

135,000 Midianites waited out there to devour their crops.

The angel of the Lord appeared and called this man into service. Many times lives are lived in sorrow because they have mistaken their calling. It is not so with those called of God as was Gideon because the angel said the

Lord is with thee. And perhaps Gideon wondered why he had just a small amount of meal and here he was in hiding threshing out a few stalks of wheat. Why would God call me? My people have forsaken him. The angel said go in this thy might. This was a comforting message to Gideon and brought strength, and of course Gideon had some questions. In verse 13 he said, "If the Lord be with us, why is all of this trouble about?" All of this trouble had come because the people had forgotten God. Even though they had sinned, He had not cast them off.

He still loved them. But here comes a great commission in verse 14. His might undoubtedly lay in the assurance of Jehovah's presence with him. Samson was not a giant, but his great strength lay in the power of the spirit of God with him. But as is usual, in verse 15 Gideon said, "My

family is poor and I am the least." But we understand that God does not look upon these matters in choosing leaders. When He has a great work to be done, He looks

THE STORY OF GIDEON

Introduction - With the calling of Gideon commences the

second period in the history of the judges. It had been 200 years since Israel had avenged itself on Midian, and now they came down again and settled in the plain of Jezreel. It was not a permanent occupation of the land but seemed to take place around harvest season. Like plagues of locust they left nothing behind. What they could not carry away they destroyed. The people of Israel

cleared into caves seeking safety. This lasted about 70 years.

The Condition of the Nation (Judges 6:1-11)

Deborah and Barak were now dead, and the people had forgotten their wonderful work of deliverance, and the condition of the nation can be summarized in one word SIN

They had returned to idolatry. They had sinned against the clearest light. Even though they had no printed Bible

yet they had revelations at the Red Sea, in the wilderness, for many many years, but they shut their eyes and their ears against this light. They had had the continued presence

of God. They had many sacred obligations. In fact, He hath not delt so with any nation as with the children of

Israel. They broke their solemn covenant with Jehovah which He had made in Mt. Sinai with them. They also

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