

## **GIDEON'S FLEECE**

(Judges 6,7, & 8)

An Article by

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Gideon was an untested young man who put God to the test, and He found that God can never fail.

He came from a small clan called the Abiezrites. The Abiezrites, like other clans in Israel, were worshippers of Baal. They had forgotten about the true God who delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt. The people of Israel at this time in their history were no longer living according to the covenant that God initiated with them on Mount Sinai through Moses. They lost the special help and protection that was promised to them in the covenant. They became slaves again to their neighbours, the Midianites.

Gideon remembered all the promises of the covenant but he did not remember that it was important for the Israelites to serve God and not to worship idols. He did not know much about God himself and only relied on hearsay. He was a rather shy and cowardly individual, his self-confidence and self-esteem had been eroded by the poverty caused by the Midianites and other enemies of Israel. The situation in his country gave him no opportunity to develop his potentials and prevented him from gaining any personal experience of God.

However, with God all things are possible. God appeared unto Gideon through His Angel and motivated him to challenge the idolatry of his people. Gideon accepted that it was wrong to worship idols and decided to side with God.

As Gideon was a doubter, God had to implant faith in Gideon. God was patient with him as he learnt how to depend upon God and how to trust in Him. Gideon learnt that it was not important to know in advance what the future holds as long as you know God in advance of everything that will happen in your life. God may choose to reveal the future but even if He did not, He will guarantee that the outcome will bring glory to His name.

The story of Gideon shows that we are not alone in the battles of life, if we entrust our life to God.

### **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GIDEON**

- ◇ A very timid person who has no personal experience of the saving grace of God.
- ◇ A person who doubts God's word and seeks re-assurance through physical evidence, especially, supernatural signs.
- ◇ A person who is willing to learn from his own experience, and becomes increasingly obedient to God.

### **HOW DID GOD CHANGE GIDEON'S LIFE?**

- \* God was very patient and understanding.

- \* God motivated Gideon by telling him what he could become if he accepted to trust in God's word.
- \* God raised up helpers for Gideon, and God resisted those who failed to help Gideon.