

AN ANGEL TALKS TO GIDEON

Judges 6:1-32

Judges 6

¹Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ²Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. ³Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. ⁴They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. ⁵They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count the men and their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. ⁶Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.

⁷When the Israelites cried to the LORD because of Midian, ⁸he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹I snatched you from the power of Egypt and from the hand of all your oppressors. I drove them from before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

¹¹The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹²When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

¹³"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

¹⁴The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

¹⁵"But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

¹⁶The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

¹⁷Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me."

¹⁸Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you."

And the LORD said, "I will wait until you return."

¹⁹Gideon went in, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.

²⁰The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. ²¹With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared. ²²When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

²³But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."

²⁴So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

²⁵That same night the LORD said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. ²⁶Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering."

²⁷So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the men of the town, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

²⁸In the morning when the men of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar!

²⁹They asked each other, "Who did this?"

When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

³⁰The men of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it."

³¹But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar." ³²So that day they called Gideon "Jerub-Baal," saying, "Let Baal contend with him," because he broke down Baal's altar.

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What happened to the Israelites because of their wicked ways? (Verses 3-4)
5		2.) What happened to the meat and bread that Gideon placed on the rock? (Verse 21)
5		3.) Who talked to Gideon about helping the Israelites?
5		4.) Why do you think Gideon was afraid of the Midianites?

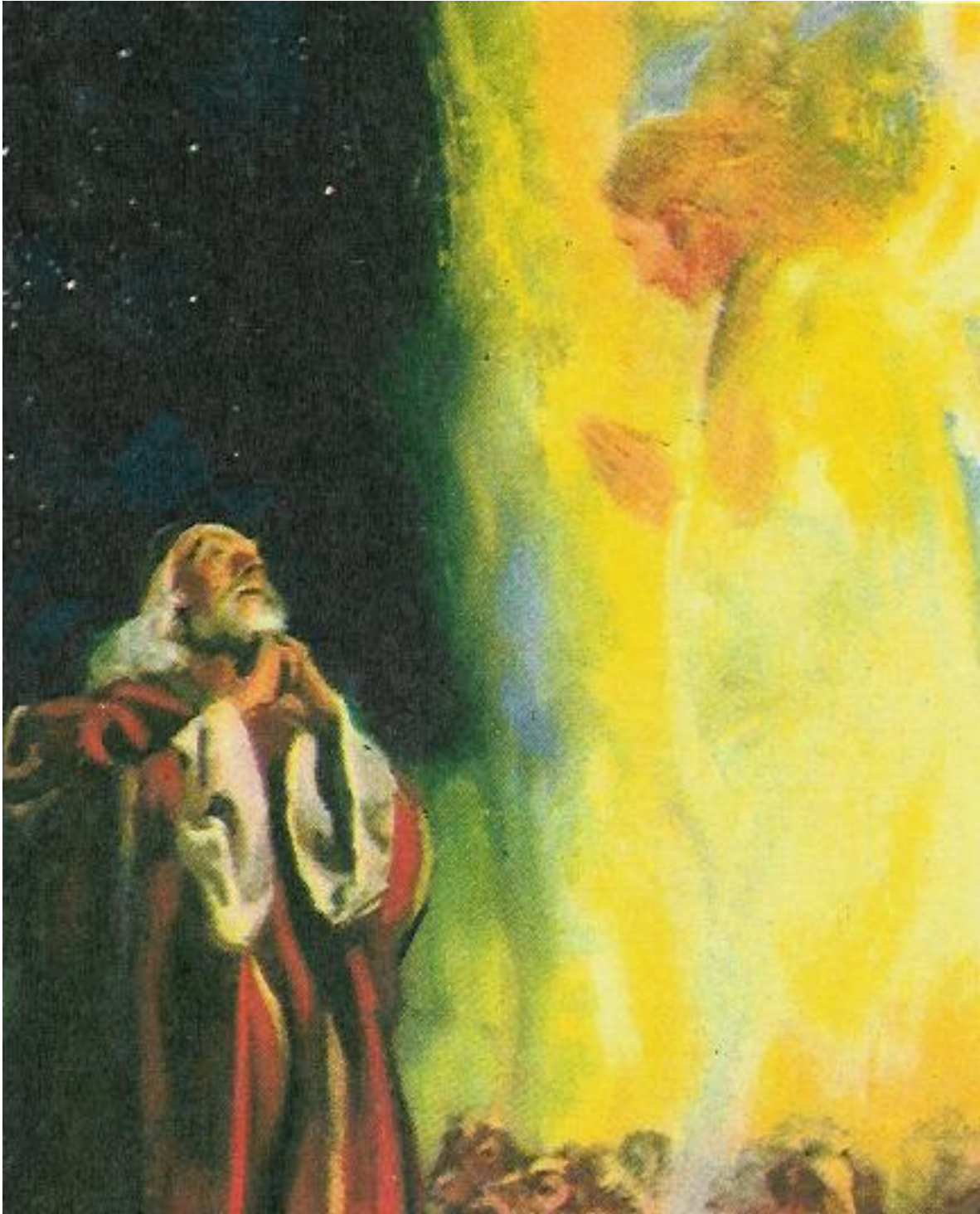
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.” Isaiah 40:29

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER’S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ____/____/____

