

Carry the Light

Judges 6:11-16, 22-24

“Carry the Light to Exhibit God’s Glory”

Judges 6:11 And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which *was* in Ophrah, that *pertained* unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide *it* from the Midianites.

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD *is* with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where *be* all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?



15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family *is* poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house.

16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. ...

22 And when Gideon perceived that he *was* an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace *be* unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it *is* yet In Ophrah of the Abiezrites.



Review

During the Christmas season, we are following our theme, *Carry the Light*, by focusing on how carrying the light of the Gospel will allow us to *exhibit God* with our lives.

The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation. We are **“living out our faith,”** and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.

As I believe, therefore I live.



I. CARRY THE LIGHT TO EXHIBIT GOD'S GREATNESS

II. CARRY THE LIGHT TO EXHIBIT GOD'S GUIDANCE

III. CARRY THE LIGHT TO EXHIBIT GOD'S GRACE

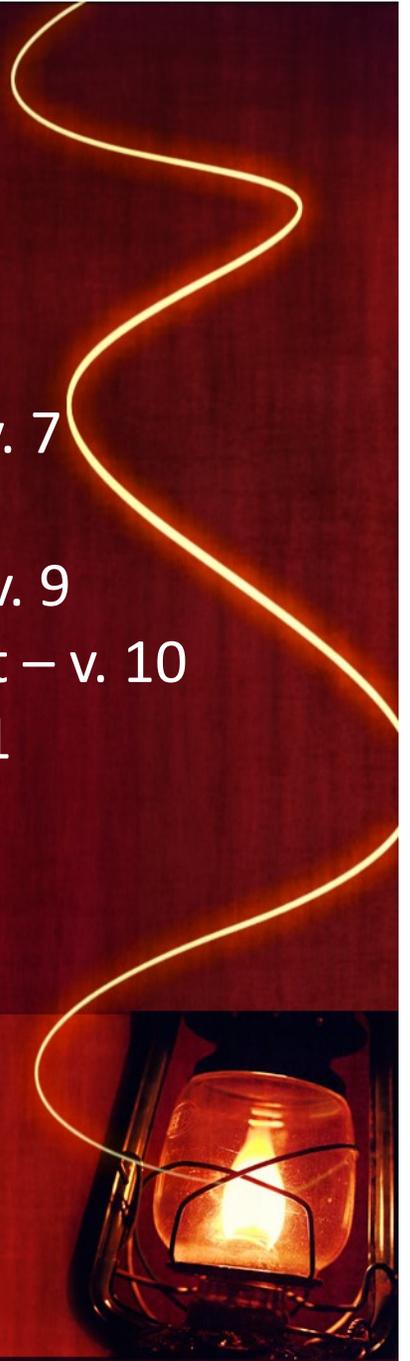
IV. CARRY THE LIGHT TO EXHIBIT GOD'S GIFT

A. The General Expectations

1. Steadfastness – Pay attention to the time – v. 7
2. Sensitivity – Have fervent charity – v. 8
3. Sweet-spirited – Be hospitable with grace – v. 9
4. Stewardship – Be a good steward of your gift – v. 10
5. Spirit-filled – Be faithful to glorify God – v. 11

