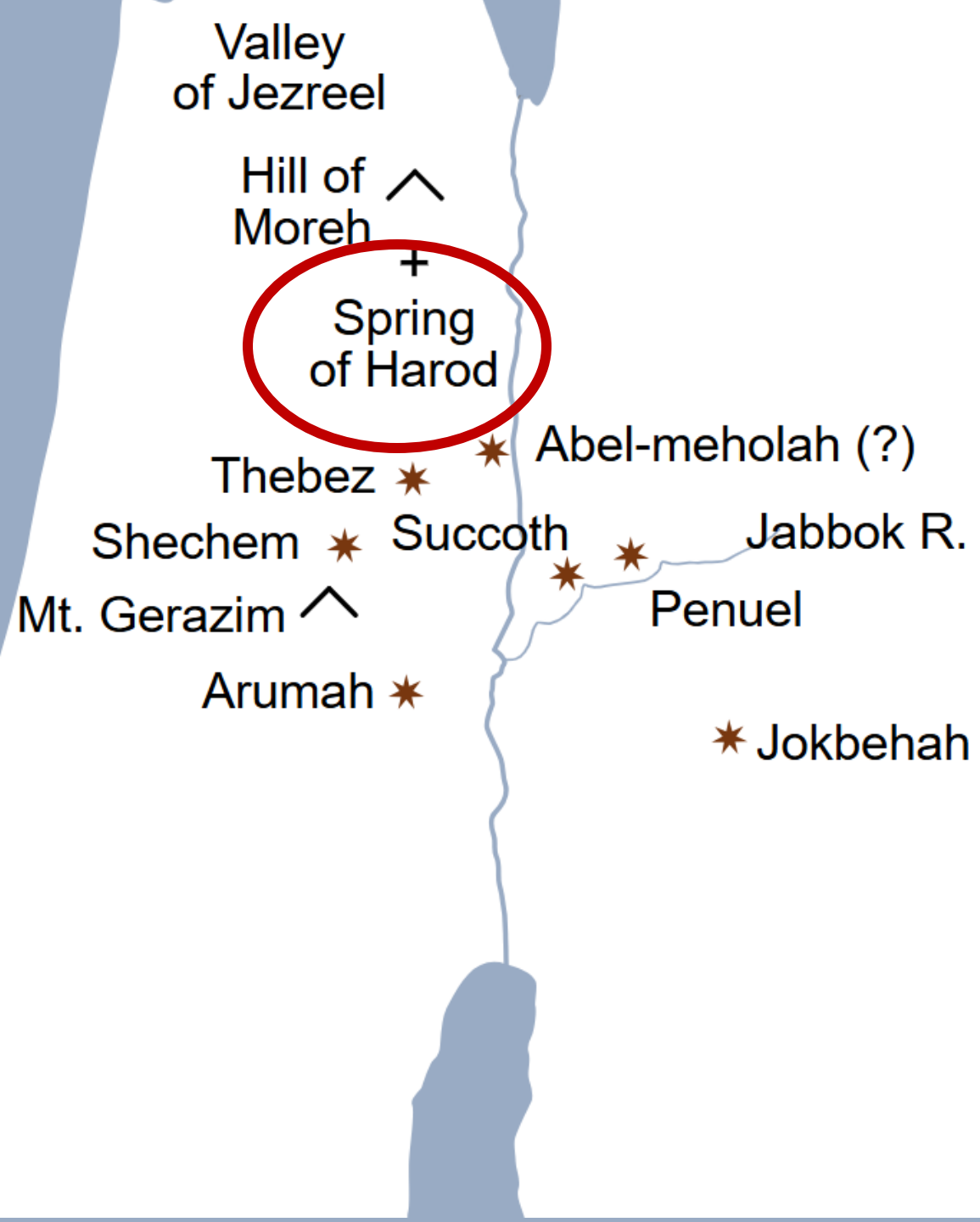
# GIDEON AND ABIMELECH

## JUDGES 6–9

**“Notes on Judges,”  
Dr. Thomas L. Constable**

<https://soniclight.com/tcon/notes/html/judges/judges.htm>

★ Gaza



“What man *is there who is*  
fearful and fainthearted?  
Let him go and return to his  
house, lest the heart of his  
brethren faint like his heart.”

**Deuteronomy 20:8b, NKJV**





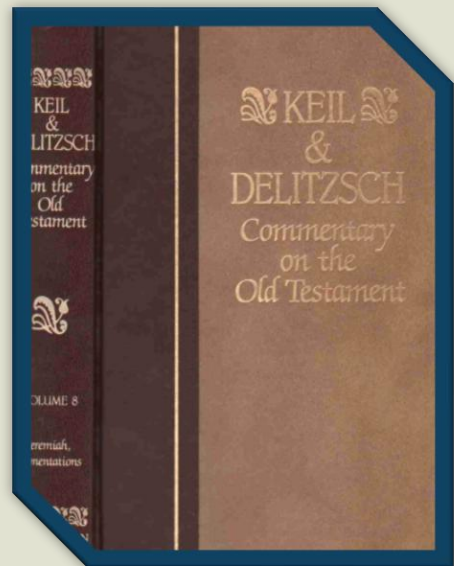
**“Gideon Selects an Army of 300 Men”**



“For nothing restrains  
the LORD from saving  
by many or by few.”

