

Trumpets Pitchers and Lamps

Jg 7:16 "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 setting: Israel turned from God to idolatry. God sent the Midianites to ravage the land of sustenance each year. Israel realizes their false idols cannot deliver them and they turn back to serve God. God sends them a deliverer and Captain named Gideon. The Midianite army has come again to invade the land of promise and to take the sustenance of Israel from them. After hearing the prayers of his chosen people and seeing them turn back to him, God, in his compassion, will now perform a miraculous work of salvation for Israel. Thus, we see a picture of the beginning of the age of salvation by grace being ushered in by Jesus Christ, the Captain of the army of God, the New Testament church.

God has chosen Gideon to be the Captain and has reduced the army from 32,000 to 300 men. God did this to insure Israel could never say, I have delivered myself from my enemies by my own strength. He is making sure that his chosen people recognize that their salvation is only by the miraculous power of God. This is true of everyone chosen of God, which he gave to Jesus to save in his incarnation. Our eternal salvation, from eternal death for sin, has been accomplished for us by the finished work of our Captain of the host, Christ Jesus.

Gideon gave this army empty pitchers and put a lamp in the empty pitcher. When Jesus comes to a dead alienated sinner that person is empty of godliness and spiritual life. Jesus regenerates the spiritually dead heart and soul and resides within this new creature. Jesus takes an empty pitcher and puts a lamp in it. That lamp is the light of "**Christ in you**." This is what we call being born-again, which Jesus told us; "**ye must be born-again**," or you have no part with me. Just as God chose this army to accompany Gideon, God has chosen each one that is born-again, as seen in:

- **Joh 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."**
- **Joh 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."**
- **2Th 2:13 "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"**

God has given Gideon every assurance he needs to know that God, by his power and might, will overcome the Midianites and drive them from the land of promise. Jesus left the immortal heaven and came to earth, in a prepared body of flesh. Jesus came with full assurance that he would accomplish the will of God the Father, which was to save his people from their sins, and then return to his rightful place on the throne of God in eternity.

There is a reason for the need of the lamps. They are going to battle in the dark of the midnight. We are living in a world that is filled with the darkness of sin. Gideon arms his army of 300 with the necessary tools to wage the battle. This is a picture of the life of the born-again child of God, whom Christ has called to be a part of the New Testament church. Gideon is a portrait of Jesus Christ, who has his God chosen army of people, and has armed them with the necessary tools to fight the battle before them. The Midianites are a picture of the unsaved people of the earth, all who are not born-again, who are under the command of their leader, the devil.

What did Gideon give to every man to fight in the name of the Lord?

"and he put a trumpet in every man's hand," God has already used the sounding of the trumpets and his people shouting to overcome Jericho for deliverance to Israel. Our first use of the trumpet is the child of grace making their public confession of faith in Jesus Christ. Their announcement of being chosen to serve in the army of God. There is a second purpose which we will speak about later.

"with empty pitchers," This is a picture of the born-again sinner coming to serve God, knowing they have no strength in themselves to save themselves. They understand that they have nothing good in themselves to offer to God's service. They understand that self-works and self-righteousness are but filthy rags in the sight of God.

"and lamps within the pitchers." This a picture of the light of **"Christ in you"** put in your heart and soul by the new birth. Remember, as long as the lamp remains within the pitcher it is not shining its light abroad. A reminder that until you make the public declaration of faith, which is joining the church and being baptized, the light of **"Christ in you"** is still hidden, in the deadness of the flesh nature.

"as I do, so shall ye do." After Gideon gives this army of chosen men their needs, he commands them to do as he does. Christ Jesus has told us that we should follow him, seen in: **Lu 9:23 "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."**

"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," Gideon tells this army; when I blow my trumpet, then you blow your trumpets. We could not sound forth the announcement of salvation by the grace of God, until our Captain of the host, Jesus Christ, had first made it known that I am the door, the way of salvation. Notice, Gideon has put every person in their proper place for the battle to be won. Christ Jesus has put each of us in our proper place in the New Testament church, so that we can be fruitful in the battles of life. If we are not in our proper place, meaning, we have been born-again and have not made our public confession of faith, we will not be properly armed and given the tools necessary for the battles of life to be fought.