B. The Gift Exhibited

1. The Gift of Salvation
2. The Gift of Service



GLORIFY THE CREATOR

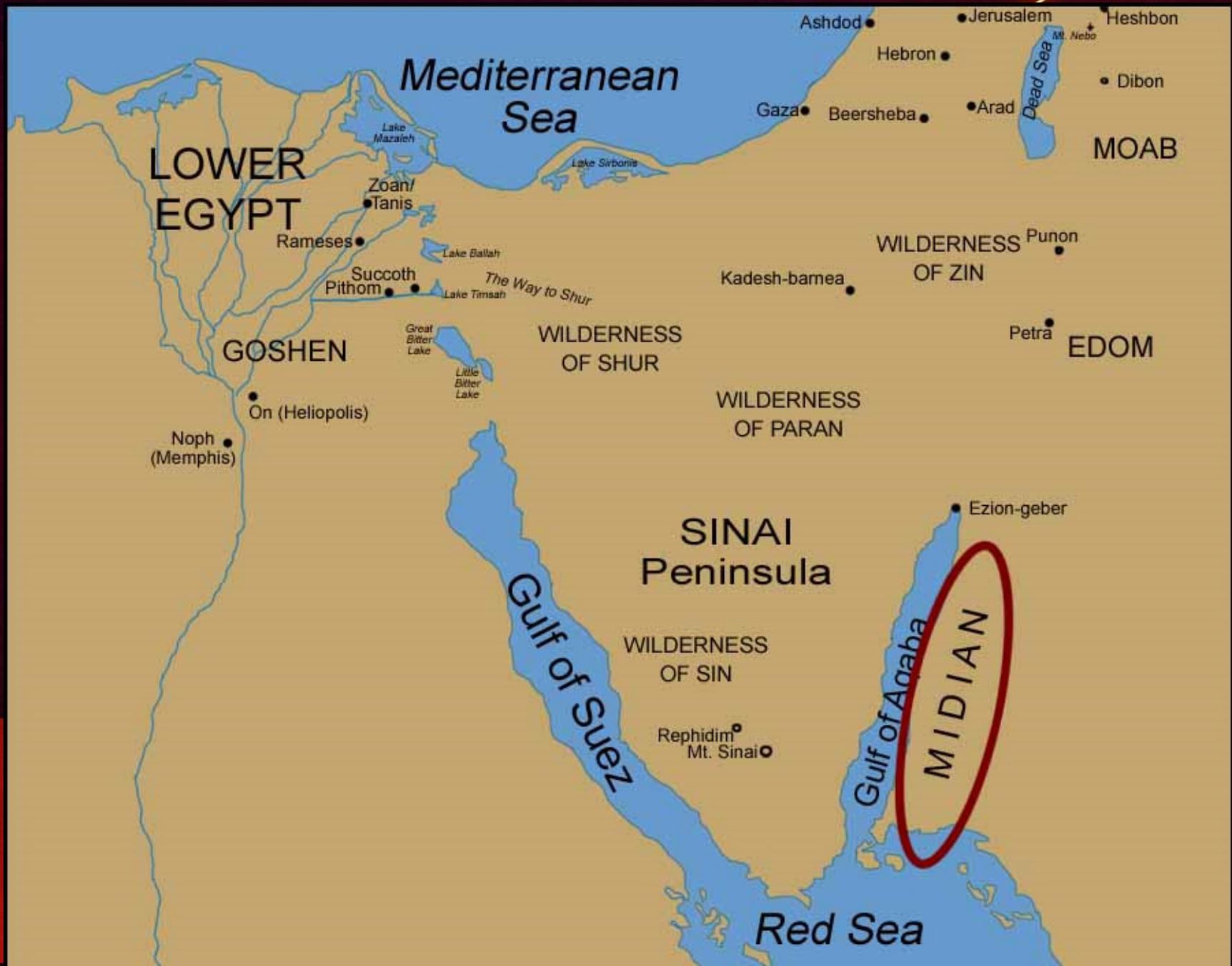
“Carry the Light to Exhibit God’s Glory”