**1 Samuel 14:6b, NKJV**

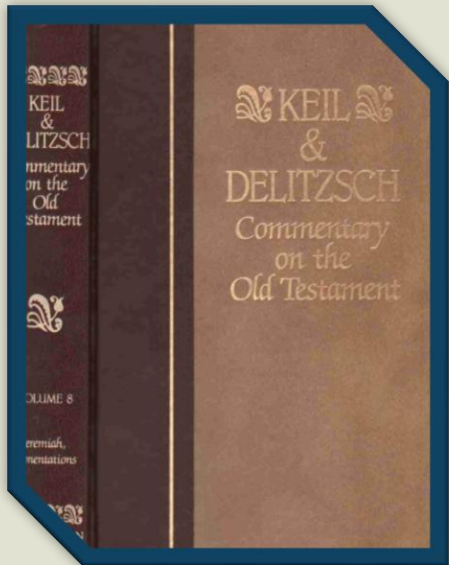
*Whilst the Lord was willing  
to strengthen the feeble faith of Gideon  
by the sign with the fleece of wool,  
and thus to raise him up  
to full confidence*



**C.F. KEIL AND F. DELITZSCH**  
*Biblical Commentary on the OT, p. 343*

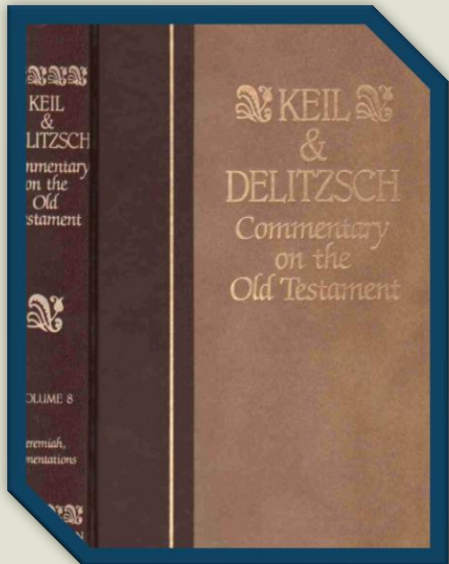
*in the divine omnipotence,  
He also required of him,  
when thus strengthened,  
an attestation of his faith, by the  
purification of his army,*

**C.F. KEIL AND F. DELITZSCH**  
*Biblical Commentary on the OT, p. 343*





*that he might give the whole glory  
to Him, and accept the victory  
over that great multitude  
from His hand alone.*



**C.F. KEIL AND F. DELITZSCH**  
*Biblical Commentary on the OT, p. 343*



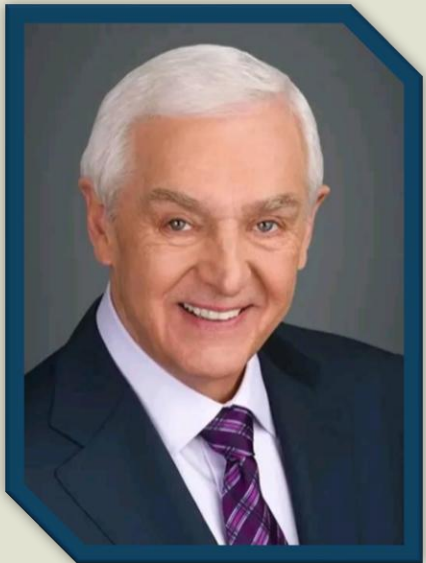
**135,000 against 32,000**  
**= 4 to 1**

**135,000 against 32,000**  
**= 4 to 1**

**135,000 against 10,000**  
**= 13 to 1**



*Gideon was about to discover  
that 300 with God is far more  
than 32,000 without Him.*



***THE JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE***

**Note on Judg. 7:2-8, p. 323**

**135,000 against 32,000**  
**= 4 to 1**

**135,000 against 10,000**  
**= 13 to 1**

**135,000 against 32,000**  
**= 4 to 1**

**135,000 against 10,000**  
**= 13 to 1**

**135,000 against 300**  
**= 450 to 1**

*The first test got rid of the cowards.  
And the second test got rid  
of the careless.*



**DR. MARK HITCHCOCK**  
**“Gideon & the 300” (12/7/24)**



**135,000 against 32,000**  
**= 4 to 1**

**135,000 against 10,000**  
**= 13 to 1**

**135,000 against 300**  
**= 450 to 1**

**WV. 9-15 –**  
***SETTING***  
***THE BATTLE***

# *God's Promises of Victory*

# *God's Promises of Victory*



**Judg. 6:14, 16**



# *God's Promises of Victory*



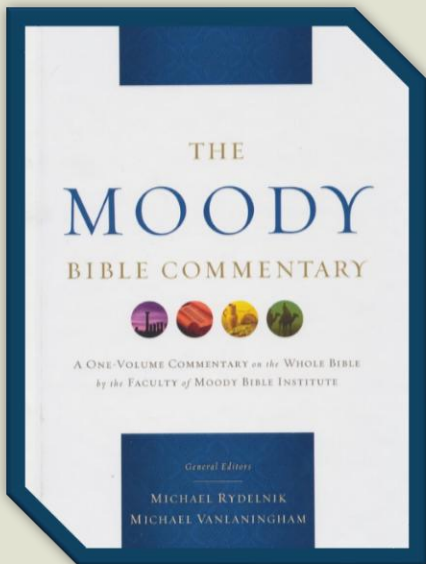
**Judg. 6:14, 16**



**Judg. 7:7, 9**

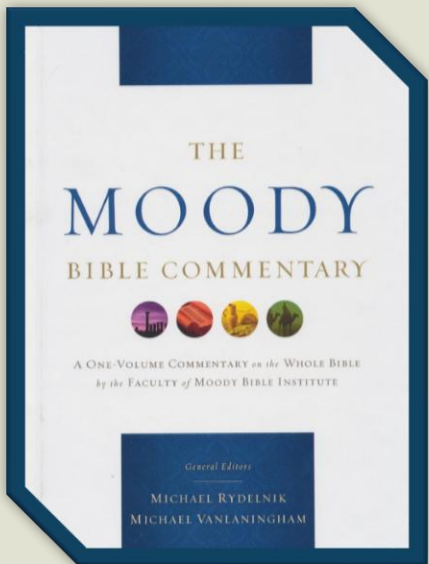
**VV. 16-23 –**  
***STAGING***  
***THE BATTLE***

*The trumpets were  
ram's horn shofars.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
***“Judges,” John McMath, p. 373***

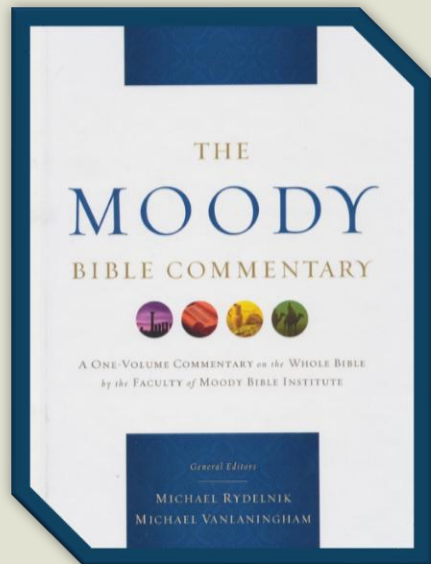
*Only the leader of a military unit  
ordinarily had access  
to such a noise-making device.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
**“Judges,” John McMath, p. 373**



*So from the sound of 300 shofars  
the Midianite soldiers  
would have inferred the existence  
of an enormous  
body of soldiers.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
**“Judges,” John McMath, p. 373**

“Take up the ark  
of the covenant, and let seven  
priests bear seven trumpets  
of rams’ horns before  
the ark of the LORD.”

