

The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon

Judges 7:13-22; 13 And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along. 14 And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host. 15 And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian. 16 ¶ And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. 17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. 18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. 19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands. 20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. 21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. 22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.

The thought on the heart this morning is the phrase "***The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon***". I ask you the question: If Gideon and the 300 had only trumpets and lamps in their hands; where is the sword? To answer this question is right here in the text and it is the voice (word) of the Lord, but we shall take a longer route to expound thereon. We preached Sunday last on the subject "The Trumpet of Alarm" and this ties right in with that.

Gideon and the 300 had three things in their possession, when the Lord delivered the Midianites to them: they had lamps (light) and trumpets, the promise (word) of God, and faith therein.

What did the Midianites not have? They could see the light of the lamps, they could hear the sound of the trumpets, they did not have the promise (word) of God, they did not have faith in God, and therefore they could not see or understand the purpose of God. Not having this understanding, they fled from the light and sound of the trumpet and were destroyed. Destroyed how? By the Word of God; that all-powerful weapon that was the champion of Israel. How do we know that to be true?

We know of another who went to battle against Israel who had a sword of his own. ***1Sa 17:45***
Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands. 48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Therefore David ran, and

stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

When Goliath defied God and Israel he had sword, a spear, a helper who carried his shield, and a whole lot of words that had no power in them. David came to Goliath with a sling, 5 stones, and the Word, and Name, of God. In fact; David used Goliath's own sword to take off his head. David was victorious. Why? Because of the Word of God, properly wielded in faith. Thus we see again; it is not the weapons in hand but the Word (promise) of God that is the all-powerful weapon of defense. We see also, both Gideon and David put the name of the Lord first.

There are other scriptures, to which we wish to draw your attention:

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Re 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Re 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

We see here in Revelation that Jesus Christ is "The WORD" of God and the one who wields God's word of truth, and Name, with all power. So, what does this have to do with our subject phrase "**The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon**"? The picture I want you to see is; in the life, of a dead, alienated, an unsaved sinner, we see a picture of the host of Midian and the Goliaths of life. Those who do not know the name of God, and recognize it as the all-powerful weapon of salvation; they see the lamps in the dark night of their sin, they hear the trumpets sound; but do not hear it as the sound of salvation but rather as condemnation. This causes great alarm in their lives and they flee from the Word of God, Jesus Christ, Saviour and Lord.

On the other hand; the born again sinner, one who has been made alive by the Holy Spirit power of God, will see the light, will hear the trumpet sound (the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ), and will be drawn to the name of Christ; because they have been saved.

This is the eternal hope of the redeemed of Jesus Christ, as we see in Revelation; when the end of time comes, we know already who wins the final battle, and who is victorious in warfare. We hear

and rejoice in the Word and Name of God and Christ Jesus. We receive and rejoice in the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, because it is the good news and the promise of God that we, through the power of Jesus Christ, will be victorious.

We see this manifested in scripture in: ***Re 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.***

The preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in this age of Salvation by Grace, is only heard and understood by those exercising in faith as we see in our original text: ***20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.*** Being born again; we have the light of Christ showing us the truth of the Promises of God and we live our lives in the spirit of that light. We blow the trumpet of God by living the Christian life, and being faithful to God, and his Word of Truth.

When we are born again we are given that white stone and a new name. Do you remember what Jesus said to Peter? ***Mt 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*** The rock of the church is Jesus Christ, however, Peter by definition means rock. Thus we see; Christ in each Child of Grace is the white stone. The church, of Jesus Christ, is the collection of those stones; which have the new name written thereon.

Aren't you glad that there is only one name, and one power, that is able to give eternal life and keep us secure in the Promises of God? Surely, we shall end up in the place that Christ has gone to prepare for us. We know this because, not only is His Word truth, but Christ himself is truth.

Therefore, let the light of Christ shine forth (your lamp), and sound the precious name of Jesus (your trumpet), and proclaim the eternal life found in Him to all the world. Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

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