I. THE CHALLENGE OF THE OPPOSITION

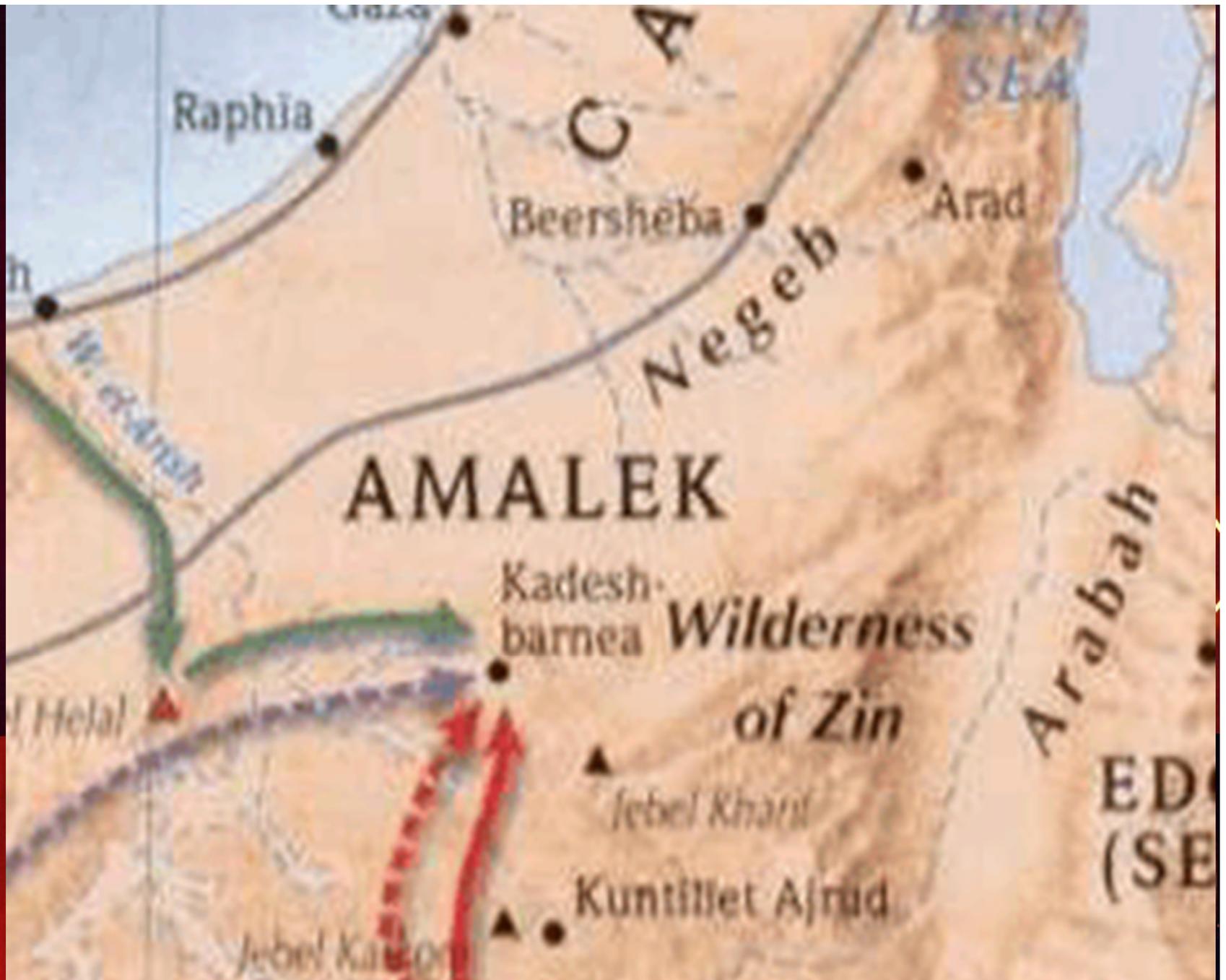
Judges 6:11b “...his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide *it* from the Midianites.”

