

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 2 - 4th Quarter - Issue #11



CREATION CORNER

Big Jack

Big Jack is snowy white, and has beautiful brown eyes. He is a giant among horses, and he is very fond of children. The great horse has many friends, who always have a kind word for him. His driver carries him an apple every morning, when he goes to the stable, and Jack knows when to expect him.

After Jack has enjoyed his apple, he is let out of his stall for a frolic. He prances about like a colt until told to get a drink. Then he at once marches to the watering trough. A good breakfast follows, and after that, he is harnessed and is ready for the day's work.

He trots straight to the express office, and he knows just how the wagon should be backed up to the sidewalk to receive its daily load.

Then he settles down for a nap. He stands with his head hanging down and his eyes partly closed. But watch him! Soon one ear turns backward. He has heard the patter of little feet far up the street.

Slowly the great head is raised, and eyes, a moment ago so dull and sleepy, begin to beam with wonderful softness.

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Dancing along the street comes a little girl about four years of age, with brown curls waving and brown eyes sparkling. She skips and jumps as she holds her mother's hand, and chatters without a moment's pause. No wonder Jack has heard her. She comes up from behind him very quietly.

"Good morning, dear old Jack," she says softly. "Do you remember me?" The big horse steps closer to the sidewalk and waits patiently.

"Who likes sugar, and how many lumps have I in my pocket for somebody?"

Jack hears the word "sugar," and his head comes down to the little girl's out-stretched arms.

"Now, Jack," she continues, "before we can have any sugar, we must shake hands."

Hardly are the words spoken when up comes old Jack's big right foot, and two little hands grasp his great ankle.

"That's a dear horse. Now find the buttons on my coat, - a lump of sugar for each button, you know."

Very gently the soft nose travels up the front of the little coat and a sly nip is given to the top button. The sugar is given, but before it has

had time to slip down the huge throat, Jack has found the second button and won his second lump. There are four buttons in all, and four lumps of sugar.

Nearly every day during the winter for almost two years, Jack was visited by his little friend. But at last, the child moved to another place far away.

Did Big Jack miss his morning visitor and his daily lumps of sugar? Who can say that he did not, even though other children knew him and loved him?

After five years had passed, the little girl came back to the city for a visit. Almost the first object that met her eyes was the big white horse standing in front of one of the stores.

"Oh, mother," exclaimed the child, "do you think Jack will remember me? How I wish I had some sugar for the dear old fellow!"

Her mother proposed that they buy a few lumps and test Big Jack's memory. Then the little girl walked up to the great horse; "Good morning, Jack," she said.

Quick as a flash the great head was "turned, and a soft whinny told of the old fellow's joy. No one could possibly doubt Big Jack's delight, and when he raised his right foot as of old, his little friend's joy knew no bounds.

"I wonder if he remembers all the tricks he used to know," said the child. Then turning to the horse, she said, "Who loves sugar, and how many lumps have I in my pocket for somebody?"

Alas! fashions had changed in five years, the girl's coat had no buttons on the front. In vain, poor Jack felt about for the buttons. He shook his head and stamped his foot. If the horse could have spoken, I believe he would have said, "Well, if I were in your place, I would go straight home and sew the buttons on my coat."

It may be hard to believe this story, but it is a true one, and the little girl herself will tell you so if you will ask her about Big Jack. Gabrielle E. Jackson 1933. = ^ .. ^ =



TRUE-STORY-TIME

"ALL IS FOR THE BEST"

Herbert stuck a cautious head around the corner. It would never do to disturb Pastor Gilpin at his prayers, but time grew short. He should be dressing for church. Yes, the good man stood looking out of the great sunny windows on the east end of the room. The book he had been reading lay closed on the dressing table, a sure sign that he had finished his morning prayers.

When Herbert cleared his throat, Pastor Gilpin turned, his face glowing like the morning sunshine. "Good morning, Herbert. What a beautiful day the Lord has given us!"

Smiling a little at the pastor's enthusiasm, Herbert replied, "Yes, sir. It is truly a beautiful day. And the hours are slipping away. You'll be due soon at the church."

"Ah, yes. Bring me my vestments, Herbert. I was reading the Book of John in the Greek. It was so absorbing. What tremendous depth it has! What a wealth of sermon material!"

