

Judges 6: 11-22

<sup>11</sup> The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.

I can't help to think of the threshing of wheat and the winepress as the bread and wine of the Old and New Covenants. Though the Covenants are distinguished, both point to salvation of man through the work of God. Gideon was threshing in a wine cellar due to the fear the Midianites had placed on God's people. The people had humbled themselves before God as they were oppressed and started to pray and ask God for help. God answered their prayers by visiting Gideon. Gideon was not a mighty warrior in the site of his community but God would take the humble and lift him up in stature. He would defeat the enemies of Israel with this humble person who believed God would produce a victory for his people.

Judges 6: 12-14

<sup>12</sup> When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

<sup>13</sup> "But sir," Gideon replied, "**if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us?** Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

It was a strange thing to Gideon that all the terrible things were happening to his people - his nation. They were severally suppressed and could not survive due to the oppression of these invaders. But Moses had clearly defined what would happen to the nation that God had brought out of the bondage of Egyptian slavery if they would not worship and obey God. They started to offer child sacrifices willingly to pagan gods. They lived in adulterous lifestyles in the process of worshipping these false gods and in ordinary life. They had become perverted and they perverted justice within their social structure as well. One crime against God leads to another. Crimes against God are crimes against humanity. Man suffers when he does not obey the words of the Bible.

There is a chart showing statistics of crimes done in our modern classrooms. Before the Bible became an illegal book within our public educational system, the crimes committed were talking in class and chewing gum. We see a steady rise in this chart as crimes shoot off the scales in number and in severity. Now we have murder, rape, gun possession within our educational systems, and guards with metal detectors as they are needed to protect the children from other children. The movie "The Lord of the flies" comes to mind but we are not dealing with children lost on a desert Island but our modern societies.

What happened we may ask as Gideon does, but we just have to look to ourselves. As adults we understand we are not living in Biblical terms. We do what "feels good." We call perversion "free love" and not realize the wages involved financially to our government which must pay the price of unwed mothers, one parent children, high crime rates, and the emotional pain of living outside of God's love and in sin. God's laws are designed to preserve human life and nature as well.

The wages of sin is death as the Bible tells us.

I heard a report on a news program just the other week about a high school girl who tossed her newborn baby into a waste disposal system. What was really amazing to me is that the newscasters and those who spoke on the issue in the news byte simply considered the young mother unaware of her duties and really did not want to put too much blame on her, and they are right to some extent. The amazing part is that they thought of educational programs on how to take care of your baby as a solution. This is not a bad idea but in just hearing this incredible tragedy it is like placing bandages on the gaping wounds which our society will not recover from. It is like going to a doctor when you have sliced your wrists and he places a band aid that barely covers a mosquito bite on the wrong arm. We need to teach our children that sex outside of marriage is sin or not favorable at least. When you live in outright rebellion against God you live a deadly life that does not understand responsibility. This lack of responsibility leads to unwed couples who will not commit to one another and wed. These life styles will eventually place you in hell for all eternity on the day you stand before God. God makes laws to bring social and moral justice and to bring His Messiah; the Christ named Jesus to save mankind simply because man cannot sustain himself without God.

Do we need to ask what has happened in our society when pop stars are elevated artificially to promote social opinions on how we are to live our lives - in perverted fashions and claim it is just fine?

When tragedy strikes we blame God but we never really commune with Him. We treat God like some genie in a bottle we can summon whenever we feel like it. But he is there waiting for your pleas just the same.

Born this way is the slogan of one song that is promoted with glee on the news casting station as they report record sales. This is the same news station that told us about the girl-mom who threw out her newborn like it was an empty soda bottle. This poor child, both the girl-mother and the newborn, were born this way. They have no concept of what God requires of us. We consider the baby a victim – innocent we may say and this is tragically true and we may say this of the mother as well. In one sense we are all victimized by the fall.

