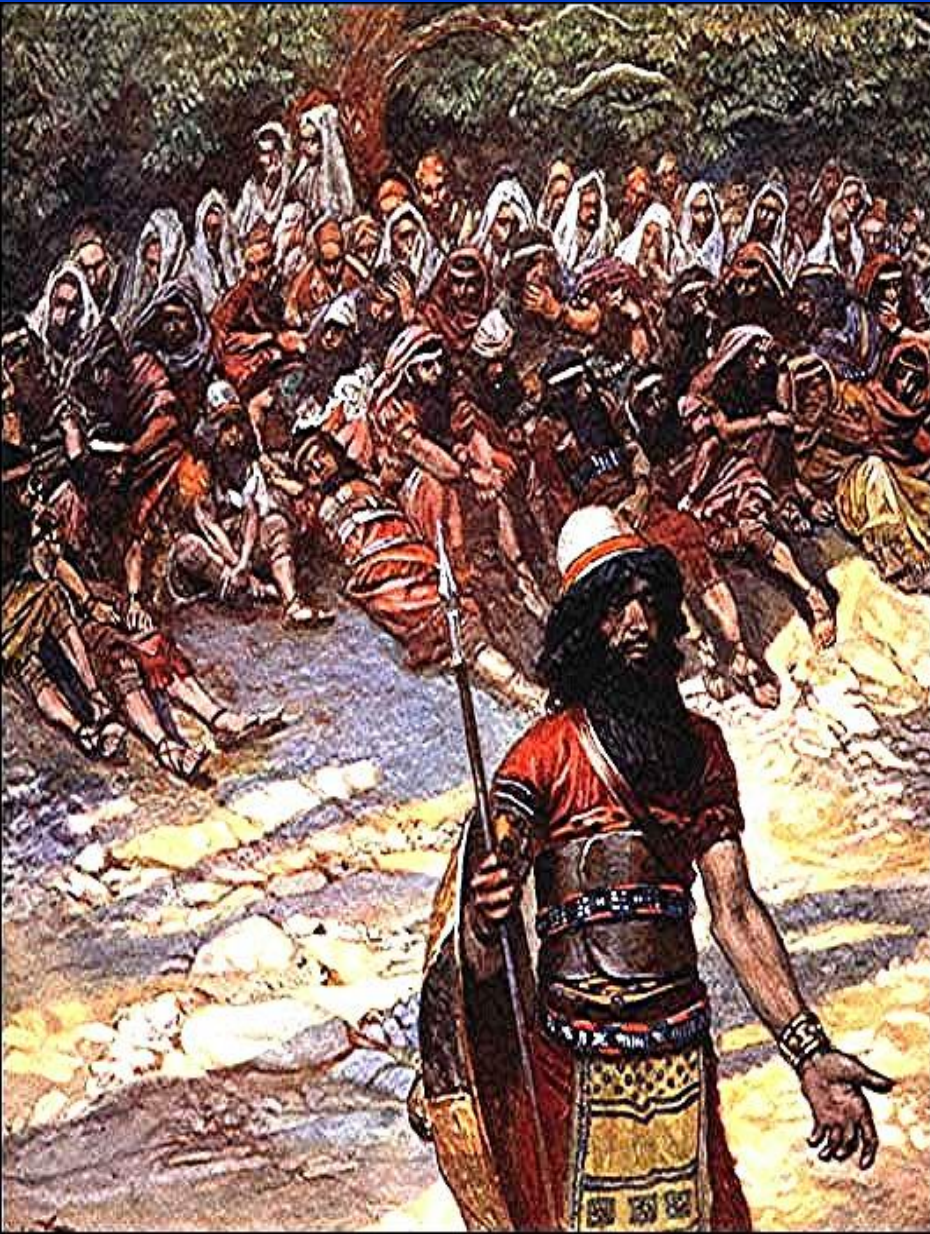


“TOO MANY MEN”



- The first cut: 2/3 rd's of the men sent home
- Next cut, only 300 fighting men selected
- 135,000 enemy fighters, not including many women and children
- God was still watching, acting, saving, and loving Israel