The lad laid out each garment carefully. "I shall be looking forward to those sermons, sir. But I do wish you would be more careful what you say in public. These are fearful days. A little bird may carry your words to the queen."

Bernard Gilpin turned and put a hand on his servant's shoulder, reading the devotion and deep concern in his pale blue eyes. "Herbert, Herbert, you must not worry so. God's hand is over me. I must speak the truth He gives me. The people are so hungry to hear the Word."

"Sir, I pray God He'll protect you. You know Queen Mary's wrath falls on all she suspects of heresy, the high and low alike. She has burned bishops Ridley and Latimer. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury has fallen before her. If you continue to speak these things, only a miracle can save you."

Herbert's eyes searched Pastor Gilpin's face, but he could read no trace of fear. Only joy and peace rested there. When he answered, it was with a smile. "Ah, well, God's will be done. All is for the best."

With a last glance in the mirror on the wall, the pastor ran a hand over his dark hair and started for the stairs. With sadness in his eyes, Herbert watched him go. "He's a saint," he murmured. "God grant he doesn't become a martyr."

Halfway down the great curving staircase two golden-haired lads sat on the banister. Gilpin greeted them with his usual good cheer. "Good morning, Douglas. Good morning, Harvey. How are your studies coming?"

"Very well, Pastor Gilpin," said Douglas, the older boy.

The priest looked intently at Harvey. "Are you still suffering with homesickness, my lad?"

"I'm all right, sir. I can't tell you how much I appreciate being able to live here and go to school. I'll never be able to repay you."

Gilpin laughed. "Oh, yes you will, my lad. Just study well and use all you learn to glorify God and bless your fellowmen. I'll be more than repaid. I consider you an excellent investment."

He continued on his way down the stairs, leaving the boys to their conversation. Harvey's eyes followed him with a puzzled expression. "Say, Douglas, how many boys has Pastor Gilpin given a home and an education?"

Douglas chuckled. "I couldn't begin to count."

True to his word, Bernard Gilpin continued to preach what the people needed with small regard for what the authorities would think. His immediate superior, the Bishop of Durham, loved and protected him. But with "Bloody Mary" on the throne, such protection could not ensure his safety for long.

So early one morning in May a detachment of soldiers rode up the long driveway under the elms to the door of the manor house. A maid caught sight of them through a window and screamed. Servants left their work and the boys their studies. A great pounding echoed through the old house.

Upstairs Herbert stood wringing his hands. "What shall we do, sir? They've come for you. What shall we do?"

"Open the door." Gilpin's voice was calm. "But, sir..."

"Open the door."

The soldiers pressed into the entry hall. Their captain held up a paper. "I have a summons from the Bishop of London for Bernard Gilpin."

Pastor Gilpin stepped forward. "I am Bernard Gilpin. Come in, sir, and have breakfast. I'll be ready to go with you in a few minutes."

The captain's mouth fell open, and he looked about suspiciously but followed the maid to the table. He and his soldiers took to their seats

while panic-stricken servants served them a lovely meal.

In a few moments Gilpin appeared, dressed for riding, with a small bag of clothing in his hand. The boys had gathered, awed and silent, and the servants wept. He bade them good-bye with his usual cheery smile. "Do not weep; do not fear. God's will be done. All is for the best."

The balding captain made a sound suspiciously like a snort and herded his prisoner out of the door. The household watched them ride away in stricken silence. There seemed little chance Gilpin would ever return.

Peasants working in the fields saw the little group pass. Through the countryside, people in breathless haste spread the news. Crowds, mourning as they went, accompanied them on the road.

The captain shooed them away, threatening them with his sword. They fell back, but as soon as the march resumed, they followed again, still wailing.

The captain grew more and more irritated, but it was useless. As they progressed, some of the peasants returned to their homes, but others joined the procession from the villages they passed. Finally in desperation the captain called a beggar to him. "Why," he demanded, "are the people following? Tell them to go to their homes."

The beggar fell on one knee. "Oh, sir, they love the good pastor. He travels through the countryside preaching the gospel to them. He feeds the hungry and buys clothing for the naked. There's scarcely one of these people that he's not befriended. Shouldn't they weep when he's in trouble?"