Not only are they to blow the trumpets, but they are also to proclaim, with a loud voice, **"The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon."** Why are they shout these two phrases together?

- Because, the first phrase, **"The sword of the Lord,"** is the proclamation that the one true God is on the scene. God is head over all Israel and without God the battle will be lost. There will be no victory in our lives over sin without Christ. Wherefore, in the New Testament church, we proclaim that eternal salvation is of God, not our own works. If we are not following the example of our Captain Jesus Christ, there is no victory for us here in time. We have full confidence of victory because Jesus has already fought and won the same battles we face in Christian warfare. He has already finished the work of eternal redemption of all of God's chosen people.
- Because, the second phrase, **"and of Gideon."** is as necessary as the first. Why is it necessary? Remember that Jesus, incarnate, chose the disciples and commanded them in: **Mr 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."** The New Testament church will not be victorious unless the children of God are in their proper place, performing their duty of sounding the trumpet, and proclaiming the good news of the gospel.

Consider, "**and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.**" Remember, this army is going to war in the darkness of night. The child of God, having made their public confession and joined the body of believers, now, in the midst of the darkness of a sin cursed world, they break their pitchers and let the light of Christ shine forth. The light of Christ shining upon the Word of God is the sword of the Lord.

"**and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.**" Do you understand that you must break the pitcher for your light to shine? God provided our natural bodies and implanted the "**light of Christ in you**" in the new birth. Breaking the pitcher is emblematic of making that public confession that Jesus is Lord and Saviour of my life. If you do not make the public confession of faith in Christ, then you are hiding the light of Christ under a bushel, in your fleshly nature. The public confession of faith denies the fleshly nature and displays the new nature of Christ in you. If you do not break your pitcher, your use of the word of God will be ineffective, and your voice will not be heard.

"**And they stood every man in his place round about the camp:**" If you do not make that public profession of faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, you are not in the proper place. Where were Gideon and his army? They were in the land of promise, which was given to them by the power of God. The New Testament church is our land of promise today. I ask each of you: are you in the land of promise, which is the proper place for born-again children of God?

We mentioned earlier that there was a second purpose of the trumpets, beyond the public confession of faith in Christ. What is that purpose? Gideon, and his army, stood in their places, blew the trumpets, and shouted "**The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.**" continually. The whole army of invaders was confused. They fled in the face of the light and the voices in the darkness of the night. God gave them over to such confusion that they were killing each other. The word of the Lord shining forth with the light of Christ, will always put the devil in confusion. It will drive the tempter out of your life, and you will have victory in Christ.

Remember what Jesus did when the devil tempted him? He always gave answer from the word of God, used in the right perspective. There is the need of the continual blowing of the trumpets and the continual proclaiming of eternal salvation is by the grace of God, a gift to God's people. There is the continual need of the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is a continual need of the light of Christ to shine forth from his chosen people. Why? We are told why in: **Mt 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."**

The purpose of the New Testament church is to testify of the greatness of our God, and of our Saviour and Lord, Christ Jesus. This is to happen in the church, the land of promise, in this age of salvation by grace, to which the born-again child of God is called to come and inhabit. It is a place furnished with all the needs of a Christian. It is a place where God's people can give thanks and praise to the glory of God. May we stand firmly in our places in our Christian lives, sounding the trumpet, of the gospel of salvation by the grace of God, and letting the light of Christ shine forth brightly in our lives. Making our public confession, of faith in Christ, and living the Christian life; to the glory and honor of God and Christ, by which we may be voice and light to all that those who are children of God, but who have not yet been born-again.

As we look at the world today, we see the loss of the family structure, the loss of moral discipline, the loss of moral standards, and the roar of Satan and his minions is sounding louder and reaching further. Thus, we see the greater need for God to deliver the New Testament church, from being invaded by this vast army of the devil, who is invading the organized churches, and the word of God. The King James bible has been reinterpreted, and changed, until in its perverted versions, the truth of God cannot be found in its fulness.

Wherefore, let us sound our trumpets, let us break our pitchers, and let our lamps, the light of Christ, shine, to the praise and glory of our God, and our chosen Captain and Judge, Christ Jesus. Hallelujah! Amen!