I want to bring to your mind this is no different than people living in Gideon's time that sacrifice their children to pagan gods. The worship is that of human secularism and it is taught in every school in some form and broadcasted over or music radio stations throughout the United States of America. Are you a preacher of secular humanism and do not realize it?

She was indoctrinated into the religion of secular humanism, which is a government recognized religion where there is no room for the God of the Holy Bible. Although no one greets you or sends a letter to your parents when you start out in school stating, "Welcome to the Church of Secular Humanism," you were going to church nonetheless. This state sponsored religion indoctrinates (you have no choice) you into seeing things in a socialist-humanist concept. Your values, if not in line with the humanist's, are not valued and you will probably find that out. You are not tolerated and labeled as intolerant.

Judges 6: 14-17

<sup>14</sup>The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

<sup>15</sup>"But Lord,"<sup>a</sup> Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

<sup>16</sup>The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

<sup>17</sup>Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me."

Gideon wanted a sign so he could know what appeared to him was not a figment of his imagination or a false god of some sort deceiving him. God gave him a sign. Today, we have a sign. It is the [Cross](#) erected at Golgotha 2,000 years ago – it is "the sign of Jonah" as Jesus put it and it is what this perverse generation needs today (We are all exempt from entering Heaven and all are [doomed](#) to hell due to the fall.). We have God's word written telling all people Jesus is the Messiah and God is real. But we cannot hear these words. Gideon's people knew some concept of what God required - some more and some less. But they did not want to obey because it would interfere with what they thought would be pleasurable and this would interfere with their own personal preference.

Judges 6: 18-21

<sup>18</sup>Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you." And the LORD said, "I will wait until you return."

Gideon tells God's messenger to wait for his personal offering to God. It is a sin offering being made here. That is to say he was following God's Law on how to make atonement for his personal sins.

The young goat or lamb to be sacrificed points to what Jesus would do for all humanity in dying on the cross. Bread without yeast is also a "type" pointing to the Messiah whom we know today as Jesus Christ. Everything within the Levitical Law speaks of Jesus of Nazareth. Yeast is considered a type representing sin for the most part within the Bible. A young goat or lamb would have to be without blemish – as perfect as possible an offering worthy of God's requirements.

This is why no ordinary man can atone for himself nor by any means stands justified before God due to man's fall back in the Garden of Eden. Man is completely separated from God. He has to accept the [sacrifice Christ](#) has made upon the cross.

Judges 6: 19-21

<sup>19</sup>Gideon went in, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah<sup>b</sup> of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.

<sup>20</sup>The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so.

<sup>21</sup>With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared.

The Passover meal on the Feast of Passover had to be consumed completely. None was to be left till the next day. So it is with the sacrifice Christ has made for us. He died for our sins and His life was consumed on the cross. By accepting Christ, you receive a new Spirit which allows you to be right with God. You agree with God that sin is sin and you accept His Son's offering for your soul's sake. This is being born again as Jesus told the religious leader Nicodemus in the Gospel of John chapter three.

We are born this way in sin and cannot see or understand the dilemma we are in. We perceive the world and our lives with fallen eyes and see a fallen world, so we cannot tell right from wrong in many aspects. When the Holy Spirit indwells a person, they begin to see the difference in what is right and wrong according to God's will.

Judges 6:22

<sup>22</sup>When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign LORD ! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

Looking further into the book of Judges chapter seven –

Judg 7:12-14

<sup>12</sup>Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels *were* without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude.

<sup>13</sup>And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, "I have had a dream: *To my surprise*, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed."

<sup>14</sup>Then his companion answered and said, "This *is* nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp."

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Gideon had taken it upon himself to make a sacrifice for his sins by presenting the offering to the Lord when the angel appeared to him. Here we see an enemy soldier dreaming of this loaf of bread destroying his armies.

Jesus said He is the bread of life. It is His life within us that conquers the enemy of our soul – satan. It is without yeast, we must turn from sin and live a pure life as best as we can and depend upon the Lord's mercy which He as offered upon the Cross of all who would [accept Jesus](#) as Lord and Savior.

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