

took the fleece and made a soldier's mantle for her son, and that he wore it next to his heart in battle.

IV. Choosing an Army (Judges 6:34)

Next he sounded a trumpet and called the people to war. The trumpet was used often to rally the children of Israel. The sound of the trumpet summoned the people to the celebration of feasts of Solomon's days. At the sound of the trumpet, Jericho's walls tumbled. For years the trumpet had been silent.

The soldiers come and assemble. 32,000 had come and God said to Gideon, "You have too many in this army." This was a strange hindrance. Would you have thought that

32,000 would be too many to go out and fight 120,000 men? God said no flesh should glory in his presence. (Deut. 8:12-17) Paul says in II Cor 12:10 - When I am weak, then I am strong. Zeck. 4:6 - Not by might, nor by power.

Therefore the Lord said in verse 3, let the fearful that is the self-interested - They will be a hindrance to my work. It seems that we should learn that the Lord can do very little with those who doubt and are always fearful.

I expect that there were some that day who thought that as they turned out of the lines that they would never

to a man that is poor and of a contrite spirit. Poverty and weakness are no argument against the exceeding riches of His grace and power. We urge our own weakness. In doing so we betray our lack of faith. In verse 16 He said, "Surely I will be with thee." The presence of God means the supplying of all our wants as His servants. God confirmed His call with a token or a sign. When Gideon brought out some food, the angel instructed that it be placed on a rock and he touched it and fire consumed it.

It is true that Israel's darkest night had come, the last star had gone down, her enemy had come in like a flood, her corn fields were wasted, her fig trees were empty, her olives stripped bare, her fruit destroyed. Yet at this hour God comes and calls Gideon. Why did He call him? He called him to get rid of the enemy and grant salvation to his people. He called him (to purge) the land of sin. And in calling Gideon, He took him from an unlikely place. Othniel was taken from the tribe of Judah, Ehud from Benjamin, Barak from Naphtali. But here He goes to the half tribe of Manasseh and finds Gideon. He found a busy man, and when we think about the circumstances of his calling, we think about loses on

the back side of the desert, of David tending the sheep,