

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 3

Law/Gospel

Because of sin, I love the works of darkness, and I think darkness can hide my sin. **Christ, the light of the world, exposes and overcomes sin and grants me life and salvation through the cross.**

Bible Words

The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear.
Hebrews 13:6

The Big Picture

The Book of Judges reveals a cycle that the Israelites repeated many times: (1) Israel sinned; (2) Israel faced oppression; (3) Israel returned to God in repentance; (4) God sent a judge to deliver His people; and (5) Israel experienced peace or rest from conflict.

Though Israel unfaithfully worshiped and trusted false idols, God was always faithful to the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Gideon

Judges 6:11–7:25

Israel experienced forty years of peace after God gave Deborah and Barak victory over the Canaanites. Then the people fell away again. Amalekites and Midianites pillaged their crops for seven years.

God called Gideon, the youngest son of the smallest clan of Manasseh to serve as a judge. Lacking confidence, Gideon asked for and received three signs that the Lord commissioned him to free the Israelites.

Gideon summoned an army of 32,000 men, but the Lord reduced it to 300. The Lord said to equip these few with clay jars, lamps, and trumpets. Attacking at night, they broke the jars, shone the lights, and blasted the trumpets. Confused, their enemies turned against one another.

The prophet Isaiah compared this “day of Midian” to the Messiah’s arrival (Isaiah 9:1–7). Sinners who walk in darkness see the great light shining from Christ. When His body was broken on the cross and resurrected three days later, Christ destroyed the enemies of sin, death, and the devil. In the light of His salvation, we rejoice. Isaiah calls the Christ our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Jesus the Christ is our new and better Gideon sent by the Father to redeem us.

Tearing Down an Altar

Before the battle, the Lord asked Gideon to tear down his father’s altar to Baal and the Asherah pole beside it. Baal and Asherah were male and female Canaanite idols, respectively. Gideon worked at night because he feared the reaction of his family and townspeople.

The Lord also told Gideon to build an altar to Him on the city wall and sacrifice a bull there. Gideon did all these things.

In the morning, the men of the town discovered Gideon’s work and asked his father to let them kill him. Surprisingly, Gideon’s dad stood up for him and said they should let Baal fight for himself if he felt angry about the altar. False gods take no vengeance, and Gideon lived on.

Prayer

O God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Gideon, empower us to trust You in all things. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

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