

Three Hundred Men

Judges 7:1 – 8:28

by Don Falkos

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Gideon marched off to war with the Midianites. But the Lord said, "You have too many soldiers with you. If you defeat Midian with all of these men, Israel will boast that they have saved themselves. Tell your men, 'Whoever is afraid may leave and go home.' "

Twenty-two thousand men went home, leaving ten thousand. But the Lord said, "There are still too many. Have them drink from the stream. Keep only those who cup their hands and drink by lifting the water to their mouths."

Most of the men knelt down and drank directly from the stream. They were sent home. Gideon was left with three hundred men.

During the night, the Lord said to Gideon, "Go to your enemy's camp and listen to what they're saying."

Gideon crept down to the Midianite camp and overheard two men talking. "I had a dream. A loaf of barley bread came tumbling into our camp. It hit a tent, and knocked it flat."

The man's friend said, "Your dream can only mean one thing. God has given Gideon victory over the Midianite army."

Gideon roused his men and gave them their instructions. Each man held a ram's horn and a clay jar with a torch inside. They surrounded the Midianite camp. At Gideon's command they blew their horns and broke their jars. The torches blazed as the men shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"

Panic swept through the Midianite camp. In the confusion, they started killing each other. Those who weren't killed fled for their lives.

Because of Gideon's victory there was peace in the land of Israel for forty years.