

Victory Over The Midianites.

The Christian Pilgrimage – Judgement and Deliverance

This week – We continue our series on how God blesses those who exercise faith in Him.

*“Our help is in the name of the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.”*

Psalm 124v8.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Judges 6v33-40 (The LORD assures Gideon of victory)	
Monday	Judges 7v1-12 (The LORD selects 300 faithful men)	
Tuesday	Judges 7v13-25 (The Sword of the LORD, and Gideon)	
Wednesday	Ephesians 6v1-20 (Put on all the armour of God)	
Thursday	Psalm 39 (All our days are in His Sovereign hands)	
Friday	Psalm 124 (Our help cometh from the LORD)	
Saturday	Psalm 40 (Be pleased O Lord to deliver me)	

Important Thought for us Today: What defence have we against the wiles (tricks) of the Devil? (Ephesians 6v11-20). From birth we are at war with God. The Devil will do all he can to ensure we remain God’s enemies and end up in Hell, keeping us from seeking and finding the Lord as our Saviour. Without God we have no defence, we are at the Devil’s mercy. The Midianites war on Israel is a picture of his devious tricks, the fiery darts Satan uses to keep us in sin. When we are saved God gives us armour to protect our souls: Our *‘loins girt about with truth’* (a belt of Bible truth around our soul); the *‘breastplate of righteousness’* (not our righteousness, but Christ’s); our *‘feet shod with the gospel of peace’* (our testimony of faith in Christ and His death on the cross); the *‘shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the wicked’*; *‘the helmet of salvation’* (our thoughts protected); the *‘sword of the Spirit’* (God’s Word); and *‘prayer’* (keeping fellowship with the Captain of our Salvation.) **We need to use all the armour of God to be protected from the Devil.**

Hymn 393 - encouraging us to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for our salvation:

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| 1. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee,
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free. | 5. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Never let me fall;
I am trusting Thee for ever,
And for all. |
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“Let all those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee: let such as love Thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.” Psalm 40v16.

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible

- **God’s Protection Withdrawn - the Israelites were Worshipping Baal.**
 - For 7 years the Midianites attacked taking the harvest of the Israelites.
 - Gideon - raised by God to break down the idol of Baal and restore true worship.
- **The Midianite Threat Continued – They Came With a Great Army.**
 - The Israelites were terrified when they saw so many encamped around them.

We have a great enemy – Satan. He is invisible but he tempts us in our sins of pride, selfish desires, lying, hatred, envy, cheating, boasting, lust, greed, unbelief, etc. Satan does not want us to repent and obey God, nor to pray and read our Bibles.
- **Gideon’s Army was Selected by The LORD to Defeat the Midianites.**
 - Initially 32,000 men - God said, ‘Too many, as they will claim the victory.’ v2
 - The first test – ‘Those who are afraid or fearful can go home.’ 22,000 went home.
 - Only 10,000 remained. Another test – ‘See how they drink from a stream.’
 - 9,700 sent home - They kneeled and drank showing they were Baal worshippers.
 - Only 300 remained – They had stooped, scooping the water with their hands.
 - These all faithfully trusted Gideon and God – obeying the next set of instructions.

God will only set us free from the power of Satan when we look to Him and follow His way in complete obedience.

Confidence in our own ability to successfully resist Satan and sin will fail miserably. Only the Lord Jesus Christ has the power to help us. He conquered sin on Calvary.
- **The Night of The Battle – Faithfulness Rewarded with a Great Victory.**
 - God encourages Gideon when he overhears two Midianites retelling a dream, *‘This is ... the sword of Gideon ... for into his hand hath God delivered Midian.’*

Only by following God’s way will we be blessed and helped in defeating the Devil.

 - Gideon divided his 300 men into 3 companies - put a trumpet in every man’s hand, and an empty pitcher (clay jar) in which to hide their flaming torches.
 - Gideon set his faithful men around the Midianite camp. On his command they broke their pitchers to reveal their flaming torches, blew their trumpets, and they all shouted, *‘The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.’* Judges 7v20.
 - Total confusion broke out in the Midianite camp – They all ran for their lives.
- **Our Deliverer –The Lord Jesus Christ is the Captain of Our Salvation.**
 - There is a powerful enemy in our souls which Satan uses - our sinful hearts.
 - **We are Powerless** to protect ourselves from Satan who wants us to sin.
 - **‘Good’ Deeds** cannot save us. Look closely, notice that our motives are selfish and proud, filthy rags in God’s sight. We need Christ’s Righteousness alone.
 - **Great Encouragement** – God knows and understands all our doubts and fears. Let us seek the Lord as our Saviour and Lord. Only He has the power to save us from the guilt of our sin. He died to save, to rescue us from the power of Satan.