

THE BOOK OF JUDGES. LIFE OF GIDEON.

How God leads to victory. Jud.7:2.

The story of Gideon is full of spiritual life and truth. They are significant parables, these O.T. stories, full of truth for us today.

A. GOD'S METHOD WITH GIDEON. 7:2-8.

1. The people of war were too many. 2.
When opportunity was offered the army to return 22000 out of 32000 returned home.
2. They were weeded out acc. to the law of God.
Four reasons are given in Deut 20, for not going to war.
The man who had built a new house. 5.
The man who had planted a new vineyard. 6
The man who had betrothed a wife. 7.
The man who was afraid. 8.
3. The reason for reducing the numbers given. 2.
"Lest Israel vaunt herself." Pride a fault.
"Lest Israel say". Victory in this battle is "Not by might nor by power".
4. A still further reduction was necessary. 4-8.
Note the word of the Lord "I will try them for thee" 4.
This trial reduced the 10000 to a mere 300.
5. God's encouragement to Gideon. 9-14.

B. THE WEAPONS OF THEIR WARFARE. 15-23.

Illustrations of this same principle seen:-

1. A rod in Moses hand, defeated the Egyptians and the Amalakâtes.
2. A shout of faith, and the march of faith, brot down the walls of Jericho.
3. A sling and a stone, in the hands of faith defeated the Philistine giant and people.

THE TRUMPETS. Possibly made of rams horns.

They speak of witness (spoken).

In its origin. Possibly a sacrificed animal and is therefore linked with the altar of sacrifice. Believers testimony & Christ.

The believers testimony is possible because of the sacrifice of Christ.

THE PITCHERS. Made of earthenware. Speak of the earthly. There is need of being broken, to flash out the light.

Surrender to the will of God, brings me to the place of death. Dying to self. Gal.2:20.

THE LAMPS. The shining of the life. "That men may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

THE INTERPRETATION OF THIS PASSGE IS GIVEN IN 2 Cor. 4:7.

LESSONS.

1. That numbers are not of first importance.
2. That God can work by many or by few.
3. That weak things are strong if He holds them
4. In victory, the glory is the Lord's.