**Joshua 6:6b, NKJV**

*As a normal custom in those days,  
armies rarely fought at night....*



***LIBERTY BIBLE COMMENTARY: OT***  
***“Judges,” Edward E. Hindson, p. 476***

*... when the Midianites awoke ...  
they could only assume  
that thousands upon thousands  
were attacking them....*



***LIBERTY BIBLE COMMENTARY: OT***  
***“Judges,” Edward E. Hindson, p. 476***





**“Gideon Defeats Midian Using Trumpets and Lamps in Pitchers”**



“For God, who said,  
‘Let light shine  
out of darkness,’  
has shone in our hearts

**2 Corinthians 4:6, ESV**

to give the light  
of the knowledge  
of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 4:6, ESV**

But we have this treasure  
in jars of clay,  
to show that

**2 Corinthians 4:7, ESV**



the surpassing power  
belongs to God  
and not to us.”

**2 Corinthians 4:7, ESV**

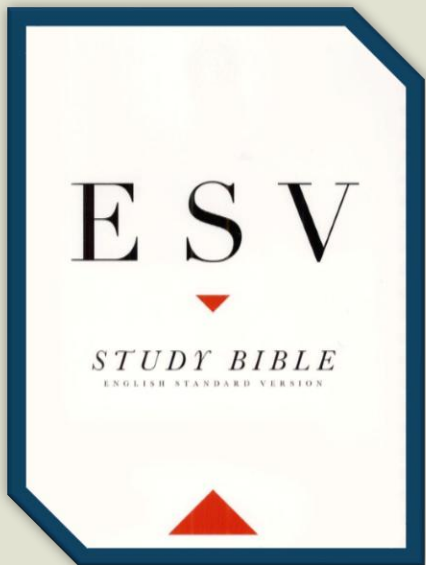
“For though we walk  
in the flesh,  
we are not waging war  
according to the flesh.

**2 Corinthians 10:3, ESV**

For the weapons  
of our warfare  
are not of the flesh  
but have divine power  
to destroy strongholds.”

**2 Corinthians 10:4, ESV**

*The victory was clearly God's:  
he turned the Midianites' swords  
against them (v. 22), and they fled  
south and east to the Jordan River  
and across (vv. 23-25).*



***ESV STUDY BIBLE***  
**Note on Judges 7:22-25, p. 452**



“Do to them as you  
did to Midian ... who said,  
‘Let us take possession  
for ourselves of the  
pastures of God.’”

**Psalm 83:9, 12, ESV**

“For You have broken  
the yoke of his burden ...  
As in the day of Midian.”

