

----- Gideon -----

2759d AM, 3469 JP, 1245 BC

**357. When the Israelites fell into this fourth bondage, they cried to God for help and were reprovved by a prophet. Then Gideon of Manasseh, son of Joash, the Abiezrite, was chosen to deliver them by an angel sent from God. At God's command, he overturned the altar of Baal and burned its grove. As a result of the strife between him and the people, he was called Jerubbaal or Jerubbesheth. {#Jud 6:32 2Sa 11:21}. From thirty-two thousand volunteers he selected three hundred men according to God's criteria. Gideon and these men, equipped with their trumpets, pitchers and torches, so frightened the Midianites that they put to flight all their host. The Ephraimites then pursued them and killed their princes, Oreb and Zeeb. Gideon pacified the Ephraimites, who complained that they were not called to the battle at first. Then he crossed the Jordan River and defeated the remainder of the Midianite army. He also chastised the men of Succoth and Penuel, who had refused him provisions for his journey. He killed the two kings of the Moabites, Zebah and Zalmunna. After these great victories, he refused the Israelites' offer to make him and his posterity king. Using the enemies' golden earrings, a part of the plunder (which was taken as spoil in the battle) he made an ephod. This later caused them to fall into idolatry. After the Midianites were**

**conquered, the land had rest forty years; this was after the former rest restored to them by Deborah and Barak {#Jud 6:1-8:28}**

## **Judges 6**

**1 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,**

**11 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.**

**12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"**

**13 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."**

**14 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?"**

## **Judges 8**

**28 Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.**

**32 Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.**

**33 So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god.**

**34 Thus the children of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;**