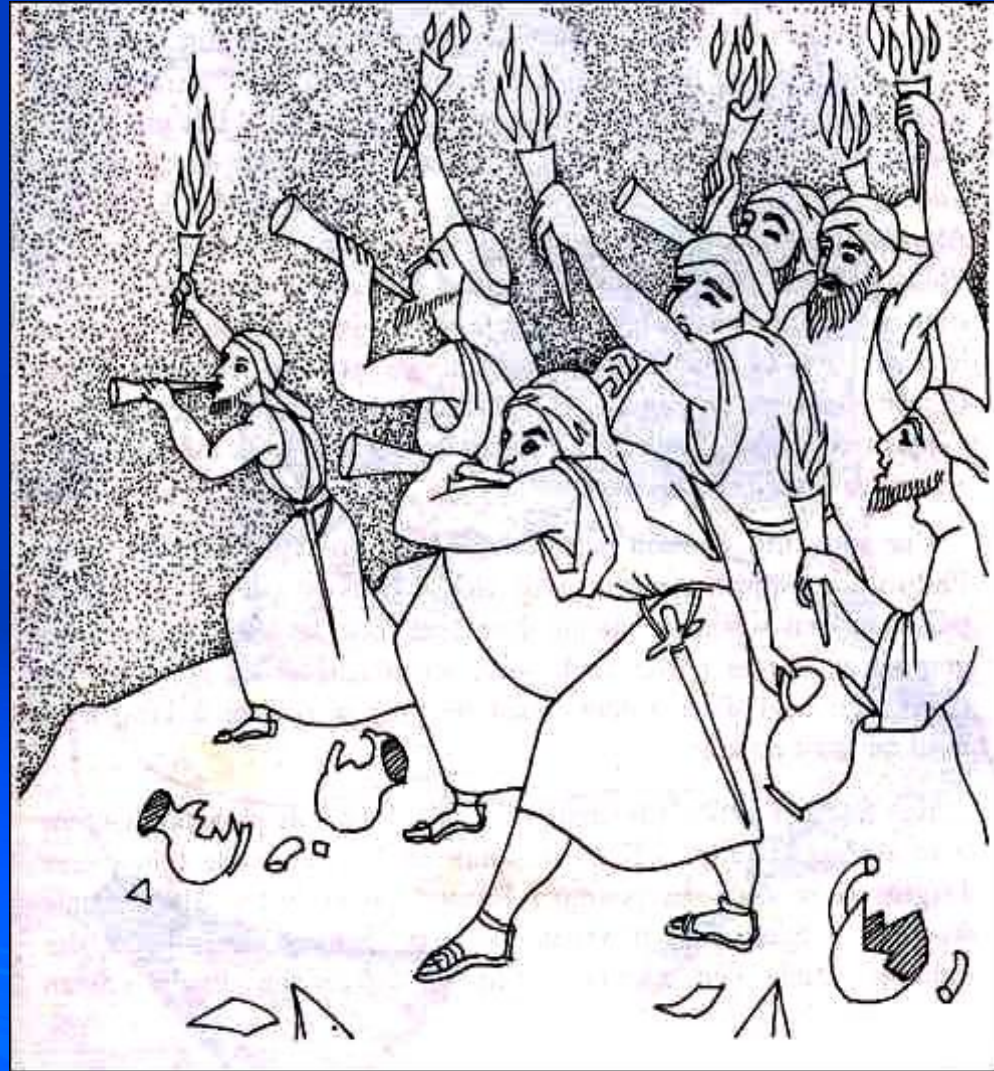
BARLEY, THE BREAD OF THE POOR



- Gideon along with Purah over hears a Midianite sentry talking about a dream
- Barley “cake” tumbles into a tent and flattens it
- Other soldier interprets it as meaning Israel will prevail
- Midian thought Israel had 32,000 soldiers
- *Tselil* = circular loaf, rolling