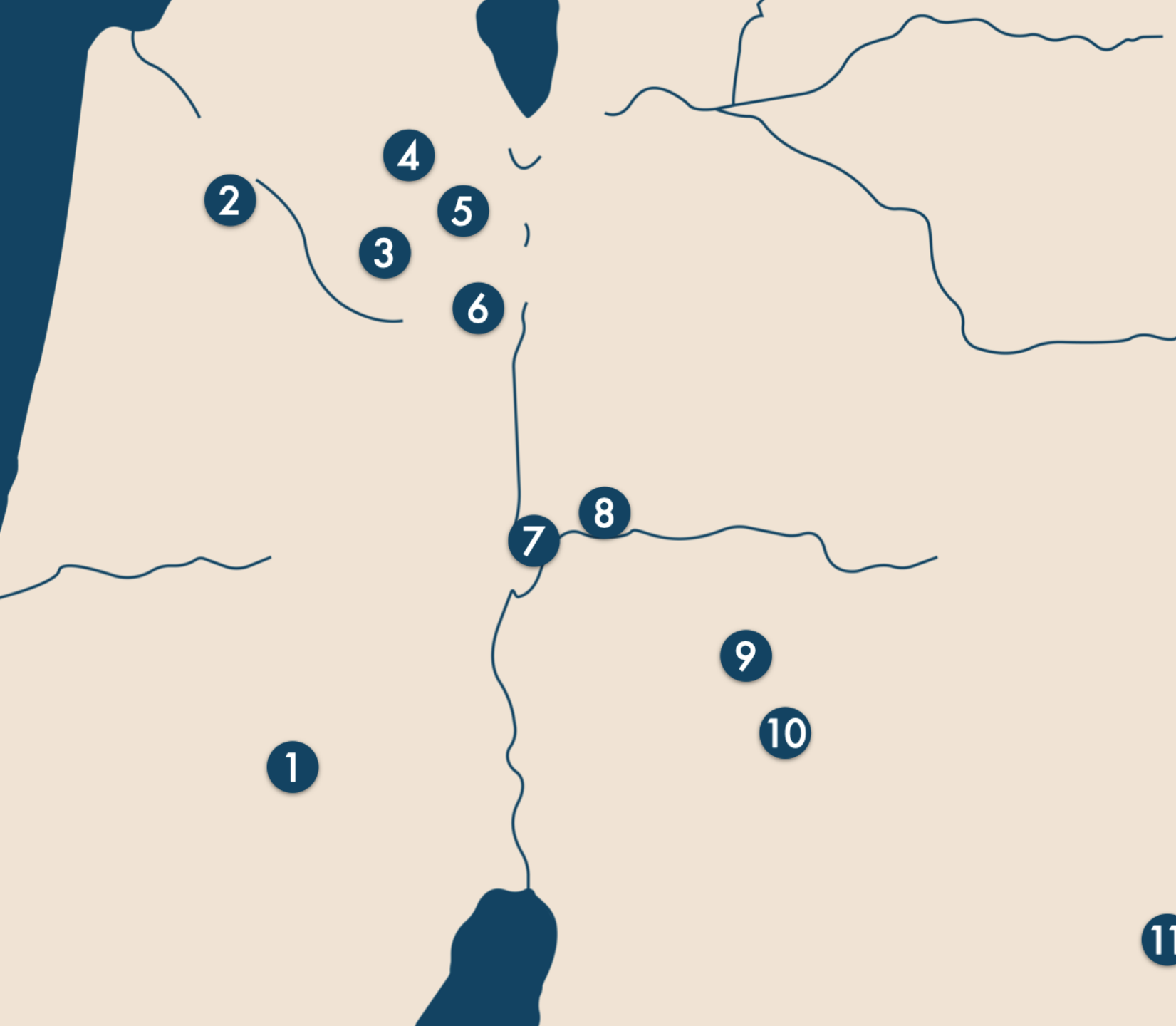
**Isaiah 9:4, NKJV**

“And the LORD of hosts  
will stir up a scourge for him  
like the slaughter of Midian  
at the rock of Oreb...”

**Isaiah 10:26a, NKJV**

**vv. 24-25 –**  
***SECURING***  
***VICTORY***



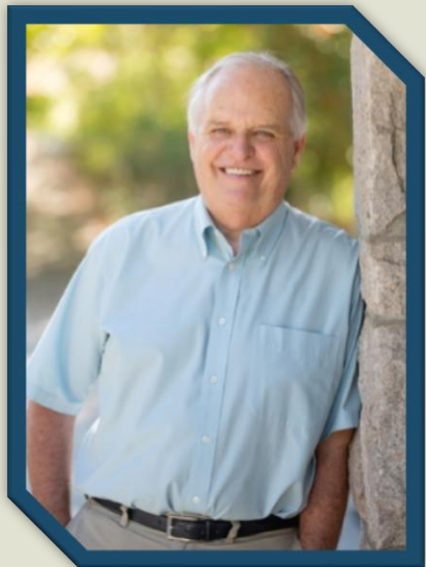


- (1) Bethel
- (2) Megiddo
- (3) Harod
- (4) En-dor
- (5) Ophrah
- (6) Beth-shean
- (7) Succoth
- (8) Penuel
- (9) Jogbehah
- (10) Rabbah
- (11) Karkor

***Chapter 8 –  
Failure  
Follows  
Fortitude***



*It may be significant that  
from this point on in the Gideon story  
there is no indication  
that he is operating  
under God's direction.*



**GARY INRIG**  
*Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay, p. 152*

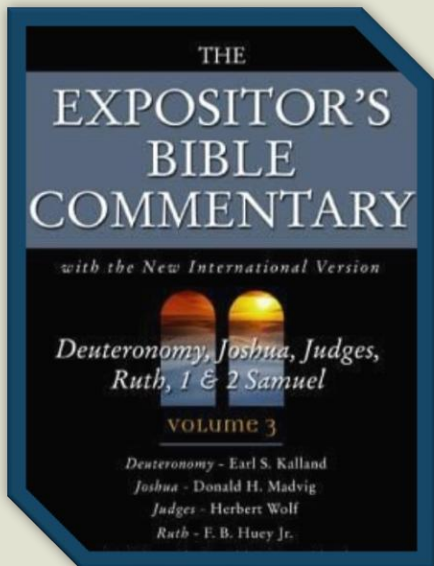
“And Gideon came to the Jordan and crossed over, he and the 300 men who were with him, exhausted yet pursuing.”

**Judges 8:4, ESV**

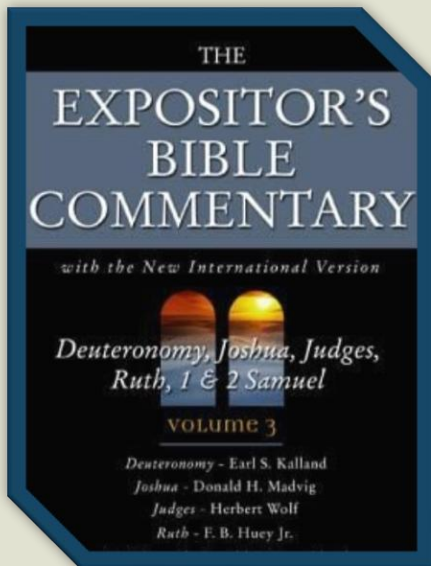


*Gideon's main goal was the capture  
of Midian's two kings,  
for without leadership the eastern  
hordes were not likely to resume  
their raids to the west.*

***EXPOSITOR'S BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
***"Judges," Herbert Wolf, p. 431***



*The two kings  
probably belonged  
to different tribal groups.*

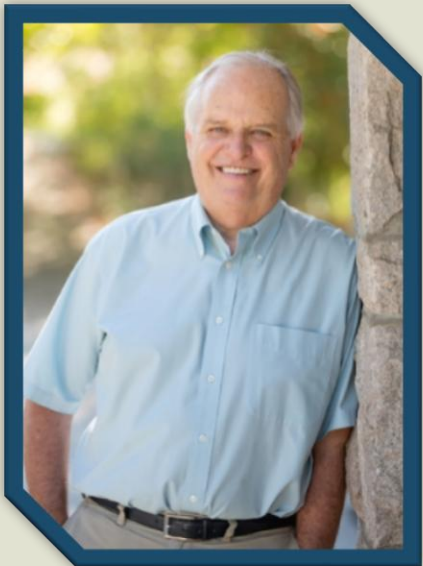


***EXPOSITOR'S BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
***“Judges,” Herbert Wolf, p. 431***

“Make their nobles  
like Oreb and Zeeb,  
all their princes  
like Zebah and Zalmunna.”

