

4 July, 2011

Text: Judges 7

PREPARATION FOR BATTLE

Judges 7:1-8

1. 1. Many had volunteered to battle the Midianites **Judges 7:1**

2. The Lord's Evaluation

a) Too many had enlisted **Judges 7:2a**

b) Israel would claim glory in victory **Judges 7:2b**

3. An alternative offered

a) The fearful may return home **Judges 7:3a**

22,000 people responded and returned home **Judges 7:3b**

b) A test

i) Those who lapped water using their hands **Judges 7:4-5**

ii) Those who dropped to their knees to drink **Judges 7:5b**

4. Number of soldiers selected

a) Only 300 lapped **Judges 7:7**

b) A very small army

c) God would use this small army to bring about victory for Israel

THE FIRST BATTLE

Judges 7:9-25

1. God's leading **Judges 7:9-11**

a) Battle instructions

b) Word of encouragement

2. Battle nerves

a) The Midianite army was huge **Judges 7:12**

b) Joshua and Purah (aide) would do a quick recce

c) They learned that the Midianites feared Gideon **Judges 7:13-14**

3. Response of Gideon

a) Worship **Judges 7:15**

b) Organised his band of 300 men **Judges 7:16-22**

4. Great victory

a) The Midianites were defeated in battle

b) Israel joined in the battle **Judges 7:23-24**

i) Naphthali

ii) Asher

iii) Manasseh

iv) Ephraim