

- iv. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him that he was going to be used, this man from the tribe of Manasseh, to deliver Israel from the Midianites.
  - v. Gideon could hardly believe that and says, "Give me a sign, Lord, that it is really you talking to me."
    - a. Gideon had brought an offering to offer to the Lord.
    - b. The Lord says, "You take that meat that you are going to offer to me and put it on the rock. You take that unleavened bread that you brought for me and put it on the rock. You take the broth that you brought for me and pour it over the meat and the bread."
    - c. After that the angel of the Lord touched the offering with his staff and fire came out and consumed the offering.
6. The Lord told Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal and to build an altar to the Lord.
- i. He did that at night so no one would know he was doing it.
  - ii. He took the Ashteroth pole there and used it as wood to offer a burnt offering to the Lord.
7. When the people found out the next day that Gideon had done this, the people wanted to kill him.
- i. And so Gideon's father said, "If Baal is God, let Baal contend with Gideon."
  - ii. And so they gave Gideon the name of Jerubbaal which means "Let Baal contend with Gideon."
8. Then we are told that the Midianites came and camped in the valley of Jezreel along with the Amalekites and other people.
- i. When they camped in that area, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he gathered an army of 32,000 from the tribes of Asher, Zebulum, Issachar, and Manasseh.
  - ii. And he gathered then right there where the enemy was gathered.
9. But Gideon wasn't sure that he was going to be able to defeat these people and he said, "Lord, I know that you are Lord, but give me a sign that I am really going to be able to defeat these armies."
- i. Gideon said, "Lord they have a tremendous army there. Now I have got 32,000 with me. Now Lord, if you are really going to give us the victory, just give me a sign."
  - ii. And Gideon said, "Here's what I would like you to do. I have got a fleece. I am going to have it on the ground. Now in the morning, you have that fleece filled with dew, but the ground all dry around it."
  - iii. When Gideon go up next morning, Gideon was able to wring a whole bowl of water out of the fleece.