A. Working in peripheral fear –
“...to hide *it* from the Midianites.”





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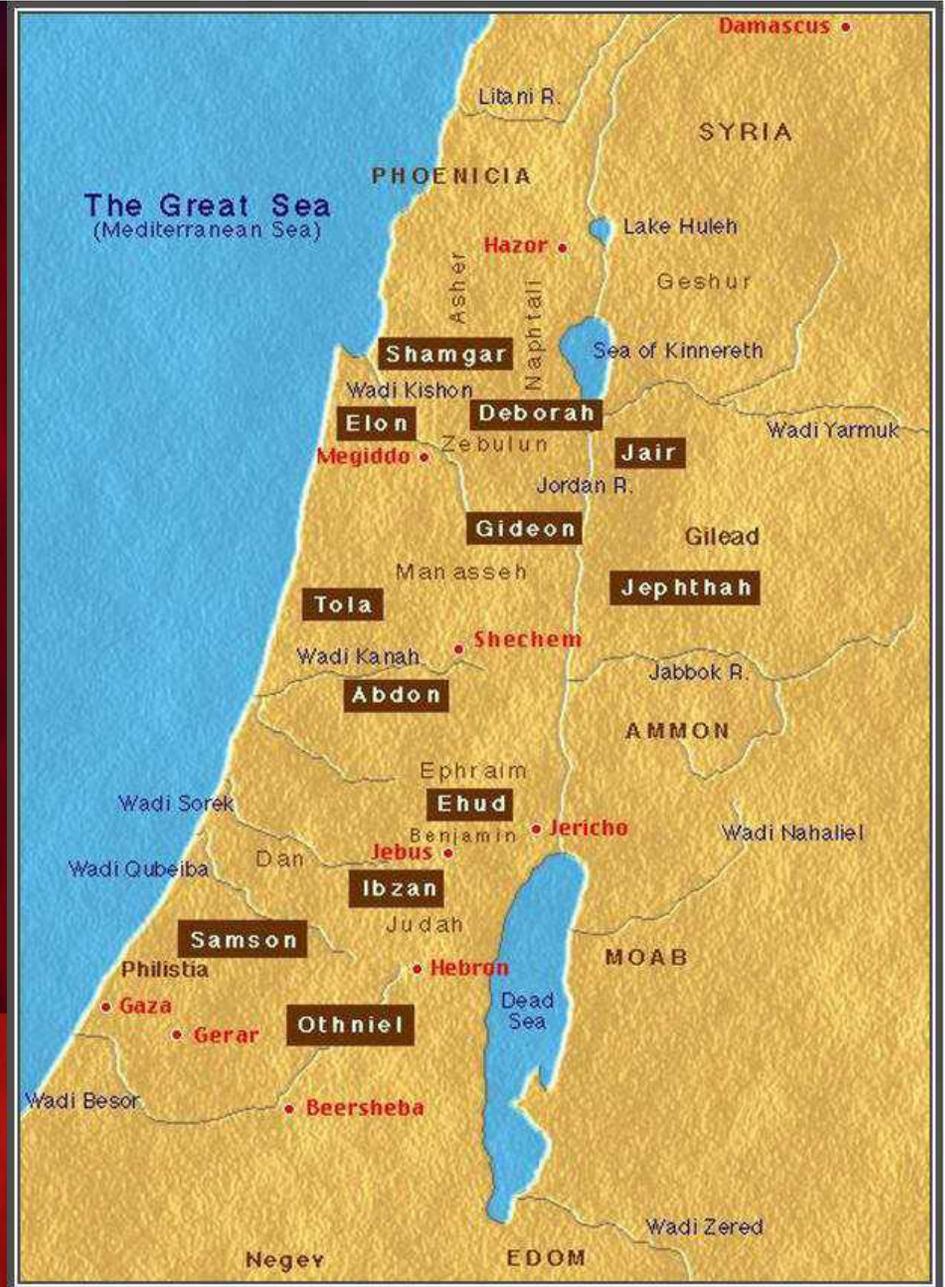


Fig 3. The 12 Judges and Locations

1 Jn. 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because **fear hath torment**. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Prov. 29:25 **The fear of man bringeth a snare**: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

2 Tim. 1:7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

B. Waiting for possibility of failure



Judges 6:3 And so it was, **when Israel had sown,**
that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites,
and the children of the east, even they came up against
them;

4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed
the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza,
and **left no sustenance for Israel,** neither sheep, nor ox,
nor ass.

5 For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they
came as grasshoppers for multitude; *for* both they and their
camels were without number: and they entered into
the land to destroy it.

6 And **Israel was greatly impoverished because of
the Midianites;** and the children of Israel cried unto
the LORD.



- Looking back over the challenges of 2017, how will they affect 2018?
- The uncertainty of the future – employment, health, family, etc.

Jas. 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

15 For that **ye ought to say, If the Lord will**, we shall live, and do this, or that.

II. THE COMPREHENSION OF THE OBSCURITY

- Looming challenges of the present may obscure God's deliverance.



A. The Announcement from the Messenger

Judges 6:12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, **The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.**

1. The Preface to Coping – “...The LORD *is* with thee...”

Josh. 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: **for the LORD thy God is with thee** whithersoever thou goest.



Mt. 28:20b “...lo, **I am with you alway**, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

2. The Perspective of Christ – “...thou mighty man of valour.”

- The Lord sees us from His heavenly, perfect perspective of potentiality.

1 Sam. 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: **for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**



Rom. 8:37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

B. The Answer to the Messenger

Judges 6:13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, **if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us?** and where *be* all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but **now the LORD hath forsaken us**, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

- The best spiritual soldiers may have moments of weakness.



