

Rebellion, Ruin and Rescue
JUDGES

Gideon: A Moses-Like Calling
Judges 6:1-40

Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD gave them into the hands of Midian seven years.

²The power of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of Midian the sons of Israel made for themselves the dens which were in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds.

³For it was when Israel had sown, that the Midianites would come up with the Amalekites and the sons of the east and go against them.

⁴So they would camp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel as well as no sheep, ox, or donkey.

⁵For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, they would come in like locusts for number, both they and their camels were innumerable; and they came into the land to devastate it.

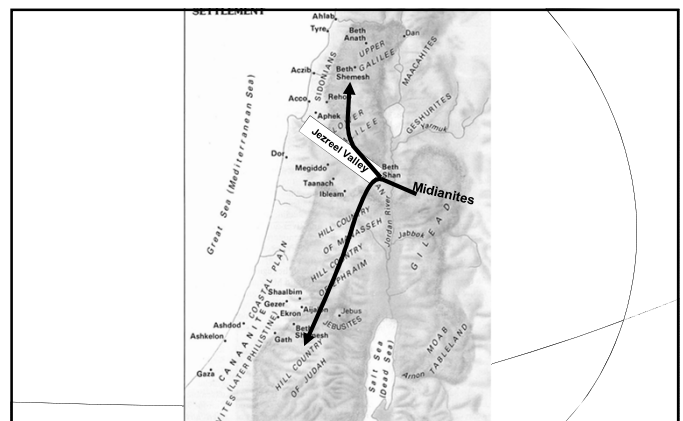
⁶So Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the sons of Israel cried to the LORD.

(Judges 6:1-6)

Gideon's Calling

1. A Repeated Apostasy

- Israel again forsook Yahweh and engaged in Baal worship
- the Lord used the Midianites to severely oppress Israel due to their rebellion



Gideon's Calling

2. An Unexpected Prophet

- he indicted Israel for their inexcusable infidelity in light of all the Lord's gracious actions on their behalf
- he revealed the reason for Israel's present distress and oppression

Gideon's Calling

3. An Unlikely Calling

a) a familiar pattern (Moses-like)

- God chooses the weak and unexpected as His means of deliverance
- God reassures with His most potent promise – "I will be with you" (*Yahweh*)

Gideon's Calling

3. An Unlikely Calling

b) an authenticating sign

- the consuming of the offering-meal was a sign of Yahweh's favor and presence with Gideon
- Gideon responded with a cry of anguish in fear of his life that led to the worship of Yahweh who granted him "peace"

Gideon's Calling

4. An Initial Challenge

- by destroying Baal's altar, the Lord called Gideon to a public, exclusive allegiance to Yahweh
- Gideon's action and name (Jerub-baal) were signs of the ineptness of idols

Gideon's Calling

5. A Final Assurance

- Gideon's desire for a sign was to strengthen his faith in God's incredible promise
- the Lord graciously accommodated Gideon's weak faith by granting him a sign