

GIDEON THE BRAVE HERO

When Gideon was a young man, he worked in his father's field in Israel. Their enemies hated them, attacked them and pulled out all their plants. Gideon's people were God's people. God promised to protect and bless them, if they obeyed Him. But sadly, they didn't always listen. Then they would suffer a lot. But when they prayed from their hearts and asked God to help them, He always did, because He loved them.

God used warriors who would lead them in battle. This time He chose Gideon. This is how it happened.

Gideon was busy hiding the wheat away so that their enemies would not steal it.

The next moment Gideon saw the Angel of the Lord sitting under a tree. He said to Gideon :

"God is with you, great and mighty warrior!"

Gideon was amazed. He didn't know who was talking to him. He asked Him:

Again Gideon was so amazed and grateful that the Lord showed him this sign. They went back to their camp and got ready to attack their enemies.

They all had ram's horns to blow as well burning flares

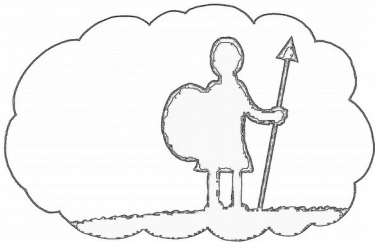
which they hid.. As soon as Gideon blew on his ram's horn and lifted up his burning flare, all the warriors did that too. They all shouted :
"This is for the Lord and for Gideon!"



And right there, all their enemies ran away. They quickly followed them, killed them all including their 2 chiefs..

After this the people of Israel had peace from their enemies for 49 years. They wanted Gideon to be their leader but Gideon said no.

"You must follow God, not me."



You can read the full story of Gideon in the Bible in Judges 6-9

"Oh my Lord, if God is with us, why are all these bad things happening to us?" Gideon cared a lot about his family.

"I have heard of all the good things that God does, but why is it not happening to us?"

The Angel understood and needed someone's help, so He replied :

"I am sending you as a leader to fight against your enemies. Go just as you are,"

Gideon didn't think that he was strong enough to do it.

"How can I do this? My people are the weakest of all and I am the least important one in my family."

Then the Angel said :

"I will be with you so that you will succeed,"

The Angel of the Lord disappeared, only then Gideon realized that it was actually the Lord.

He became very afraid, but the Lord said to him :

"Peace to you, don't be afraid anymore."



He asked God to give him a sign like this : He put a piece of wool outside at night. He asked God to let the dew only fall on the wool and not on the ground. And it happened just like that.

But Gideon was still very cautious and asked God for another sign. If he put the wool out at night again and the wool would be dry but all around it, the ground would be wet, he will know for sure that God wanted to use him to win the battle



against their enemies. And again it happened just like that.

The next morning Gideon and all the warriors went to the battlefield, but the Lord said that there are too many warriors. Gideon was very surprised because their enemies were very strong and there were a lot of them. But finally, there were only 300 warriors who went to battle. God wanted to make sure that they did not rely on their own power, but on God's power.

They camped near the enemies' camp for the night. The Lord knew that Gideon was a bit scared, so He gave him another sign. He told Gideon and his helper to sneak down to the enemies' camp. When they got near their tents, they heard a man telling his friend of a dream he had and his friend said :

"This dream means that Gideon and his warriors will fight against us and win."



The Lord told Gideon step by step what to do. Firstly he had to break his father's idols, because only God could help them to win. Gideon called all the other warriors together, to prepare for battle. In those days they did that by blowing on a ram's horn. But then he still wanted to make very sure that he was doing the right thing.

