

THE MIDIANITES

This lesson will study SIX aspects of the Midianites who Gideon fought during his judgeship.

1. Midianites are found in the Bible because of their association with the following five believers.

Abraham (Gen.25).
Joseph (Gen.37-39)
Moses (Ex.2-4)
Balaam (Numbers 23-24)
Gideon (Judges 6-8)

2. Midian was the fourth son of Abraham and Keturah (Gen.25: 2; 1 Chron.1: 32).

They had five sons (Gen.25: 2-4).
Abraham sent them to the East with an inheritance (25:6).
Their territory was between Edom and Paran (Ex.4: 19; 1 Kings 11:18).

3. Midianites were identified with Ishmaelites when selling Joseph into Egypt's slavery (Gen.37: 25-28, 36; Judges 8:22-28).

4. After Moses fled Egypt, he lived and married and fathered two sons while living among the Midianites (Ex.2: 11-15, 21; 4:19).

Moses married the daughter of Jethro (Acts 7:28-30; Ex.2: 22; 3:1).

Midianites familiar with the desert guided them outside of Egypt (Num.10: 29).

According to the Arabians and Greeks, the city of Midian was on the Arabian side of the Arabian Gulf, where in all probability lay the true land of Midian. (Unger, 729)

5. During the time of Balaam, Balak, ruler of Moab, conferred with the Midianites regarding the Israelites in the land of Canaan (Numbers 23-24).

This alliance tried to get Balaam to curse the Israelites (Num.22: 4-7; 25:16-18; 31:1-11, 50).

6. Midianites formed an alliance with the Amalekites and the sons of the East against Israel during the time of Gideon (Judges 6-8).

The Midianites were invaders from outside the land. They raided Israel for 7 years during the harvest seasons (Judges 6:1).

OPPRESSION UNDER THE MIDIANITES

“And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets.” (Heb.11: 32) *Five of these were Judges.*

This passages of Scripture and especially the phrase, ‘for time will fail me if I tell of Gideon,’ motivated me to teach a series on the Life of Gideon.

This lesson will study Seven aspects of the Oppression under the Midianites taken from our Judges 6:1-10.

1. Judges 6:1 states the reason for the Oppression of the Israelites by the Midianites. There are two important parts to this verse.

Part 1 - “Then the sons of Israel did (asah) (kal impf) what was evil (ha ra) in the sight of the Lord; “

Part 2 – “and the Lord gave (Nathan) (kal impf) them into the hands of Midian seven years.”

2. Actually the Midianites had defeated the Israelites without firing a shot because of Israel’s evil (ha ra).

“Israel did evil” by engaging in Midianites pagan religion of Baal worship and idolatry.

“And I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear (yare) (kal impf) (reverence, worship) the gods of Amorites in whose land you live. **BUT YOU HAVE NOT OBEYED** (lo shama) (kal impf) hear and understand in order to obey) **ME** (my voice) (beqoli).” (6:10)

This was clearly stated by the Lord in the 2nd of the 10 Commandments (Ex.20: 4-6) read.

Then why are the Midianites at war with Israel?

3. Common sense would think that the Midianites would be happy that the Israelites have embraced their religion.

Common sense would think that these Eastern blood kin of the Israelites would be glad that they have joined worshipping their gods and religion. We learned that the Midianites were children of Abraham through Keturah (Gen.25).

However, the Midianites are not content with Israel joining their religion. They have been at war with them for seven years.

Religion separated them more than race or politics. These Arabian nations were discontent with Israel as custodians of Christology. Christology always separates religions and those nations are opposed to Christology.

4. The Lord is using the Midianites and other Arabian nations to bring divine discipline upon the Reversionism of Israel.

“And the power of the Midian prevailed (azaz) (kal impf) against Israel. Because of Midian the sons of Israel made (asah) (kal pf) for themselves the dens which were in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds.” (6:2)

Midianites raided Israel every year at the harvest season. “For they would come up (alah) (hiphil impf) with their livestock and their tents, they would come (bo) (kal pf) in like locusts for number, both they and their

camels (gamal) were innumerable; and they came (bo) (kal pf) into the land to devastate (shachath) (piel infin) it.” (6:5)

5. One of the five curses of divine discipline upon the priest-nation of Israel was the produce of the ground.

“*Cursed* shall be the offspring of your body and the **produce of your ground**, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.” (Deut.28: 18)

“You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not use its fruit.” (28:30b) (28:49-51) read.

6. The curse of divine discipline effects the pivot of positive believers as well as the reversionistic believers.

The difference is the positive believer’s attitude towards the events of the divine discipline and their understanding of the cause and effect doctrinally.

The faith cycle worked towards the cycles of divine discipline (oppression by Midianites) in a positive way in the plan of God. Gideon is an example of this principle.

Spiritual advancing believers are oriented to the historical events and times because of their orientation to the plan of God through CBD. “The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.” (Heb.11: 38; Judges 6:2)

7. After seven years of Oppression by Midianites, Israel cried to the Lord for relief.

“So Israel was brought (dalal) (niphil impf) (divine discipline) very low because Midian, and the sons of Israel cried (zazq) (niphil impf) cried out together to the Lord.” (Judges 6:6)

It took them 7 years of divine discipline to bring them to repentance (very low like the prodigal son of Luke 15:17-22). This shows how difficult it is to rid yourself of evil thinking (Old Man Cosmos Diobolicus / false beliefs (Eph.4: 22-24).

They cried out to the Lord “on account of Midian.” (Judges 6:7)

The Lord sent an unnamed prophet to correct their confession based on false belief – “That the Lord sent (shalach) (kal impf) a prophet to the sons of Israel, and he said to them. ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, it was **I** who brought you up (alah) (hiphil pf) from Egypt, and **I** brought you out from the house of slavery. And **I** delivered (nalsal) (hiphil impf) you from the hands of the Egyptians and from the hands of all your oppressors, and dispossessed (garash) (piel impf) them before you and **I** gave (Nathan) (kal impf) you their land. And **I** said to you, I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not obeyed Me.” (6:8-10) Note the use of **I** five times