**Psalm 83:11, ESV**

*It is notable that the Lord  
plays no part in these events,  
and on the east side of the Jordan  
a very different Gideon  
begins to emerge.*



**GARY INRIG**  
*Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay, p. 158*





**There is no evidence  
of worship.**

**There is no evidence  
of worship.**

**There are no more promises  
from God.**



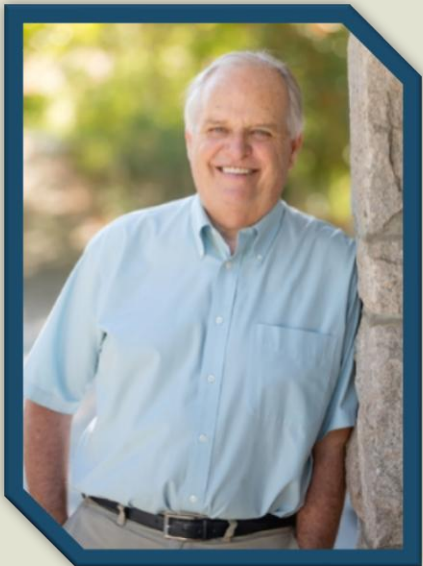
**There is no evidence  
of worship.**

**There are no more promises  
from God.**

**Gideon issues no call  
for ongoing revival.**

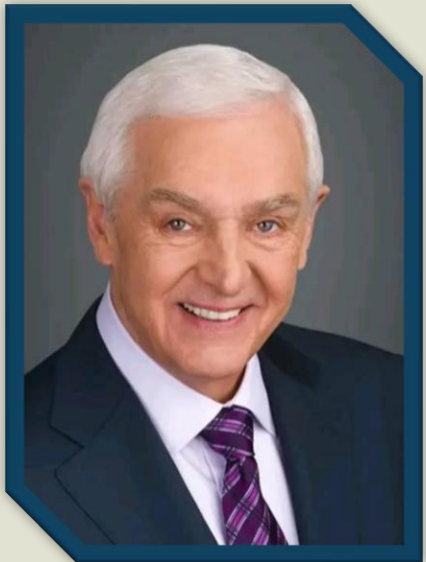


*... it seems that Gideon has begun  
to pursue a personal vendetta.*



**GARY INRIG**  
*Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay, p. 158*

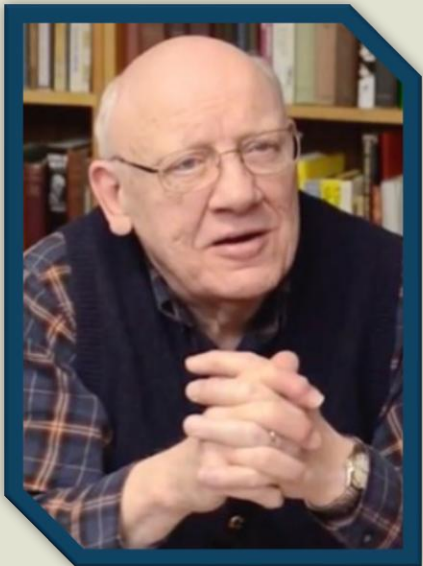
*... for the first time,  
a judge contributed  
to Israel's spiritual decline  
(8:24-27).*



***THE JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE***

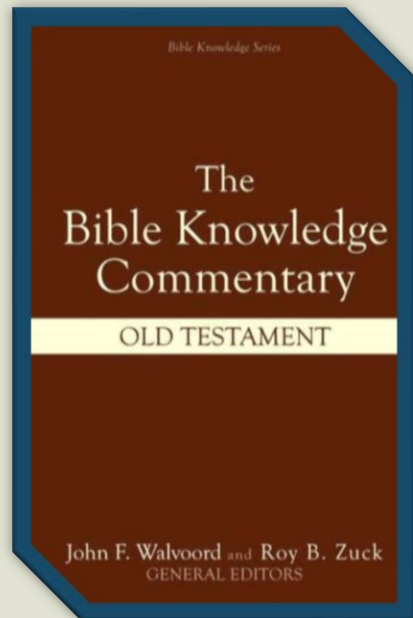
**Note on Judg. 6:1-7:22, p. 321**

*Gideon also seems to have  
assumed priestly duties  
for he made his own ephod  
and probably consulted it  
on behalf of the people.*



**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 128*

*In some sense he may have usurped  
the function of the priest  
and/or established a rival worship  
center to the tabernacle.*

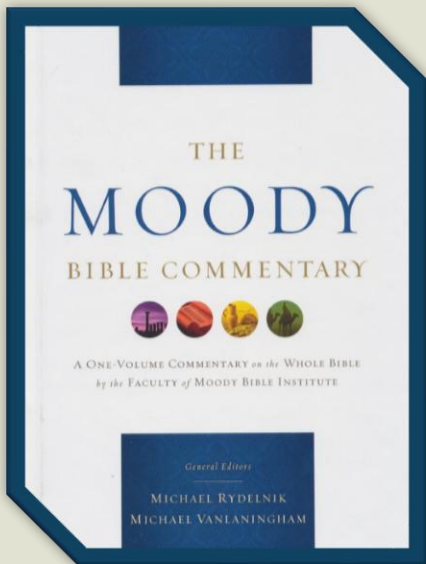


***BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY***

***“Judges,” F. Duane Lindsey, p. 396***

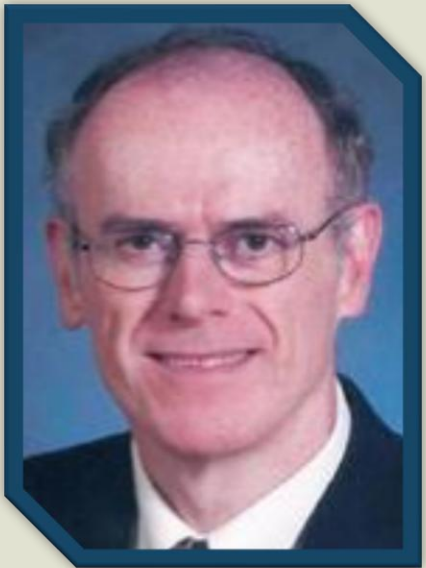


*Gideon used [the ephod]  
to establish a worship system  
devoted to him, even as done  
by the Canaanite kings.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
**“Judges,” John McMath, p. 374**

*The ephod was part of the high priest's attire (see Exod. 28:1-35; 39:1-26), a sleeveless tunic worn over his other garments.*