Pastor Gilpin turned his horse back and addressed the crowd. "I thank you for your devotion, my dear people. But you're annoying the captain. Please go to your homes in peace. Don't be afraid for me. The will of God be done. All is for the best."

His calm voice and cheerful smile reassured them. They turned and made their way back to their homes. The captain led on at a faster pace toward London.

On the second day of their journey the sun sank in the west as they entered the cobblestone street of a small village. Since evening was falling, the captain determined to spend the night at the inn.

Bernard Gilpin, in dismounting, slipped and

fell. His foot caught in the stirrup and twisted violently. The horse shied and bolted, dragging him for several feet before the soldiers could catch it.

When they released his foot from the stirrup, he lay white and still on the pavement. The soldiers carried him into the inn and put him in a bed. A doctor pronounced his leg broken and said that he must not travel for a time.

Although bruised and bleeding, his face contorted with pain, Gilpin did not let his patience and cheerfulness desert him. The captain stared down at him, a cynical smirk flickering across his face. "I suppose this is all for the best, too," he commented.

Gilpin smiled. "I have no doubt but that it is," he answered.

Several weeks passed before the man could travel. Although he still couldn't walk without assistance, the captain decided that they had delayed long enough. He told the innkeeper they would leave in the morning.

But that evening a breathless messenger arrived at the inn. The news he carried was startling indeed. Queen Mary was dead. Elizabeth reigned.

Pastor Gilpin addressed the captain with customary good humor. "Now, since the new queen is a Protestant, do you think I'll be convicted of heresy?"

The captain looked disgruntled. "It's scarcely any use taking you in."

"And if I hadn't fallen and broken a leg I would have been in London some time ago, maybe even burned at the stake by now."

The captain nodded.

"So, you see, my dear captain. As I said before, God's will be done. All is for the best."

NOTE: Bernard Gilpin lived and served for many more years. His people called him the Apostle of the North, and his piety, cheerfulness, and generosity have earned him a place in history. = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

God's Plan for Education 1

I know that many of you who read TEMKIT are in school; some are in grade school, some in high school and many are in home schools. Some are even teachers in schools. But I want to tell you a secret today; everyone who has truly given their whole heart to Jesus and has chosen

to serve Him all the way are in a special school. It is called the 'School of Christ', and Jesus and the Holy Spirit are teaching all the students!

The angels are the helpers in this school and the textbooks are the Bible and the inspired writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. There are some other textbooks that are a bit different; there is the textbook of Nature, where we see the wisdom of the Creator in His created things. There are the pages of History, where, when we study them in the light of the Word of God and Prophecy, we see wonderful things about God's ways.

There is also the textbook of experience, where every day we are learning lessons and coming to understand more and more about our wonderful Heavenly Father and learning to depend on Him and Trust Him.

No one who is not in this school and does not remain in this school, learning from the Lord all their lives, will ever get to the higher school- and that higher school is Heaven.

But God has a place for earthly schools as well in His great plan for His people to become like Him and show His glory here on earth. For a few weeks, we are going to learn about what God's plan for True Education really is, and how much of what we have come to think of as schools today, have been designed by the evil one to make the students have a very hard time to ever learn to be God's true people in these last days.

God's plan for true schools is so different that most people when they first see it cannot believe it should be that way. But the few times it has been followed, it has worked better than any other kind of school ever!

We first hear about God's kind of school in the Bible. There were schools set up by Samuel called the 'Schools of the Prophets'. At these schools the students learned all about the Scriptures and how to serve God in the right ways. They learned the laws of God and they learned to sing and play the holy music.

But they did not only learn from books, they also worked with their hands and learned how to do useful things to take care of themselves and to support themselves in the world, so they could go out like the apostle Paul later did, and be self-supporting missionaries. Remember in Elisha's day, the students got busy with the help of Elisha and their teachers and build them-

selves a new school!

I wish every boy or girl could learn at a 'School of the Prophets', don't you? But many of us will have to make our own 'School of the Prophets'. Yes, we can do it. Those of you in home schools can decide today that you will try and learn every good and useful task you can. If you are eager to learn and listen to directions and try to be helpful-there are many things you can learn to become 'self supporting missionaries'. Those in other schools can do it as well.

