

## **THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S**

Once Gideon heard the interpretation of the dream of the coalition sentries (7:13-14), He assembled the Lapper combat unit for warfare with this challenge – “Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands.” (7:15)

**Gideon’s war strategy will be studied by the following six homiletical points.**

- **Psychological warfare** (7:16) – equipment: trumpet, empty pitcher, and torch.
- **Plan of warfare** (7:18-20) – divide and signal for attack.
- **Precision of warfare** (7:19) – attack at middle of night at changing of guards.
- **Power of victory of warfare** (7:20, 22) – sword of Lord.
- **Patriotism of warfare** (7:23) – reserved army called up.
- **Principle of victory of warfare** (7:20, 22) – Battle is Lord’s.

The idea of the **Battle is Lord’s** is also illustrated when Judah was being invaded by Moabites and Ammonites in 2 Chron.20.

When King Jehoshaphat was facing impossible obstacles of warfare, he prayed to the Lord for divine intervention over the impossible obstacles (2 Chron.20: 1-13) – “O our God, wilt Thou not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; **nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on you.**” (20:12)

A priest named Jahaziel brought the answer to this prayer (20:14-19) – “And he said, ‘Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, **for the battle is not yours but God’s.**” (20:15)

What lesson was the Lord teaching Jehoshaphat and Gideon when facing impossible obstacles in life?

- Could this be the reason the Lord reduced Gideon’s army to 300 against 135,000 (450 to 1 ratio)?
- Could this be the reason that the Lord equipped the 300 with trumpets, empty pitchers and torches against a superior equipped army?
- What impossible obstacle are you facing in your life? \_\_\_\_\_
- What lesson do you think the Lord want to teach you? \_\_\_\_\_

**This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the BATTLE IS THE LORD’S.**

**1. It is important to identify what you are about to fight. Be sure that you aren’t fighting against the will of the Lord.**

How do you know when it is a battle of the Lord? [DOCTRINAL RATIONALE] Doctrinal rationale is identifying the proper doctrinal reason for fighting so that it is according to the will of God.

- One example of this principle against impossible obstacles is recorded in 1 Sam.25:20-35 (David, Nabal, and Abigail).
- Another example is recorded in Num.22:18-25 / note 20, 35, 37-38 (Balaam and donkey)
- The Lord can change the fight but not without doctrinal rationale (Judges 7:1-8, 16).

## **2. When the battle is the Lord's, the believer must stand fast and fight the good fight.**

- “Fight the good fight of faith.” (1 Tim.1:18; 6:12; 2 Tim.4:7)
- “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” (1 Cor.16:13)
- “Stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.” (Col.4:12)
- “Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” (Eph.6:13)

This applies even when you are drafted rather than enlisted into the fight. Gideon was drafted to become – “O valiant warrior.”

God sees our potential in His plan even when others or we can't that is why learning and trusting the word of God is so important. “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.” (Judges 6:15)

This principle can be seen in 1 Sam.17:28 (Eliab), 33 (Saul), 37 (David), 42-44 (Goliath) 45-47 (God).

## **3. It is the Lord's responsibility to equip the believer for spiritual battle with both offensive and defensive spiritual equipment (Eph.6:10-17).**

What was the one offensive weapon listed in Eph.6? How was it used in Matt.4:1-11?

The Lord issued Gideon's army with the offensive weapons of trumpets, empty pitchers, and torches.

Who was issued the SWORD OF WARFARE and how was it used? (Judges 7:20, 22)

## **4. Victory of battle requires the completion of the faith cycle by the fighter. The Lord needs someone to fight in order to make the battle and the victory the Lord's (Rom.4:21).**

“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the Lord.” (Prov.21:31)

“Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.’ (Ex.14:13-14)

“So the Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians.’ (Ex.14:25)

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world – our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

## **5. No obstacle is too great for the Lord to conquer in our life except doubt (Heb.3: 16-19) and unbelief (James 1:6-8; Heb.10: 23).**

David's conquest of the Jebusites is an example of no obstacle is too great for God (2 Sam.5: 6-10)