**DALE RALPH DAVIS**  
*Judges: Such a Great Salvation, p. 113*

*... requesting the priest's ephod  
meant to ask for Yahweh's direction  
by Urim and Thummim....*



**DALE RALPH DAVIS**  
*Judges: Such a Great Salvation, p. 113*

*... Gideon would become a channel  
of Yahweh's direct guidance  
in addition to the priest and ephod  
Yahweh had already provided.*



**DALE RALPH DAVIS**  
*Judges: Such a Great Salvation, p. 114*



*Whatever this ephod was,  
it became an object of worship  
and a spiritual stumbling block  
to the Israelites.*



**DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE**  
“Notes on Judges: Note on 8:27”

*Gideon led Israel back into idolatry—  
out of which he had previously  
led them (cf. 6:25-32).*



**DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE**  
“Notes on Judges: Note on 8:27”

*Rather than following Moses  
as his role model, who,  
though hesitant at first,  
had proved faithful—*



**DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE**  
“Notes on Judges: Note on 8:27”

*Gideon followed the example of Aaron,  
who requested the people's jewelry  
to make an idol (Ex. 32:1-6).*



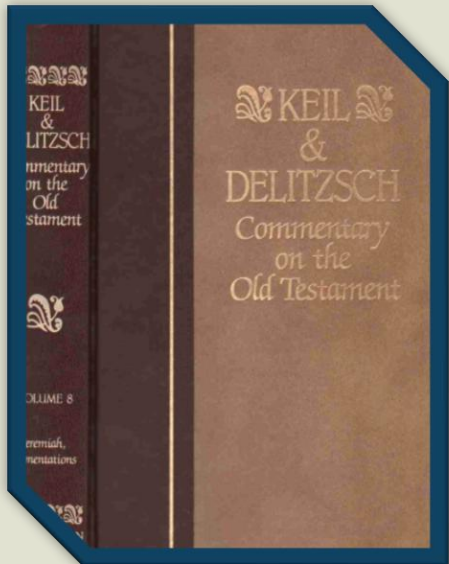
**DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE**  
“Notes on Judges: Note on 8:27”



“This *is* your god, O Israel,  
that brought you out  
of the land of Egypt!”

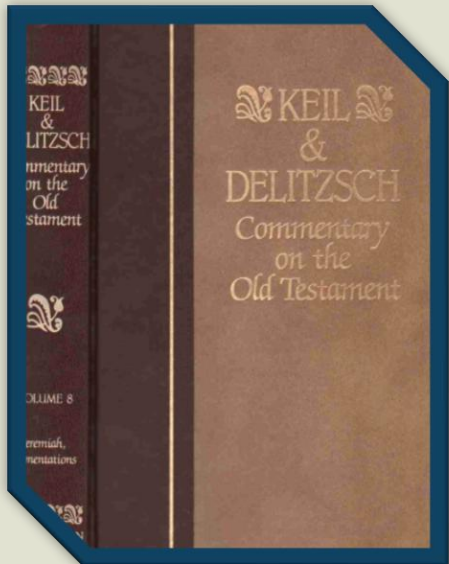
**Exodus 32:4b, NKJV**

*... Gideon put on the ephod  
and wore it as a priest,  
when he wished to inquire  
and learn the will of the Lord.*



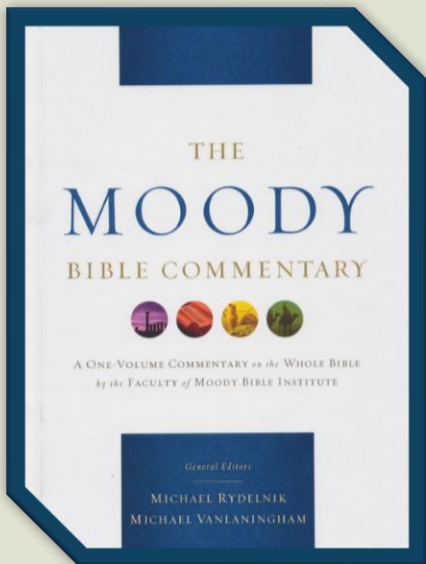
**C.F. KEIL AND F. DELITZSCH**  
*Biblical Commentary on the OT, p. 358*

*It is possible that he also  
sacrificed to the Lord  
upon the altar that was built  
at Ophrah (chap. vi. 24).*



**C.F. KEIL AND F. DELITZSCH**  
*Biblical Commentary on the OT, p. 358*

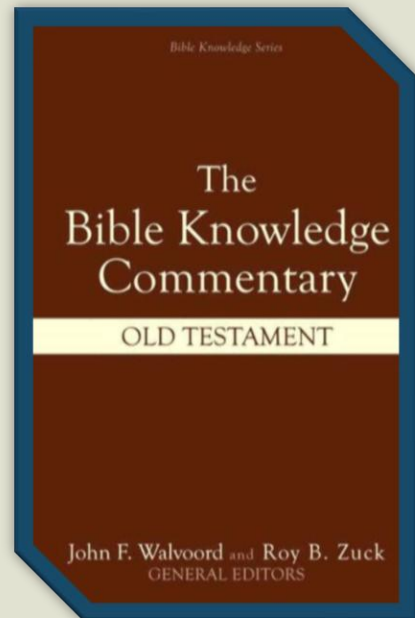
*While several of Israel's kings  
later took multiple wives,  
Gideon was the first Israelite leader  
to do this.*



***THE MOODY BIBLE COMMENTARY***  
**“Judges,” John McMath, p. 374**



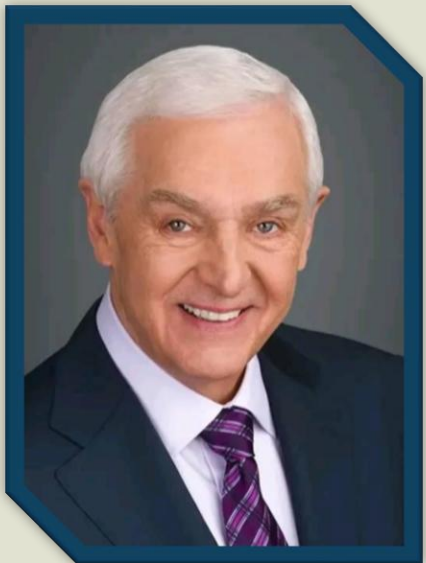
*In the end Gideon seems  
to have returned  
to the syncretistic society out of which  
God had called him  
to deliver Israel.*



***BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY***

***“Judges,” F. Duane Lindsey, p. 396***

*Gideon the idol-breaker  
became Gideon the idol-maker  
(Ps. 106:39).*



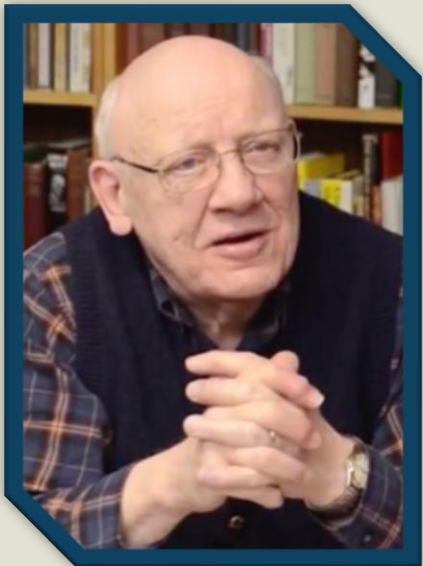
***THE JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE***

**Note on Judg. 8:26, 27, p. 325**

***What do  
we learn  
from Gideon?***



*... perhaps the greatest  
of the judges....*



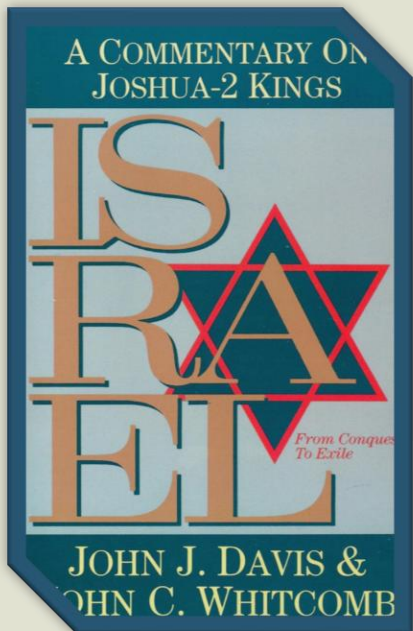
**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 94*



“For my father fought for you,  
risked his life,  
and delivered you  
out of the hand of Midian.”

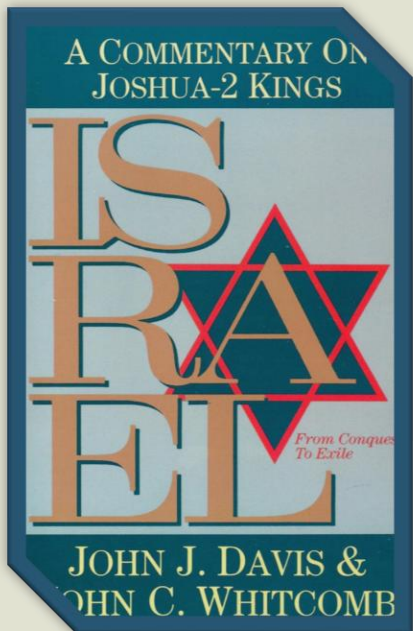
**Judges 9:17, NKJV**

*The story of Gideon  
is a study in contrast.  
It is an excellent example of what  
God can do with a man  
when he acts in faith.*



**DR. JOHN J. DAVIS**  
*Israel: From Conquest to Exile, p. 118*

*A second lesson worth noting  
in this story is the danger  
of failure in spite of initial victories.*