Mt. 8:26 And he saith unto them, **Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?** Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

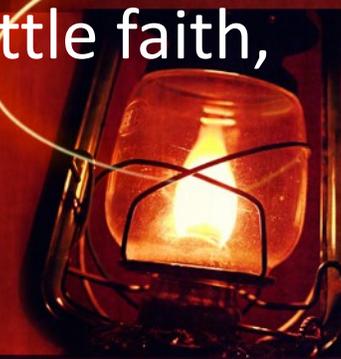
Mt. 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**

Mt. 16:8 *Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, **O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves,** because ye have brought no bread?



Three observations from these three statements by the Lord:

1. Little faith produces fear.
 2. Little faith walks in fellowship with doubt.
 3. Little faith colludes with others of little faith.
- All three statements were to the disciples who were traveling with the Lord!
 - 2017 may have caused us to have moments of little faith, but we can overcome!



III. THE COMPLETION OF THE OPPORTUNITY

Judges 6:14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, **Go** in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites:

have not I sent thee?

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family *is* poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house.

16 **And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee**, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. ...

22 And when Gideon perceived that he *was* an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace *be* unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it *is* yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.



A. Focus upon the Mission, 6:14 “...go...have not I sent thee?”

- Gideon still doubted his ability to be a servant usable for the Lord.

Judges 6:15 And he said unto him, **Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel?** behold, my family *is* poor in Manasseh, and **I am the least in my father's house.**

- God uses those who recognize their weaknesses.

2 Cor. 12:9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**



2 Tim. 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and **meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

B. Follow the Messenger

Judges 6:16 **And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee,** and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. ...

22 And **when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD,** Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

- The promise of God's presence will encourage our obedience – "...Surely, I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites..."

Phil. 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.



C. Face the Message

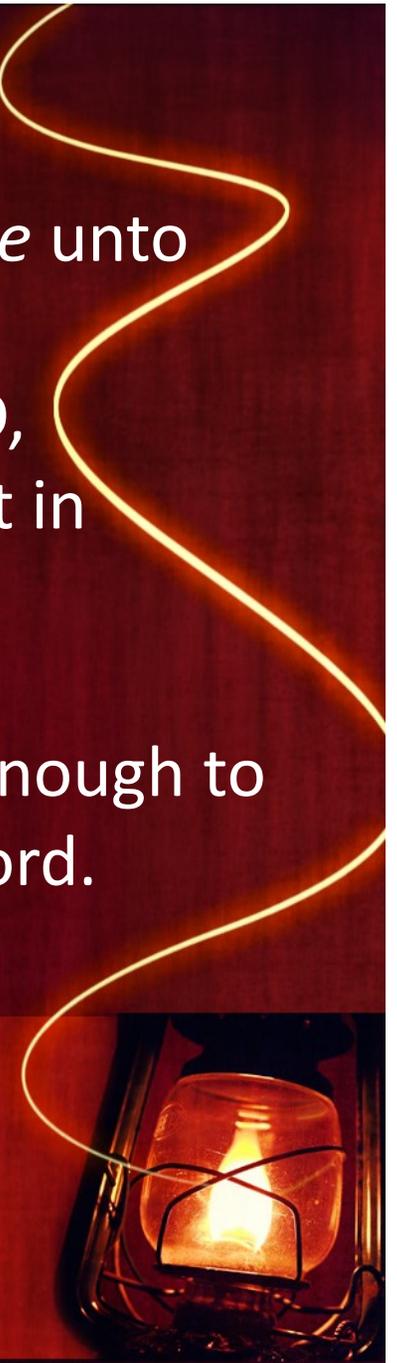
Judges 6:23 And **the LORD said unto him**, Peace *be* unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it **Jehovahshalom**: unto this day it *is* yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

- Our faith is strengthened as we love the Lord enough to listen to Him as He speaks to us through His word.

Rom. 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God**.

Gal. 5:6 "...but **faith which worketh by love**."



- As we face 2018, we need to have His peace and accomplish the mission He has for each one of us.

Judges 6:24a “Then Gideon built an altar **there unto the LORD**, and called it **Jehovahshalom...**”

Jehovah-shalom = "Jehovah is peace"

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace** *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, **even so send I you.**



Conclusion

Heb. 11:32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me **to tell of Gedeon**, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.



Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation,** though we thus speak.

Rom. 14:12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

*Carry the Light
to Exhibit God's Glory throughout 2018!*

