

ONE SWEET DREAM

Our lesson text opens with the phrase “The same night.” It is a reference to the reduction of Gideon’s army from 32,000 to the 300 Lapper combat unit.

The content of our lesson consists of three conversations.

- 7:9-11 – Lord to Gideon.
- 7:12-14 – Coalition soldier to another soldier.
- 7:15 – Gideon to the Lapper combat unit.

We will study our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

- Promise to Gideon (7:9) – Victory
- Pattern (OM) in Gideon (7:10-11) – Fear (CD)
- Pressure on Gideon (7:12) – Enemy (135,000)
- Profound discovery by Gideon (7:13-14) – Dream
- Praise of God by Gideon (7:15) – Faith cycle

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of how an enemy’s dream became ONE SWEET DREAM for Gideon
We will study dreams for the next two weeks.

1. God sent Gideon on a spying expedition to alleviate his fear of leadership.

God sent him to gather intelligence from the outpost of the coalition army (7:10). “”But if you are afraid (yare/ kal ptc) to go down, go (yasad/ kal impv/ command) with Purah your servant down to the camp.”

This is presumptive counseling. Presumption referring to a “belief on reasonable grounds or probable evidence.” Gideon has a history of leadership intimidation because of sense of leadership inadequacy.

“O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s house.” (6:15)

“O 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 abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.” (6:13)

Plus the word **afraid** has been used three times (6:27; 7:3, 10/ read Deut.1: 19-31).

2. When Gideon reached the outpost, he overheard a coalition sentry explain a recent dream and a fellow soldier’s interpretation.

During God presumptive counseling, He told Gideon that he would *hear what they say* and *afterward* his hands would be strengthened for warfare (7:1).

What Gideon heard was an unusual dream and interpretation (7:13-14). Symbols of dreams are important to interpretation.

Dreams assimilate the day's experiences in ways unique to the dreamer. In fact, dreaming is our personalizing of these daily experiences.

- What did the loaf of bread represent?
- What did the loaf of bread do in the dream?
- What was the interpretation?
- Who made the interpretation?
- How was the sword of victory represented in the dream?

3. This dream was the third sign given to Gideon to reassure him that he was God's choice of the 5th judge of Israel as the "O Valiant Warrior."

1st sign Fire (6:17-21).
2nd sign Fleece (6:36-40)
3rd sign Fighter's dream (7:13-15)

The Pharisees came to Jesus demanding a spectacular miraculous sign to believe that He was the messianic Savior of the world (Matt.12: 38-41). Jesus called them "a wicked and adulterous generation." He told them that the only prophetic sign left for them was the sign of His burial and resurrection.

Why didn't Gideon just believe the word of God? (6:12, 14, 16, 36, 39) Why did he need signs?

4. Prophetic dreams were 1 of 6 divine forms of divine revelation in the Jewish Age (dreams, trances, visions, angels, theophanies, and direct revelation).

"Hear now My words; If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream." (Num.12:6)

Two OT believers that are associated with famous dreams are Joseph (Gen.37) home; (Gen 40) prison; (Gen 41) Pharaoh and Daniel (Dan 2) Nebuchadnezzar and (Dan 4) King's second dream.

There was a method of testing prophetic dreams and dreamers recorded in Deut.13: 1-5. If the dream or dreamer suggested acting against the word of God, he was put to death.

5. Other cultures have a history of believing a person could contact the supernatural world through dreams like the two coalition soldiers in Judges 7:13-14.

Other cultures have believed that certain dreams reveal personal as well as historical events.

Julius Caesar dreamed that he was hovering over the clouds and reaching his hand out to Jupiter the night before his death.

Hannibal attributed the battle plan to attack Rome over the Alps with elephants as something that came to him in a dream.

Marie Antoinette had a dream on Dec.12, 1793 of a red sun that rose and suddenly set prior to her beheading.

Adolph Hitler was asleep in a foxhole during WWI, when he was awakened by a nightmare of his mouth full of dirt. Choking he left the foxhole when a shell made a direct hit on his foxhole. Everyone was killed but him. He believed it was divine intervention.

Napoleon Bonaparte had a dream of a black cat the night before the battle of Waterloo.

Most believe that uninterpreted dreams are like unopened and unread letters.