

"Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? Luke 8:22-25 KJV

Set in the hills of northern Israel, the **Sea of Galilee** is nearly 700 feet below **sea** level. ... The **sea's** location makes it subject to **sudden** and violent **storms** as the wind comes over the eastern mountains and drops **suddenly** onto the **sea**

1Pe 4:12 Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. 13 Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

Judges 6:11 Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak tree (**Strong/ Substantial**) which *was* in Ophrah, which *belonged* to Joash (**Jehovah God is Fire**) the Abiezrite (**Those who come to help**), while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress (**Deep, concrete vault**), in order to hide *it* from the Midianites (**Those who bring conflict and judgement**). *The Midianites had oppressed God's people for 6 years!

- It's Time you stop letting those who bring conflict and Judgment have greater influence than your God.

12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD *is* with you, you mighty man of valor!" **13** Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD *is* with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where *are* all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

- It's time you stop allowing your current situation to form your view of what God's purpose for your life is

14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" **15** So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan *is* the weakest in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house." **16** And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

- It's time you stop calling yourself by the name you've given yourself and start calling yourself by the name given to you by God

17 Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. **18** Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set *it* before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back." **19** So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought *them* out to Him under the oak tree and presented *them*. **20** The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay *them* on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. **21** Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that *was* in His hand, and touched the meat

and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

- It's time you stop looking to your attempt at perfection as your guide and start looking to His perfection as your identity

22 Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face." **23** Then the LORD said to him, "Peace *be* with you; do not fear, you shall not die."

- It's time you recognize that the peace you've been searching for is found in your acknowledgment of His Lordship

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Judges 6:25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that *is* by it: 26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

- It's time to destroy the altars you've been hanging on to

27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do *it* by day, that he did *it* by night. 28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that *was* by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar *that was* built. 29 And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing. 30 Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that *was* by it. 31 And Joash said unto all that stood against him,

- It's time we put our pride aside and stand for what pleases the Lord

Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst *it is yet* morning: if he *be* a god, let him plead for himself, because *one* hath cast down his altar. 32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.

Judges 6:36 And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, 37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool (**Sacrifice - Jesus**) in the floor; *and* if the dew (**blessing**) be on the fleece only, and *it be* dry upon all the earth *beside*, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. 38 And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water (**So much blessing it could not be contained**).

39 And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. 40 And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

- It's time we stop allowing our doubts hold us back from our purpose

Judges 7:1 Then Jerubbaal, who *is* Gideon, and all the people that *were* with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. 2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that *are* with thee *are* too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. 3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever *is* fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

- The 12,000 fearful were not cutoff from the blessing, though they need to grow and haven't stepped into the fullness, the dew fell on the ground as well as the wool.

4 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people *are* yet *too* many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, *that* of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. 5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. 6 And the number of them that lapped, *putting* their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. 7 And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the *other* people go every man unto his place.

- It's time we stop concerning ourselves with what it looks like and let the glory of God get all over us!