

# TRUMPETS, PITCHERS & TORCHES

## Background

After once again doing that which was evil in His sight, the Lord delivered His people into foreign oppression. This time it was the Midianites who along with the Amalekites oppressed God's people for a period of seven years. This oppression was noteworthy for its severity and God's people were "greatly impoverished" (Judg. 6:1-6).

The Midianites were descendants of Abraham by Keturah (Gen. 25:2-6) though they were later referred to as Ishmaelites (Judg. 8:24) – perhaps indicating they had intermarried with the other exiled children of Abraham. The Midianites were the ones who bought Joseph for 20 pieces of silver and later sold him into slavery in Egypt (Gen. 37:28).

The land of Midian was just east of the Gulf of Aqaba, the right finger of the Red Sea. They were generally a nomadic people who may have been the first to use domesticated camels thus improving their desert mobility.

## Readings & Questions

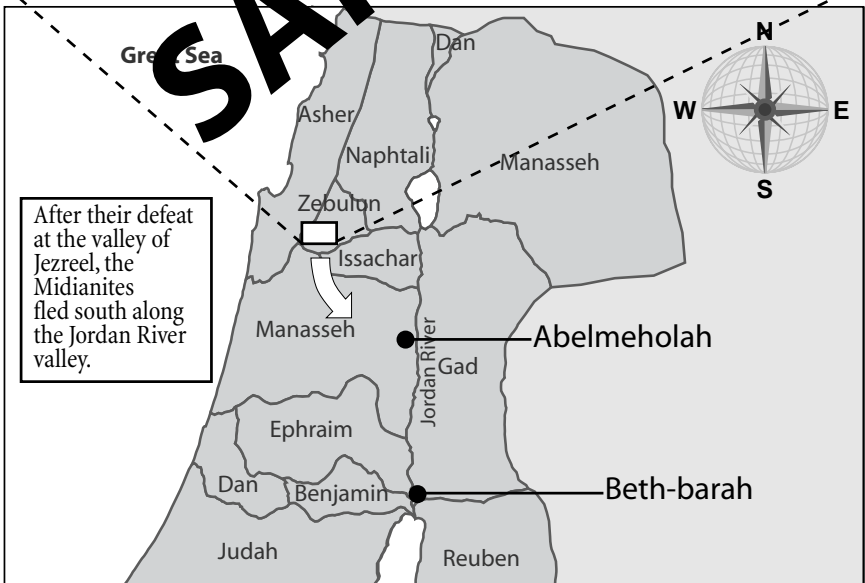
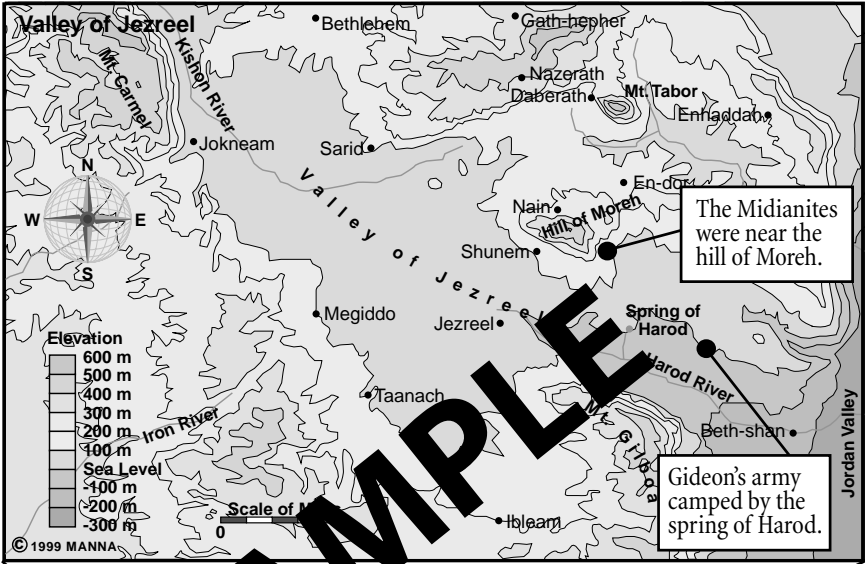
Read the following passage and answer the questions –

 **READ: Judges 6, 1:24, 33-40**

1. Why did Gideon doubt that the Lord was with the people of Israel?
2. What two reasons did Gideon give for doubting he could be the deliverer of Israel? Were such doubts legitimate?
3. What did Gideon ask for to ensure the Lord was speaking to him? What do Matt 12:39 and 1 John 4:1 say about what Gideon asked for? Be ready to reconcile the two seemingly contradictory verses.
4. What forces did Gideon call to follow him in the impending battle with the Midianites and Amalekites at the valley of Jezreel?
5. Still doubting, what further proof did Gideon require?



# Map



After their defeat in the valley of Jezreel, the Midianites fled southward along the Jordan. Gideon called the men of Ephraim to “take the waters” thus effectively cutting off the Midianites’ water supply. The two leaders of the Midianites – Oreb and Zeeb were beheaded – bringing a close to the oppression of God’s people (Judg. 7:22-25).



**READ: Judges 7:1-25**

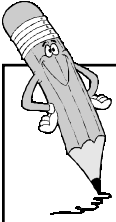
6. Why did the Lord want to reduce the size of Gideon's army?
7. List the two ways the Lord reduced the size of Gideon's army. How many departed and how many remained to fight?
8. Was there any significance to the fact that the Lord selected those men who put their hands to their mouths to drink?
9. Was Gideon afraid? If so, why didn't he depart with the 22,000?
10. What dream was told by the Midianite? What did the dream mean? What effect did the dream have on Gideon? What did Gideon immediately do?
11. What did Gideon do with his 300 men? What instructions did he give them? Why do you think the Midianites and Amalekites turned their swords on each other and then fled?
12. What happened to the two leaders of Midian – Oreb and Zeeb?

**SAMPLE**



## Application

Like the last lesson about Deborah and Jael, Gideon seemed an unlikely candidate to lead God's people against the Midianites. He was the youngest of a family that was the least of the tribe of Manasseh (Judg. 6:15). He doubted himself and he doubted the message God had given him. What lessons can we learn about God from His decision to select Gideon to deliver His people? What lessons are there in this story for us – especially those who think themselves too young or too old to to serve God?



**SAMPLE**

### *Trumpets, Pitchers & Torches*

*Unusual weapons used  
in defeating the Midianites*