You can learn to cook, and clean house; also to care for your own clothes, and especially learn about health rules and how to care for your body. We all need to know how to help if there is an accident and someone is hurt. We can learn how to care for someone who is sick.

Here is the first lesson about God's kind of education - 'Learn to do well and faithfully every useful task you possible have a chance to learn! Try it; being sure to ask permission and follow directions carefully. Don't be a 'know it all'!! You will enjoy this kind of learning more than any kind of 'games' or entertainment you ever tried- and you will have the smile of Jesus on your life! = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

Is Mother Worth Minding?

"My mother says. . ."

"Ho! Your mother! She isn't one of the kind that's worth minding.

"What do you mean?" asked Jack. "She's a good a mother as ever lived, and I won't have you saying such things."

A group of boys gathered close to the speakers. One was cool and quiet. The other stood with angry, heated face.

"She isn't worth minding, and you know it, Jack Somers," was the calm reply. "You said so yourself many and many a time."

"That's true!" came in a loud whisper from, one of the boys standing near.

"Everybody knows it, too," came from another.

Jack turned upon the speakers in angry amazement.

"You're a pretty lot of boys talking about my mother that way, and pretending you like her all the time!"

"We do like her," came from the half-dozen boys. "George only said she was not worth mind-

ing."

"Well, what do you mean?" Jack's anger gave place to surprise.

"Why, just this, that you don't think she's worth minding."

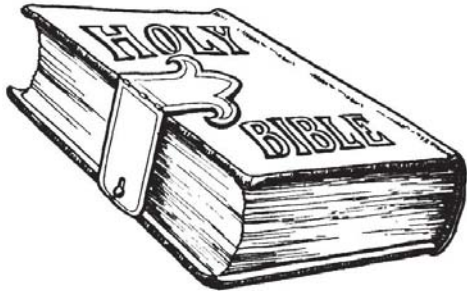
"I never said such a thing in my life," said Jack, trying to recall any remark of this kind.

"Look here, Jack," said one of the boys, coming forward, "you don't seem to see what George and the other boys mean. You may not have said in so many words that your mother isn't worth minding, but you do say it by your actions. This morning, when your mother asked you to post a letter, you said you wouldn't have time to go around by the post office. And yet you had half an hour before school in which to play ball. When she told you to put on your coat for fear you would take cold, you left it hanging over the fence, paying no attention to what she said. Of course, we boys can see she isn't worth minding, since you see it so plainly yourself. I tell you what is, Jack, I don't know of anything so satisfactory in the long run as minding mother."

The angry light died from Jack's face before Tom had finished his speech, and as it came to a close, he turned and walked away. Here was a boy who loved his mother dearly, and yet how unmindful he had been of her wishes!

"I needed that lesson," he said to himself, and although the boys may never know it, I'm much obliged to them for it. I'll see that they don't have to tell me again!" And they did not. = ^ .. ^ =





Year 2: 4th Quarter:
“FROM THE WILDERNESS TO CANAAN”
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 11: “GIDEON’S
BAND”

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

1 Corinthians 10:11

Sunday

Text: Judges 6:1,3,5,6 “And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. . . And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;... and they entered into the land to destroy it. And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.”

As we learned last week, Israel had begun to worship the gods of the heathen in who still lived in the land and God could no longer bless them and protect them. One after another, wicked and cruel nations rose up to afflict Israel.

When they would be suffering and oppressed then they would remember the Lord and start to cry to Him for help. When they did this, time

after time He would send someone to act as a deliverer and the enemies would be defeated for a while.

Even though Israel usually would smarten up and serve the Lord during the years of that Judge that rescued them, after the Judge died, they went right back to heathen idolatry. How very, very sad!

In this lesson we are going to start the amazing story of Gideon and we are going to look at it in a different way. Many, if not all of the stories that are recorded in the Bible for us have a prophecy meaning as well. These stories have been kept safe through thousands of years so we can read them today. In these stories we can learn lessons that apply to God's people in the last days.

Notice carefully our memory verse and this note from the writings of Ellen White God's special messenger for today:

“Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. ...The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days.” Selected Messages, book 3, 338-339.

When we know this, we start to see the Bible, not as a book of interesting old stories, but as telling us what is actually happening today and how we can stay away from making the same mistakes of the past.