**DR. JOHN J. DAVIS**  
*Israel: From Conquest to Exile, p. 118*

# **The Lesson of Fear**

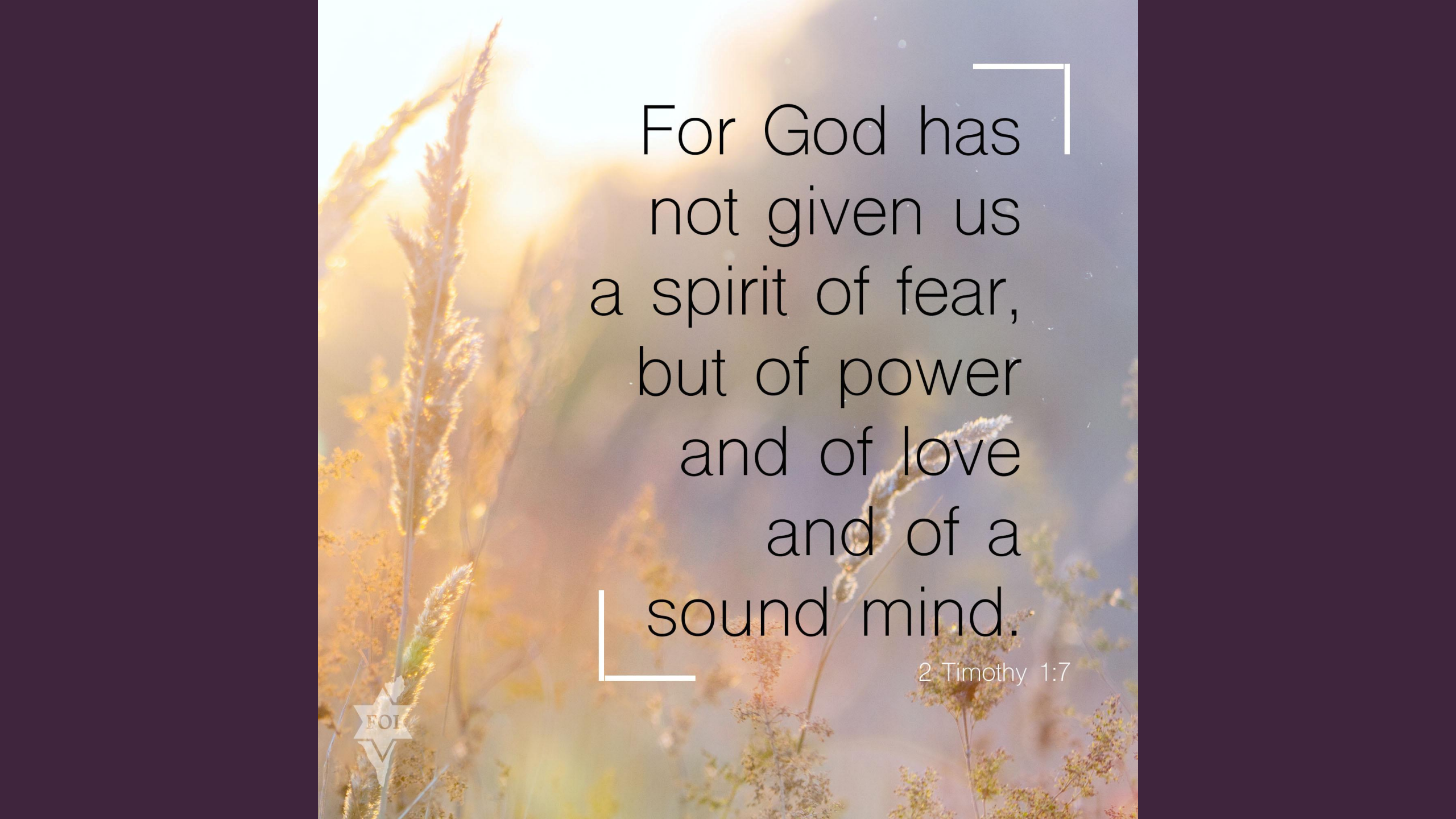


# *Be anxious for nothing.*

but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7





For God has  
not given us  
a spirit of fear,  
but of power  
and of love  
and of a  
sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

FOI



The Lord is on my side;

I WILL NOT FEAR

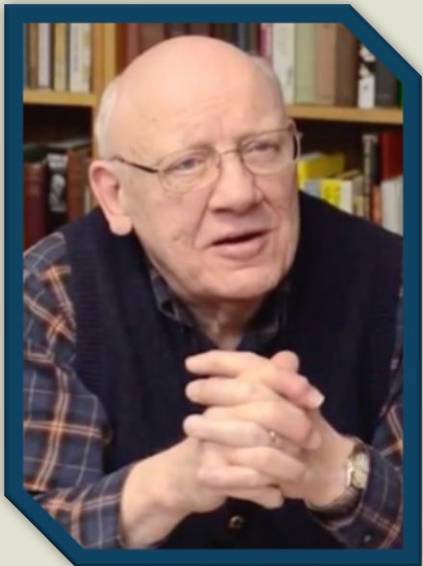
PSALM  
118:6

What can man do to me?

# **The Lesson of Failure**

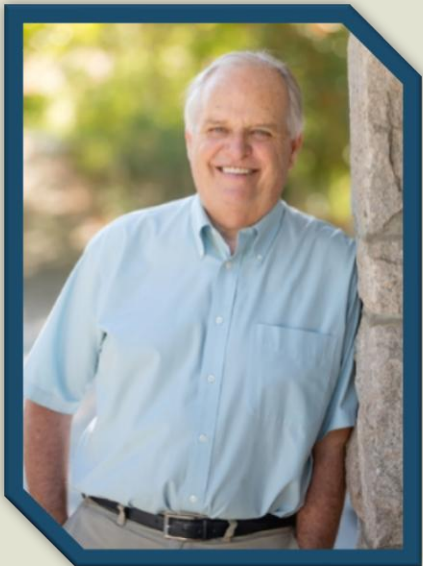


*Gideon missed a great opportunity  
to bring reformation  
and perhaps revival  
to the land.*



**WARREN W. WIERSBE**  
*The BE Commentary: OT History, p. 129*

*Despite all the achievements of Gideon,  
he made no permanent  
spiritual difference  
in the life of the nation.*



**GARY INRIG**  
*Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay, p. 172*

*Gideon did not finish well,  
even though he lived long  
and was buried in his father's tomb.*



**DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE**  
**“Notes on Judges: Note on 8:31-32”**

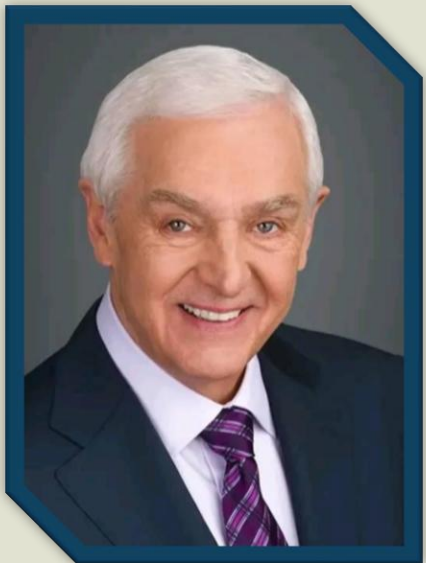
*He refused kingship formally,  
in word, but in practice  
he lived like a king,  
and he set himself up  
as a priest.*



**DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE**  
**“Notes on Judges: Note on 8:31-32”**



*Gideon eventually succumbed  
to all the sins he had fought against,  
and these sins multiplied—  
with devastating consequences.*



***THE JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE***

**Note on Judg. 9:1-6, p. 326**

# **The Lesson of Faith**

“And this is the victory  
that has overcome  
the world—  
our faith.”

**1 John 5:4b, NKJV**

*We Must Trust God's Promises*



*We Must Trust God's Promises*



**in times of adversity**

# *We Must Trust God's Promises*



**in times of adversity**



**in times of prosperity**

“And what more shall I say?  
For the time would fail me  
to tell of Gideon...”

**Hebrews 11:32, NKJV**

“who through faith  
subdued kingdoms...”

**Hebrews 11:33, NKJV**



“... out of weakness  
were made strong,  
became valiant in battle,  
turned to flight the armies  
of the aliens.”

**Hebrews 11:34, NKJV**



Have I not commanded you?

# **BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.**

DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED, AND DO NOT BE DISMAYED,

for **THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU  
WHEREVER YOU GO.**

Joshua 1:9





Judges 6-8

# GIDEON

Man of *Fear*, Man of *Faith*



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