

## Extraordinary Challenge Is Normal with the Lord

During the time of the judges, God rose up men to deliver the nation of Israel from their oppressors. A particularly difficult time was that time during the encampment of the Midianites.

“So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. 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. 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. So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.” (Judges 6:3-6 NKJV)

It was during this time that God rose up a man to deliver the people from the Midianites. Coming to him under the terebinth tree, He told Gideon that he would be the one to do the Lord’s bidding. As you might expect, Gideon was humbled by the call.

“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.’ And the LORD said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’” (Judges 6:15-16 NKJV)

Now let me rely upon your memory for a moment. You will likely recall how Gideon was challenged by such a decree. Twice he put out a fleece for God to confirm His will. Then God took the army that Gideon had assembled and pared it down to 300 men. The end of that was a mighty victory, a God-glorifying victory.

Now here is something to contemplate. God is glorified by doing extraordinary things through ordinary people. Cry out to the Lord. Is there not a need for an extraordinary stirring of the Lord? Do we not need personal and corporate revival? Why shouldn’t God use you to that end? You say, “But I am the least in my father’s house.” I tell you it is not who you are, but whom God is that matters.

Make yourself available. Call on the Lord to grant you extraordinary grace to serve Him. Forsake the world and love the Lord, and see if He will not pour out a blessing.

God give your people grace to serve you in holiness, and magnify your name, amen.