

Handout: Judges Lesson 3

Historical period c. 13th - 12th centuries BC:

- Egyptians drive off the Sea Peoples' threatened invasion of Egypt.
- The Sea Peoples' invasion of Canaan during the judgeship of Shamgar and Deborah.
- The destruction of Hazor by Barak dated archaeologically to c. 1125 BC.
- The Sea Peoples intermarry with the Canaanites and settle in five Philistine city-states.
- Egyptian empire is fading and will no longer be regarded as the regional superpower.

Judges 6:7-10 is the second direct intervention by God concerning Israel's failures:

1. The messenger (*mal'ak*) of Yahweh confronts Israel (Judg 2:1-5).
2. A prophet (*nabi*) sent by Yahweh confronts Israel (Judg 6:7-10).
3. Yahweh Himself confronts Israel (Judg 10:10-16).

The narrative of the judgeship of Gideon can be divided into two sections:

Part I: The description of the period of Israel's sin and subjugation by the Midianites and their allies and Gideon's rise as a deliverer through the miracles God works for Gideon to achieve victory over Israel's enemies (Judg 6:1-8:3).

Part II: The description of Gideon's leadership until his death (8:4-8:28).

Judge deliverer cycles for Gideon:

1. Announcement of Israel's wrong doing (6:1)
2. Statement of Yahweh's response (6:2)
3. Notice of how long Israel was oppressed by the enemy (6:1a)
4. Reference to Israel's repentance in "crying out" to God (6:6-7)
5. Announcement of God "raising up" a deliverer (6:11-14)
6. Description of how deliverance was achieved (6:33-35; 7:1-25; 8:4-21)
7. Concluding statement of how long peace lasted (8:28)

Comparison between the call of Gideon and the call of Moses:

The Call of Gideon	The Call of Moses
Gideon was hiding from his enemies in a wine press while he was threshing grain (Judg 6:14).	Moses was hiding from his enemies in Midian herding sheep (Ex 2:15- 3:1).
God tells Gideon: "I have sent you" (Judg 6:15).	God tells Moses: "I have sent you" (Ex 3:12).
Gideon protests that he is inadequate (Judg 6:15).	Moses protests that he is inadequate (Ex 3:11; 4:1).
Gideon received divine reassurance: "I will be with you" (Judg 6:16).	Moses received divine reassurance: "I will be with you" (Ex 3:12a).
Gideon is given the sign of a fire theophany to reassure him of God's divine Presence (Judg 6:22).	Moses is given a sign of a fire theophany to reassure him of God's divine Presence (Ex 3:2, 12b).
The fire theophany induced fear in Gideon (Judg 6:22b-23).	The fire theophany induced fear in Moses (Ex 3:6b).
Two additional signs are given as proof of the success of the mission (Judg 6:36-40).	Two additional signs are given as proof of the success of the mission (Ex 4:1-7).
After much hesitation, Gideon accepted the call.	After much hesitation, Moses accepted the call.
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