

Introduction to Judges

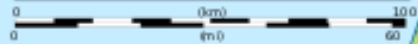
Judges

Judges 7

2/16/25

Paul Glazner

THE TWELVE TRIBES
OF ISRAEL
Around 1200-1050 B.C.
(according to the Book of Joshua)



Midian

THE TWELVE TRIBES
OF ISRAEL
Around 1200-1050 B.C.
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Gideon's
Spring

Midian



Responding to a God-sized vision

Judges

Judges 7:1 Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh.

2 The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’”

Judges

Judges 7:3 Now announce to the army, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.' ” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

Judges

Judges 7:4 But the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

Judges

Judges 7:5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.”

6 Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink

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Judges

Judges 7:7 The LORD said to Gideon,
“With the three hundred men that
lapped I will save you and give the
Midianites into your hands.

Let all the others go home.”

Responding to a God-sized vision

The Odds were against them

Responding to a God-sized vision

The Odds were against them

135,000 to 32,000 = 4 to 1

Responding to a God-sized vision

The Odds were against them

God made the odds worse to

make a point

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135,000 to 32,000 = 4 to 1

135,000 to 10,000 = 13.5 to 1









God made the odds worse to
make a point

135,000 to 32,000 = 4 to 1

135,000 to 10,000 = 13.5 to 1

135,000 to 300 = Insanity

The Obstacles and the encouragements



The Obstacles and the encouragements

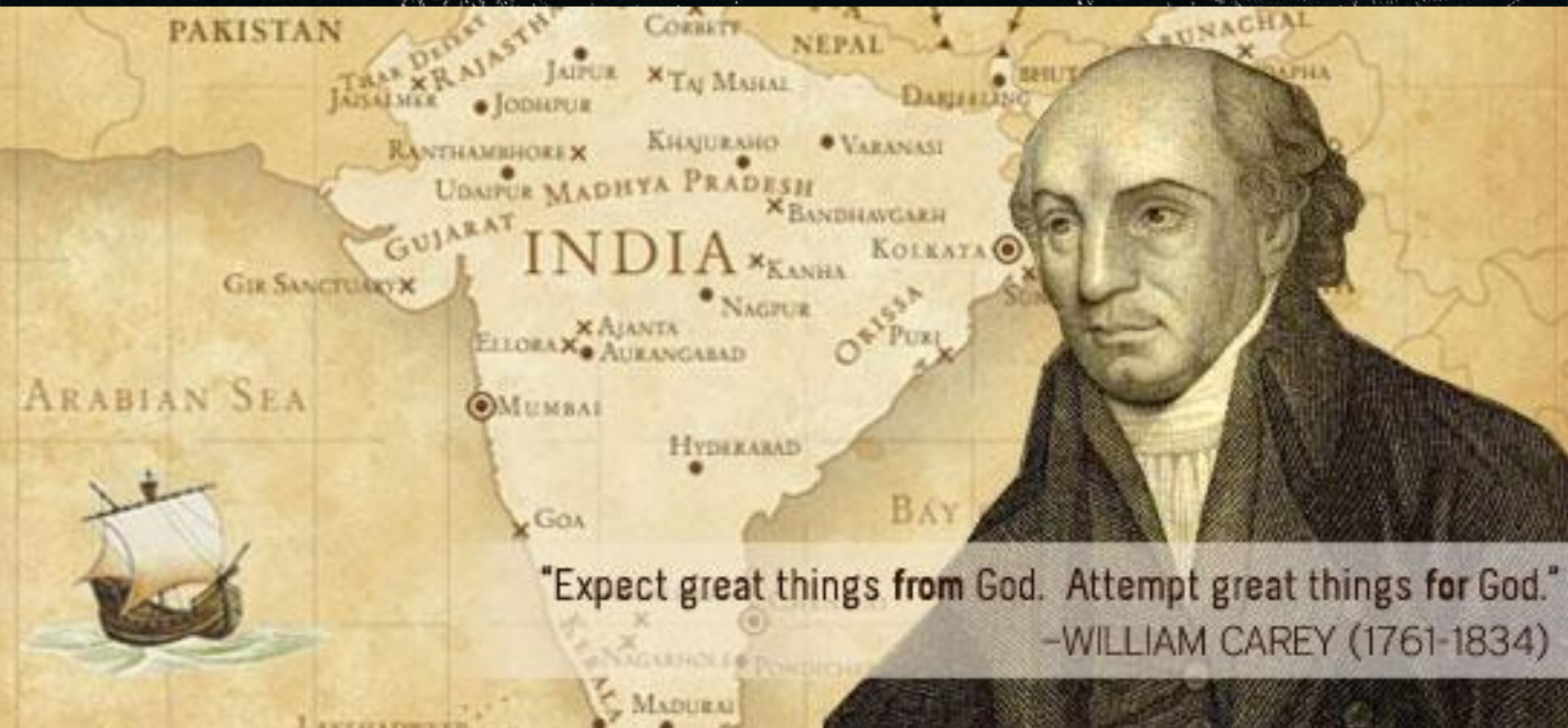
God loves improbable people



“St. Patrick”
432



William Carey 1793



"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."
-WILLIAM CAREY (1761-1834)

Hudson Taylor 1854



William Cameron Townsend 1942



Oregon Logging Camps 1900's



Roseburg
1950



David Wilkerson 1958





Sutherland
1986



*Indian
Ocean*



Comoros

Moutsamoudou

Fomboni



Moheli

Anjouan



*Mozambique
Channel*

Judges

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

The Obstacles and the encouragements

God loves improbable people

God's perfect power in weakness

The Obstacles and the encouragements

God loves improbable people

God's perfect power in weakness

He works to build our faith

Cycle of Judges



Building
Faith

Stages of Gideon's faith

Refusal

Reluctant agreement (Altar)

Resigned Obedience (Stream)

Rallying the troops (Action)

Reflective gratitude

Judges

Judges 7:16 Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. 17 “Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do.

Judges

Judges 7:18 When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.' ”

19 Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard.

Judges

They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands.

7:20 The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars.

Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!”





Faith-filled obedience brings glory to
God

Faith-filled obedience brings glory to
God

The enemy defeated

Judges

1 6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. 7 But we have this treasure **in jars of clay** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

2 Corinthians 4:6,7



Faith-filled obedience brings glory to
God

The enemy defeated

The Glory of God encourages others

1 Samuel 14:6 Jonathan

Judges

1 Corinthians 1:26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Judges

1 Corinthians 1:28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,
29 so that no one may boast before him.



Next steps:

What is God calling you to?



Next steps:

What is God calling you to?

What is your faith stage