

Just GO!

In the scriptures we are introduced to a myriad of individuals that wrestle, if you will, with their duties in life, as well as their relationship with God. We want to consider one such individual: Gideon

Gideon lived in a time when Israel, as a consequence of doing what was evil in the eyes of Jehovah, had been delivered into the hands of Midian seven years. The oppression was so severe that the children of Israel “made them the dens which are in the mountains, and the caves, and the strongholds” (Judges 6:2), in order to escape the oppression of the Midianites and Amalekites who “destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance in Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor donkey” (Judges 6:4).

In response to the cause, “it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto Jehovah because of Midian, that Jehovah sent a prophet unto the children of Israel: and he said unto them, Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drove them out from before you, and gave you their land; and I said unto you, I am Jehovah your God; ye shall not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell. But ye have not hearkened unto my voice” (Judges 6:7-10).

When Jehovah determined to deliver Israel out of oppression, an angel of Jehovah appeared unto Gideon, who “was beating out wheat in the wine-press, to hide it from the Midianites” (Judges 6:11). When “the angel of Jehovah appeared unto him, and said unto him, Jehovah is with thee, thou mighty man of valor,” “Gideon said unto him, Oh, my lord, if Jehovah is with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where are all his wondrous works which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not Jehovah bring us up from Egypt? but now Jehovah hath cast us off, and delivered us into the hand of Midian” (Judges 6:12-13). Gideon could not reconcile the words of the angel of Jehovah with his and Israel’s immediate sufferings.

We know by hindsight that Israel was under oppression because “Israel did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah” (Judges 6:1), but Gideon was attempting to reconcile the national condition with the statement, “Jehovah is with thee” with difficulty.

We could try to surmise what was in the mind of the Lord as he spake with Gideon and would come up lacking. So, I will not try. What I would like to focus on is what Jehovah said, as he “looked upon him, and said, Go in this

thy might, and save Israel from the hand of Midian: have not I sent thee?" (Judges 6:14).

Jehovah does not answer the questions to which we already know the answers, but what he does tell us is, "Go." When the prophet Elijah had fled the land of Israel and bewailed his bitter end, he "requested for himself that he might die, and said, It is enough; now, O Jehovah, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers" (1 Kings 19:4). Twice, during Elijah's ordeal, Jehovah said, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" and after Elijah poured forth his worries, concerns, and sorrows, "Jehovah said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus..." (1 Kings 19:15). Elijah had work to do. Ross Triplett, Sr.