



# THE CHURCH

IN THIS HOUR



# The Church In This Hour

- *Albert Einstein*

“It is entirely possible that behind the perception of our senses, worlds are hidden of which we are unaware.”

- Luke 18:8

“When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”



# The Church In This Hour

**Judges 6:11**

**“Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress for fear of the Midianites”**



# 1. Changing the Status Quo

## Midian - *'Strife'*

- Midianites represent the surrounding culture.

## Numbers 25: The Acacia Grove

- Cozbi - *'Lie, deceived'* (the chief's daughter)
- Zimri - *'music, to sing praise'* (Simeonite Prince)
- Phineas - House of Aaron



# 1. Changing the Status Quo

**“The deception of the culture is the lie that steals affection and praise from this prince at a critical time, and offers false affection in place of God’s Presence.”**



# 1. Changing the Status Quo

## The Amalekites

- Represent our flesh: The Old nature.
- Amalek, grandson of Esau.



# 2. A Subdued Church

Judges 6:1 - 3

“Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. **Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains.** So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.”



# 2. A Subdued Church

Judges 6:4 - 6

“Then they would encamp against them and **destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.** For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it. **So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites,** and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord.”





# 2. A Subdued Church

- Hides
- No Harvest
- Laborers stolen
- Languished
- No wine, no joy, no strength.



# 3. The Church Arises

Judges 6:7 - 8

“And it came to pass, **when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord** because of the Midianites, that the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;’”



# 3. The Church Arises

Judges 6:9 - 10

"and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their

land. Also I said to you, **"I am the Lord your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell."** But you have not obeyed My voice.' ""



# 3. The Church Arises

- Voice of the Lord RESTORED.
- He remind His People:
  - What He has done through the gospel.
  - WHO He is.
  - Who you really are.



# 4. The Making of God

Judges 6:11 - 13

"Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the

Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And

the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him,

"The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!" Gideon said

to Him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this

happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our

fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up

from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us

into the hands of the Midianites."



# 4. The Making of God

Judges 6:14 - 18

"Then the Lord turned to him and said, **"Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"** So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is **the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least** in my father's house." And the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man." Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back."



# 4. The Making of God

## Judges 6:19 - 21

"So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. Then the Angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight."



# 4. The Making of God

## Judges 6:22 - 24

"22 Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face." Then the Lord said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die." So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it **The-Lord-Is-Peace.** To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites."





# 4. The Making of God

**God speaks IDENTITY to Gideon when He is:**

- Insecure
- Cynical - 'If the Lord is with us, then why...'
- Ashamed - 'I am the weakest and the least'
- Offended - 'The Lord has forsaken us to strife'
- Doubtful - Is it you God, 'show me a sign'



# Gods Response

I am with you, you will win, you  
**WILL** overcome!



# 5. The Test

**Judges 6:25 - 27, 'That same night...'**

- Tear down the altar with your Fathers bull.
- Cut down the wooden image.
- Build an altar.
- Sacrifice the bull, using the wooden image for wood.



# 5. The Test

## Judges 6:25 - 27

- He took men
- He feared his Fathers house (family)
- The men of the city (other believers)

**“Inner victories will spill over into practical life decisions.”**



# 5. The Test

**“Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on Earth.”**

***John Wesley***



# 6. The Tipping Point

## Judges 6:29 - 31

“So they said to one another, “Who has done this thing?” And when they had inquired and asked, they said, “Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing.” Then the men of the city said to Joash, **“Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it.”**

31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! **If he is a god,** let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!”



# 6. The Tipping Point

## Judges 6:32 - 33

“Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, “Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar.”

Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.”



# 6. The Tipping Point

**Gideon became a living reminder of  
the impotence of Baal.**





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# 7. God Shows Up

Judges 6:34 - 35

**“But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon;** then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.”



# 7. God Shows Up

## He blew the trumpet

- The Church remembered their call and purpose.
- The people gather, they remember their **GOD!**



# The Church In This Hour

- We are not a subdued Church
- We cannot trade His Spirit for comfort
- The Church becomes a living reminder of the impotence of the god of this world.





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