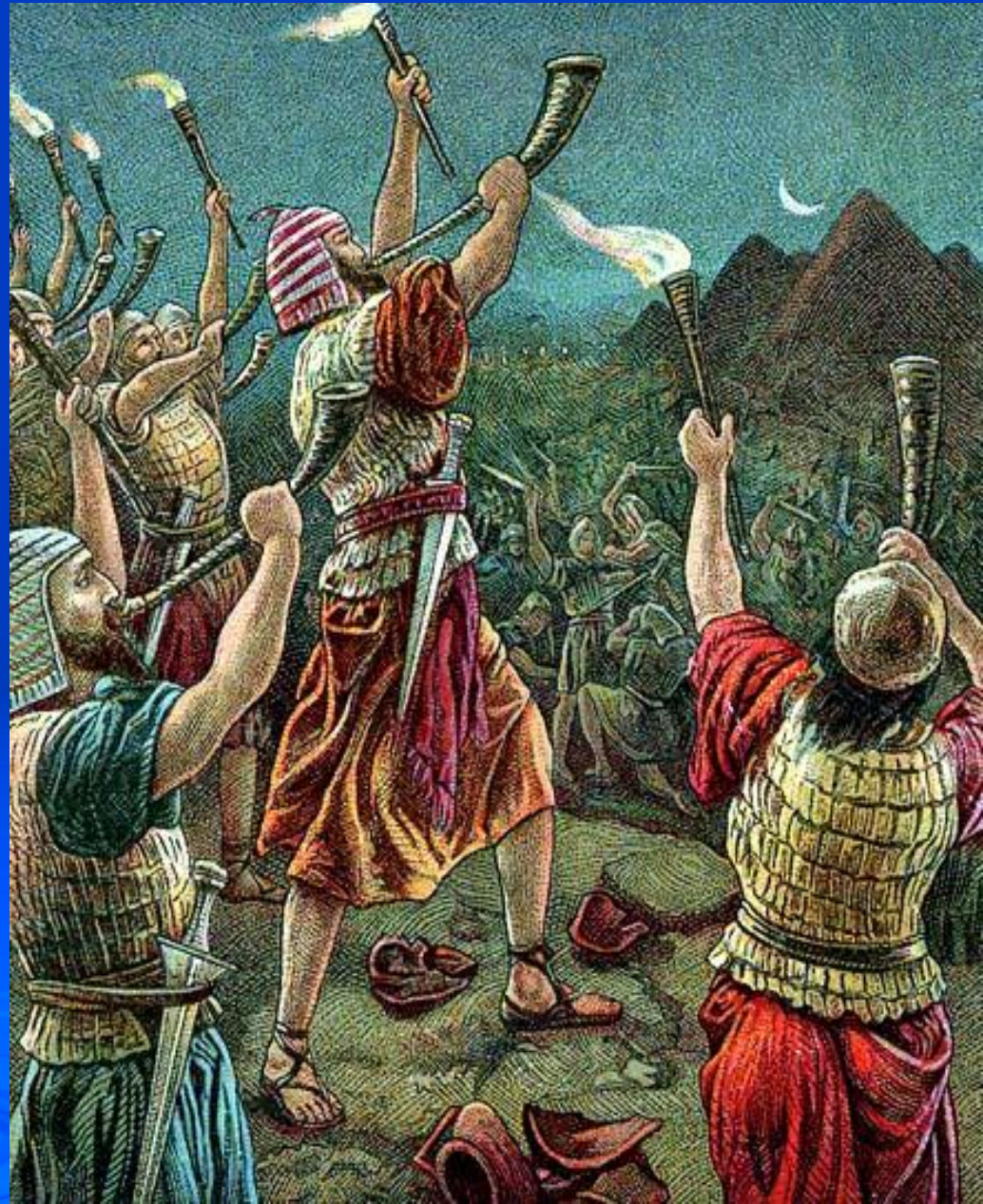
A NIGHTTIME SURPRISE ATTACK

- Throughout the Bible we see Israel use the cover of darkness and deception in time of war
- Gideon divides group into 3 of 100 each
- Each man had a shofar, torch, and clay pot
- God supernaturally implanted the dream into the Midianite sentry's mind



BATTLE BEGINS ABOUT 10 PM

- Gideon's men held torch in left hand, and shofar in the right hand
- Surrounded the camp of Midian
- All at once the torches were uncovered and all 300 shofars sounded
- Gideon's men simply stood in place, watched as the Midianites fled and killed one another in the confusion



MIDIANITES FLEE



- Midianites head for the area of Jabesh-Gilead
- This story is of REAL people responding to a REAL dangerous situation!
- Hebrew and Canaanite tribesmen were watching from the hills
- You can't hide 32,000 Israel soldiers and almost 1/4 million nomads