Thought - Some people do not like to hear the Bible stories applied to our people and us today, but God says they do apply and so we better learn the lessons!

Monday

Text: Judges 6:7-10 “And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; And I said

unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice."

Times were terrible! The people would work and struggle to raise or grow some food and just at the time when they were gathering it up, along would come the wicked heathen and snatch it out of their hands. And yet, as we will learn, even though the people were suffering and crying to God, they still had images of Baal in fancy gardens and were worshipping them! How strange!

Notice that it says 'God sent them a prophet'; He has sent one to help us too.

Now I want you to see how many times the word 'hand' is used in this story. The 'hand' in Bible prophecy means to be under the power of something. Israel was under the 'hand' of these three wicked powers. When we choose to belong all the way to God, we are in His hand, and in His hand we are very safe.

But if we refuse to listen or obey God, it is like we refuse to stay in His hand, and we end up in the hand of Satan and God's enemies. Notice God reminding them He had rescued them from the hand of Egypt. Then in other places it tells us that He took them in His hand and kept them safe. But now they refused to stay in his hand and they get right out and back into the hand of enemies of God.

Notice in the verse for Sunday that there are three powers that are hurting Israel; 'Midianites, (Midian: strife) and the Amalekites, (Amal: trouble or warlike) and the children of the east'. Two powers are single and one is plural (more than one). We find this pattern in a lot of prophecy of the last days, because there are three powers that get together to fight against God at the end time. The three that get together to make Babylon in the end are:

Beast: Catholicism

False prophet: Apostate Protestantism

Dragon: Spiritualism like New age, Hinduism, Buddhism and so on. Revelation 16:12-13

Now the reason these powers get so strong and put out their 'hand' to try and harm God's church, starts because God's people, like the Israelites back then, have refused to stay safe in God's hand and have not obeyed His prophets and stayed in Gods hand, but have chosen to

do things like the world does them.

Each one of us needs to learn how God wants us to do things and do them that way. We need to tell God we are truly sorry for not obeying Him and that we each one want to be in His hand, not the hand of Satan and the enemies of God.

Thought – You see, there are only two places we can be; either safe in Gods loving hand or under the cruel hand of Satan and his helpers, both men and fallen angels. We are never in our own hand.

Tuesday

Text: Judges 6:11 "And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites."

It was after seven years and God had made a rule that every seven years, the slaves were to be set free. Now God was following the rule and sending help to set Israel, slaves to the heathen, free.

Our story opens with a youth named Gideon and he is hiding by the wine press and he is threshing wheat. The name Gideon, means one who cuts down, thresher or feller of trees. So here is Gideon the thresher, hidden by the wine press, and he is threshing grain, separating the chaff from the good grain.

Now we will look and see what these things mean to us. He was hidden away- we are told that God has a people that are hidden away and He is going to use them in a special work in the last days. These few special ones are not going along with the popular ideas in the churches and doing after the world. No they are choosing to follow God's truth.

It is the harvest time and we know that Jesus calls the end of the world, the Harvest. He is near the 'wine press'. We are told in revelation that the wine press represents the time when God's anger will finally fall on the wicked who refuse all His efforts to get them to obey Him. It means the 7 last plagues.

So Gideon stands for the hidden people of God, at the Harvest time, the end of the world, very close to the time of the 7 last plagues. God is clear that His people that stand for Him in

the end, the 144,000 are the tools in His hands that are His threshing instrument. Gideon is representing these people.

And what is he doing? He is threshing grain. This represents someone who is really earnestly studying to know God's truth. A person that is searching the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, and trying to find out God's will and get rid of the 'chaff', which is man's teachings and ideas. These people want to know truth and they are working very hard to find out what it is.

They will find it. We know that, because suddenly Gideon hears a voice speak to him and a Heavenly Being is sitting under the big oak tree there!

Thought – Those of us who want to be part of the Lord's special ones in the last times, had better be 'threshing' now too; studying and learning God's truth and getting rid of chaff- the false ideas that have come into the churches.

Wednesday

Text: Judges: 6:12, 13 **"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."**

Here Gideon is told that the Lord is with him, and he says, "If the Lord is with us, why are we in this trouble? Where is the power of the Lord?"

