

## Rebellion, Ruin and Rescue

# JUDGES

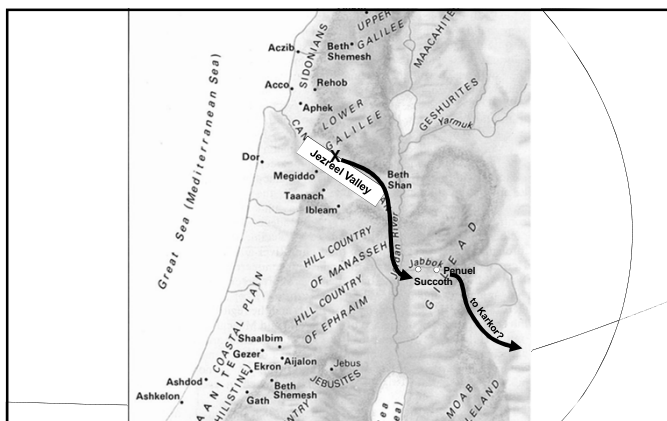
## Gideon: The Rest of the Story

### Judges 8:1-35

Then Gideon and the 300 men who were with him came to the Jordan *and* crossed over, weary yet pursuing. <sup>5</sup> He said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who are following me, for they are weary, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian." <sup>6</sup> The leaders of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hands, that we should give bread to your army?" <sup>7</sup> Gideon said, "All right, when the LORD has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will thrash your bodies with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers." <sup>8</sup> He went up from there to Penuel and spoke similarly to them; and the men of Penuel answered him just as the men of Succoth had answered. <sup>9</sup> So he spoke also to the men of Penuel, saying, "When I return safely, I will tear down this tower."

<sup>10</sup> Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their armies with them, about 15,000 men, all who were left of the entire army of the sons of the east; for the fallen were 120,000 swordsmen. <sup>11</sup> Gideon went up by the way of those who lived in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and attacked the camp when the camp was unsuspecting. <sup>12</sup> When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them and captured the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army.

(Judges 8:4-12)



## The Rest of the Story...

### 1. Returning Insult for Insult

- Gideon's actions against his fellow-Israelites were personal, unsanctioned and severe
- Gideon was more concerned with avenging His pride than delivering the nation

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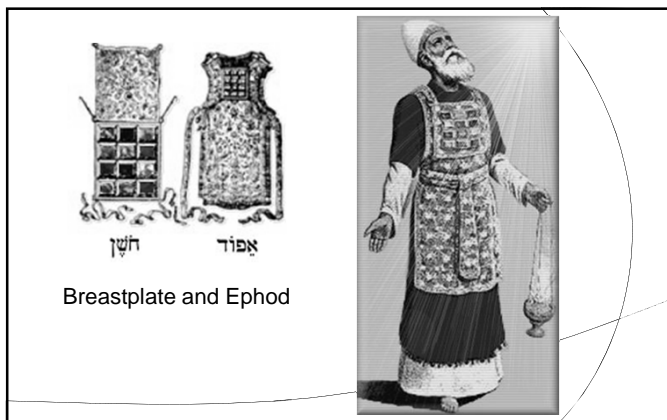
### 2. Settling a Personal Vendetta

- Gideon was motivated more by personal revenge than the Lord's honor
- Gideon exchanged the Lord's agenda for his own personal agenda

## The Rest of the Story...

### 3. Acting Kingly as a non-King

- Gideon made an ephod as an alternative source of divine guidance



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### 3. Acting Kingly as a non-King

- Gideon made an ephod as an alternative source of divine guidance
- Gideon multiplied wives and sons, including a son named Abimelech ("my father is king")

## The Rest of the Story...

### Principles:

1. Beware of idolizing men; they will disappoint you
2. Beware of spiritual pride and personal ambition after being used by God