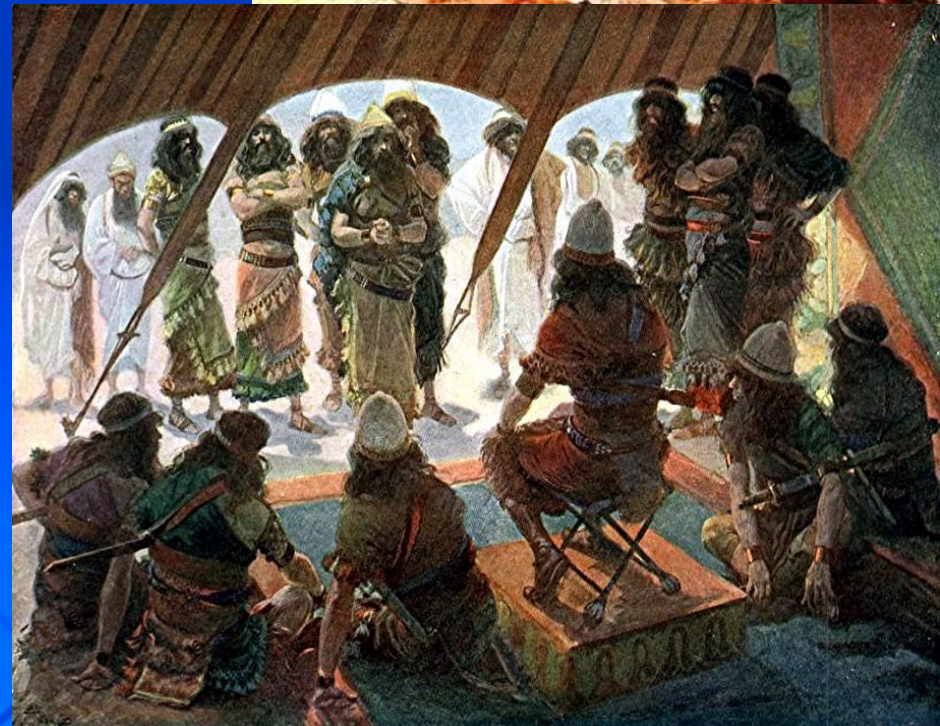
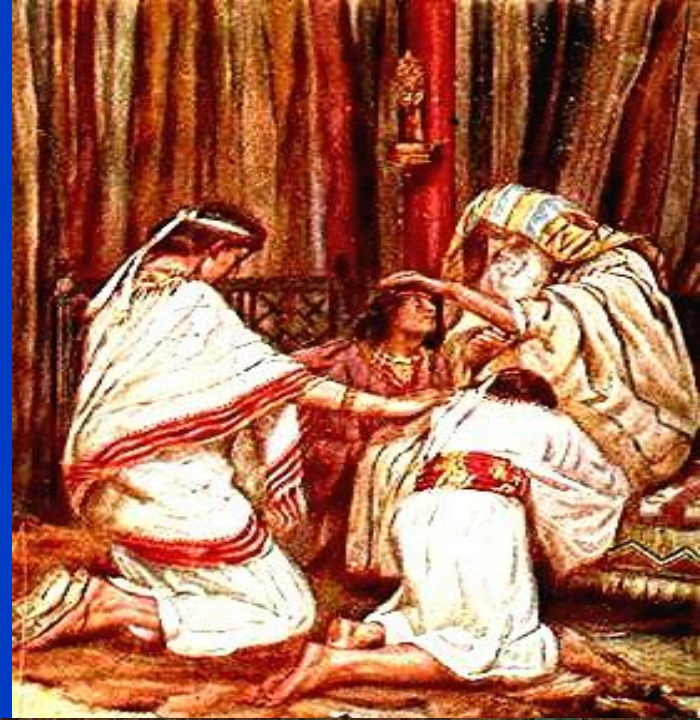
THE ROUT WAS ON!



- Manessah, Asher, Zevulun and Naphtali recalled to battle the Midianites who were now running away
- Ephraim joins the action
- Ephraim held great status among the 12 tribes
- Took up positions to keep the Midianites from crossing the Jordan River tributary fording points
- Two key Midianite leaders 'Orev and Ze'ev were captured and killed

JUDGES CHAPTER 8

- Ephraim held a supreme status
- Due to Joshua being an Ephraimite
- Ephraim given special birthright privileges by his grandfather Jacob (Gen.49)
- Leaders of Ephraim expected to be deferred to



TRIBAL WARFARE: A ZERO-SUM GAME



- Shiloh and Bethel in Ephraim's territory
- There was going to be MUCH booty to split up
- Robbery, kidnapping, projection of power was how a tribe gained wealth and authority
- Gideon helps Ephraim to save-face
- Gideon convinced Ephraim that they retained their status



GIDEON TRIES TO ANNIHILATE MIDIAN

- Gideon is intent on completely destroying Midian
- The eradication of “evil” on earth will not be humane or sanitary
- Evil resides in only two places: 1) human beings
2) spiritual beings



GIDEON STOPS AT SUCCOTH

- Gideon and his 300 stop at Succoth and ask for hospitality
- They were refused
- Succoth's residents were Israelites
- The 3 tribes on the east bank of the Jordan no longer felt any obligation to their brethren
- Thus Gideon promised to return and extract punishment



PENUUEL

- Succoth was in Gad's territory
- Penuel 5 miles east of Succoth
- Penuel gave the same answer as Succoth to Gideon's requests
- Zevah and Tzalmuna were the two Midianite leaders Gideon was after
- The Route of the Nomads

