### Judges

## Chapter 8

1But then, the men of Ephraim asked GideOn:  
  
 ‘What were you doing?  
  
 ‘Why didn’t you call us when you went to fight against MidiAn?’  
  
They were very angry with him.  
  
2And he replied:  
  
 ‘What have I done in comparison to you? For, aren’t the gleanings of Ephraim better than the full harvest of AbiEzer?  
  
 3‘It was Jehovah who delivered the leaders of MidiAn (Oreb and Zeb) into your hands… And what did I do to compare to that?’  
  
Well, after he said that, they calmed down.  
  
  
4Then GideOn went to the JorDan and crossed it all by himself, as his 300 men (who were very hungry) lagged behind. 5He went on to He went on to <span class="placename">SokChothHe went on to <span class="placename">SokChoth</span>, and he said to the men there:  
  
 ‘Please give me some bread to feed these men who are arriving after me, because they’re starting to get weak... For look! We’re in pursuit of ZebeE and SalMana, the kings of MidiAn.’  
  
6But the leaders of But the leaders of <span class="placename">SokChothBut the leaders of <span class="placename">SokChoth</span> replied:  
  
 ‘Have you already captured ZebeE and SalMana, so that we should now have to feed your army?’  
  
7And GideOn said,  
  
 ‘Okay then... But when Jehovah gives ZebeE and SalMana into my hands, [I will come back here] and then I’ll tear your flesh with thorns in the ‘Okay then... But when Jehovah gives ZebeE and SalMana into my hands, [I will come back here] and then I’ll tear your flesh with thorns in the <span class="placename">Desert of the Sons of Kainan ‘Okay then... But when Jehovah gives ZebeE and SalMana into my hands, [I will come back here] and then I’ll tear your flesh with thorns in the <span class="placename">Desert of the Sons of Kainan</span>.’  
  
  
8Well from there, he went up to Well from there, he went up to <span class="placename">PeniElWell from there, he went up to <span class="placename">PeniEl</span> and he made the same request of them… But they answered in the same way as did the men of SokChoth.  
  
9So GideOn told them:  
  
 ‘When I return in peace, I’m going to tear down your fortifications!’  
  
  
10Meanwhile, ZebeE and SalMana were in CarCar with their army, but there was only about 15,000 left of their mercenary army, for 120,000 of their soldiers had already been killed.  
  
11Then GideOn traveled past the tent dwellers east of Then GideOn traveled past the tent dwellers east of <span class="placename">NabAiThen GideOn traveled past the tent dwellers east of <span class="placename">NabAi</span> and Then GideOn traveled past the tent dwellers east of <span class="placename">NabAi</span> and <span class="placename">JegEbalThen GideOn traveled past the tent dwellers east of <span class="placename">NabAi</span> and <span class="placename">JegEbal</span>, and he cut down and captured their army. 12But ZebeE and SalMana fled... So he chased after them and caught the two kings of MidiAn after he’d routed their army.  
  
13Well, as GideOn (son of JoAs) was returning from the battle, 14he questioned a young man among the captives who was from SokChoth, and he got him to write down the names of the leaders and elders of SokChoth… All 77 men.  
  
15Then GideOn went to those leaders of SokChoth and said:  
  
 ‘Look! Here are ZebeE and SalMana about whom you so rudely asked:  
  
 ‘Are ZebeE and SalMana now in your hands, so that we should have to give your hungry men bread?’  
  
16So thereafter, he took those elders [and had them dragged through] the thorns of the Desert of the Sons of Kainan, tearing them to pieces! 17And then from there, he went and tore down the fortifications of PhanuEl and killed all the men in that city!  
  
18Well, after that, he asked ZebeE and SalMana:  
  
 ‘Who were those men whom you killed in Tabor?’  
  
And they replied:  
  
 ‘They looked like you… Like the sons of a king!’  
  
19And GideOn said:  
  
 ‘Those were my brothers… The sons of my mother.  
  
 ‘So, as Jehovah lives, if you’d left them alive, I wouldn’t have to kill you!’  
  
20Then he said to JeTher (his firstborn):  
  
 ‘Take them out and kill them!’  
  
But the young man wouldn’t draw his sword, because he was young and afraid.  
  
21And ZebeE and SalMana said:  
  
 ‘If you’re a man, then why don’t you kill us yourself?’  
  
So GideOn got up and killed ZebeE and SalMana... Then he took all the round ornaments that were hung around the necks of their camels.  
  
  
22Well thereafter, the men of IsraEl [came to him] and said to GideOn:  
  
 ‘Our lord; become our ruler… You, your sons, and the sons of their sons, for you’ve saved us from the hands of MidiAn.’  
  
23But GideOn replied:  
  
 ‘I’m not going to rule over you, nor will any of my sons; for Jehovah alone must be your ruler!’  
  
24And GideOn added:  
  
 ‘All I ask from you is one thing: I want each man to give me an earring from his loot.’  
  
[He asked this] since [the people they’d conquered] were IshMaElites, [and] he knew they all had gold earrings.  
  
25And they replied:  
  
 ‘Yes we’ll give them to you.’  
  
So he unfolded his robe and each man tossed one of the ear rings that they’d looted into it.  
  
26Well, the weight of these gold earrings that he’d asked for amounted to about 40 pounds (18kg)… So he had this in addition to the purple robes of the kings of MidiAn and the collars that were around the necks of their camels!  
  
27Then GideOn took the ornaments and robes and made a sacred vest, which he then placed in his city of Then GideOn took the ornaments and robes and made a sacred vest, which he then placed in his city of <span class="placename">OphrahThen GideOn took the ornaments and robes and made a sacred vest, which he then placed in his city of <span class="placename">Ophrah</span>. However, later on, all IsraEl came and committed immoral acts before it there. So it became a snare to GideOn and to his house.  
  
  
28Meanwhile, MidiAn had been so shamed by the sons of IsraEl that they were couldn’t even raise their heads! And everything was peaceful in IsraEl during the 40 years that GideOn [judged the land].  
  
29JeroBaal (GideOn), son of JoAsh, lived in his own home, 30and 70 sons came from him, because he’d taken many women. 31In addition, he also had a son born to his concubine in In addition, he also had a son born to his concubine in <span class="placename">SheChemIn addition, he also had a son born to his concubine in <span class="placename">SheChem</span>, whom he named AbiMelech.  
  
  
32Well eventually, GideOn (son of JoAsh) died (with a good head of grey hair), and he was entombed with his father JoAsh in Ophrah of the Well eventually, GideOn (son of JoAsh) died (with a good head of grey hair), and he was entombed with his father JoAsh in Ophrah of the <span class="placename">AbiEzeritesWell eventually, GideOn (son of JoAsh) died (with a good head of grey hair), and he was entombed with his father JoAsh in Ophrah of the <span class="placename">AbiEzerites</span>.  
  
33And after GideOn died, the sons of IsraEl turned around and started having immoral relations with the BaAls once again, agreeing that [a] BaAl would be their god. 34So the sons of IsraEl forgot their God Jehovah who’d saved them from the hands of their neighbours who had oppressed them. 35And they no longer treated the house of JeroBaAl (GideOn) well, despite all the good things that he’d done for them.