God's people know that in the end times, God is going to finish His work with a special gift of the Holy Spirit on the faithful ones. We call this the 'latter Rain'. Gideon is like God's true people today who are saying, "Where is the power of the Latter Rain?"

Then the Lord, for this is who is talking to Gideon, says "Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?"

Now what does Gideon say? Does he say, "Oh, yes, I am your man, I can save Israel! I am strong and smart and I have a degree from the universities. It is certainly me that will save Israel!"

Oh, No! Look at his words: "And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. (6:15)

Right away Gideon says, "No, my family is not important and I am the least important on in my whole family! I can't save anybody!"

He wasn't a boaster; he was humble and meek. It is people like this that are going to be used by God to finish the work. The ones that are proud and boastful will not be used. Why? Because they are so important in their own eyes, that they don't listen to God!

Thought – "In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal." 5T 80, (1882).

Thursday

Text: Judges 6:16-18 **"And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me. Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again."**

The Lord assures Gideon that if he trusts in God, he will smite the Midianites as 'one man'. The faithful will work together in the end times because they will all be guided, not by a human leader but by God's Holy Spirit.

Now Gideon asks the Lord to show him a sign that He is really the Lord. He asks him to wait until he can prepare a meal and bring it to Him. He says he will wait.

Gideon brings a meal and the Lord tells him to place it on the rock. Then He touches it with His staff and it burns up like a burnt offering. Then the Heavenly Being disappears.

When Gideon sees this, he is afraid and cries out, "Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face."

He thinks he will certainly die because he sees the greatness of God. But the voice of the Lord assures him, "Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die."

So Gideon built an altar there in that spot to honour the Lord and called the altar, 'Jehovahshalom, The LORD send peace.

Now this shows a very important thing to us today. All of God's true people in the last days will have had a personal experience with Jesus Christ for themselves. They will have experienced seeing Jesus in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. As they learn about His character, they will see how sinful they are and how much they deserve to die.

They will 'cry out' to God, being truly sorry for their sins and feeling great fear, knowing they cannot save themselves. They will also have heard the voice of the Lord in His promises saying, "Fear not, trust in Me and thou shalt not die".

Now after this happened, Gideon was told to do a work before God could help him deliver Israel. He had to go to his father's house, to the garden where an altar and an idol of Baal were set up. He was to break down that idol and altar!

Now notice: Gideon was NOT the leader of his family, his father was the leader. And his father had set up the idol of Baal! There it was in his 'father's house'. But God told Gideon, who was the 'least' of his family to get that altar out of there!

In this we see that the humble people Gideon represents in these days, are not 'church leaders'. Oh, No! Instead we see the real leaders are the ones who set up the idol in the 'father's house'.

Thought – Before God could help Israel, the Idols had to be removed. The 'leaders' would not remove them, so God sends a humble man, who is seeking to know and obey the truth, to remove the idols.

Friday

Text: Judges 6:25-27 **"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: 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. 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."

So Gideon did what God said and took the young ox and threw down the idol and the altar and offered the sacrifice. He did it at night because he knew if he tried in the day, the people would stop him. Notice that God knows all the details about us; he even knew how old the second ox was.

Now the next day, the people came out for morning worship and found the idol and the idol's altar and grove all destroyed. They were hopping mad! So they came to Gideon's father and said they were going to kill Gideon because he destroyed the Idol.

They came all angry to Gideon's father's house and said, "Bring out your son so we can kill him for this what he did to Baal!"

But God gave a bit of wisdom to Joash, Gideon's father, and he realized that if the idol Baal was really a god, he could have protected his own altar and garden! So he said, "Are you going to plead for Baal? Let Baal plead for himself, if he be a god."

It was sort of what Elijah later said to Israel, "If Baal be god let him prove it!" So the people thought about it and decided if Baal could not even defend himself, he wasn't much of a god and they let Gideon go.

Gideon's father changed his name to 'Jeru-Baal' which means 'let Baal plead'. In other words, let Baal prove he is a god by defending himself. Of course, Baal was just an idol. So the people turned away from worshipping Baal that day.

Thought – Let us do what we can to remove idols from our lives so we can truly worship the Lord and encourage others to do this too!
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