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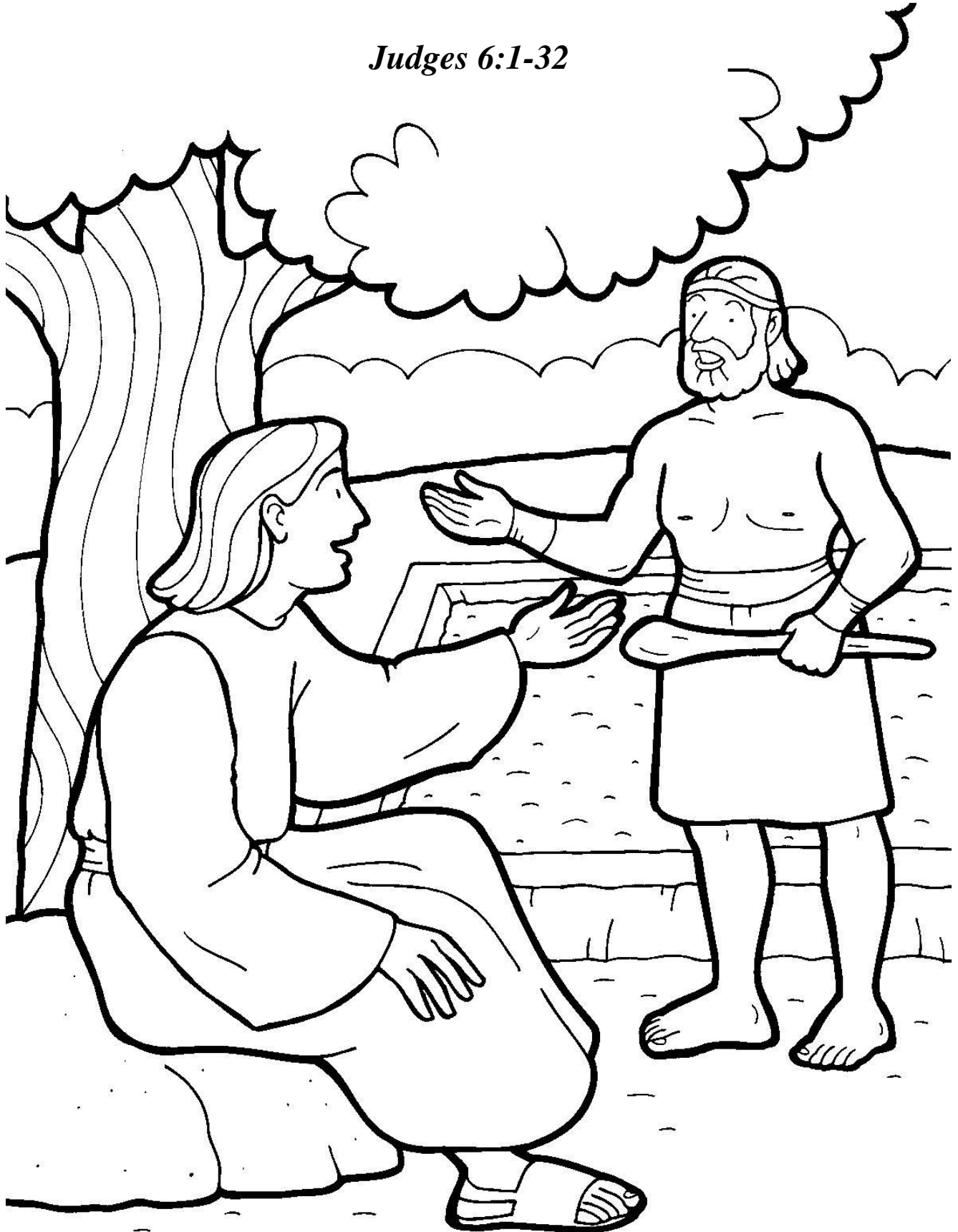
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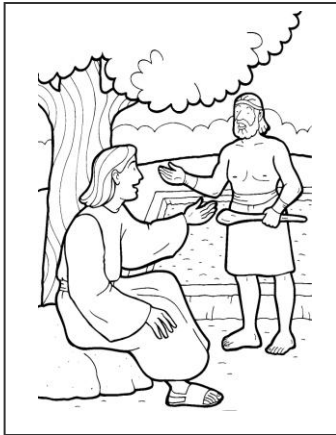


An angel tells Gideon that he will help save the Israelites

THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON JUDGES 6:1-32

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Sources say that God is upset with the Israelites again. They were given over to the Midianites just yesterday. The Midianites are being blamed for the recent killing

of crops and animals.

The Israelites have been complaining to God. Witnesses say that God sent an angel to speak with Gideon near the oak tree.

Gideon reportedly told the angel that he was from the weakest clan. But, the Lord said He would help Gideon.

One man saw Gideon place some meat and bread on a rock. In an instant the angel made the food go up in flames! Now Gideon believed that God would help him.

Gideon was later seen tearing down an altar to Baal. Then, he built an altar to the Lord.

The next morning, the people were upset to see their altar in ruins. They began looking for Gideon so they could kill him. But, don't you worry about Gideon; God is with him! To find out more, check out Judges 6:1-32.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the Midianites do to the Israelites?
2. Who did God choose to help the Israelites?
3. Did Gideon think he could help the Israelites? Why or why not?
4. If Gideon can trust God, can you?

MEMORY VERSE

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”

Isaiah 40:29

FILL IN THE BLANKS

oak	Israelites	angel
scared	him	clan

Even though Gideon was the weakest in his _____, God chose him to help the _____. An _____ visited Gideon by an _____ tree. Gideon was _____, but he knew God was with _____.