

Gideon's Fleece

Judges 6

by Don Falkos

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Israel was under the control of the Midianites. Marauders plagued the land and Israel was reduced to starvation. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help.

The Lord said, "I rescued you from slavery in Egypt and told you not to worship the gods of the Canaanites, but you have not listened."

Gideon was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress in order to hide the grain from prying eyes. The Lord spoke to him, "Go, and rescue Israel from the Midianites."

Gideon replied, "How can I rescue Israel? I'm nobody!"

The Lord said, "You are not 'nobody' when I am with you."

Gideon asked for a sign. He brought meat and bread and placed it on a rock. Fire flamed up from the rock to consume it.

At the Lord's instruction, Gideon tore down an altar to Baal and cut down an Asherah pole. The people wanted to kill Gideon, but his father stepped in, "If Baal really is a god, let him defend himself and destroy the one who broke down his altar!"

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon. Gideon said to God, "If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel, give me a sign. I will put this wool fleece on the threshing floor. In the morning let it be wet with dew but let the ground be dry."

The Lord did as Gideon asked.

Then Gideon said, "Lord, don't be angry with me. I need one more sign. I will put the fleece out again. This time let the fleece remain dry while the ground around it is wet with dew."

And again the Lord did as Gideon asked.