

Bible History Puzzle 75

Do you remember the first four judges of Israel? We learned about Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, and Deborah. Today, we will learn about the fifth judge. His name was Gideon. You probably recognize this familiar story! As you can guess, the Israelites had turned back to their _____(diol) worship again, and the Lord came with judgment.

The farmers in Israel sowed the seed in their fields. But when the grain was ripe the Midianites came and took everything. This went on for 7 years. They stole not only all the grain but also all the cattle and the fruit. There was nothing _____(flet) over for the Israelites.

Those poor Israelites. It was their own fault. Why didn't they listen to the Lord? The Mideonies were making it so miserable, that they didn't know what to do anymore. But then they remembered the Lord and they cried out to Him and prayed if He would free them from their enemies. The Lord was so good that He listened to them!

In the village of Ophrah, lived a man who was named Gideon. He had planted his grain and was busy threshing the wheat. Then he would put it in sacks and _____(dhie) it from the enemies. At least his wife could bake bread for the family. Otherwise they would go hungry because the Midianites took everything!

Gideon had chosen a spot where nobody would see him. But while he was busy threshing, there was suddenly a Man standing by him. Was it an enemy? Gideon thought, frightened. But the Man spoke friendly to him and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!"

Gideon shook his head sadly and said, "Then why are the Midianites in our land? The Lord has left us. That is why it is going so poorly." And him? He was a farmer!

But the Man said, "Go, Gideon! You will _____(rfee) Israel from the Midianites. I have sent you."

"How can that be?" said Gideon.

"Because I will help you." Who was it? It was an Angel of the Lord. The Lord had heard the cries of His people. Through Gideon, He would help them again.

When it was night Gideon called ten of his servants and they climbed up a hill. There was an altar of an idol, the _____(diol) Baal. Gideon hacked down the altar into pieces. Also the trees that were around it he hacked down. Away with the idols! It wasn't the idols, but the Lord who must be served! That was a brave deed of Gideon. The Lord gave him the strength to not be afraid.

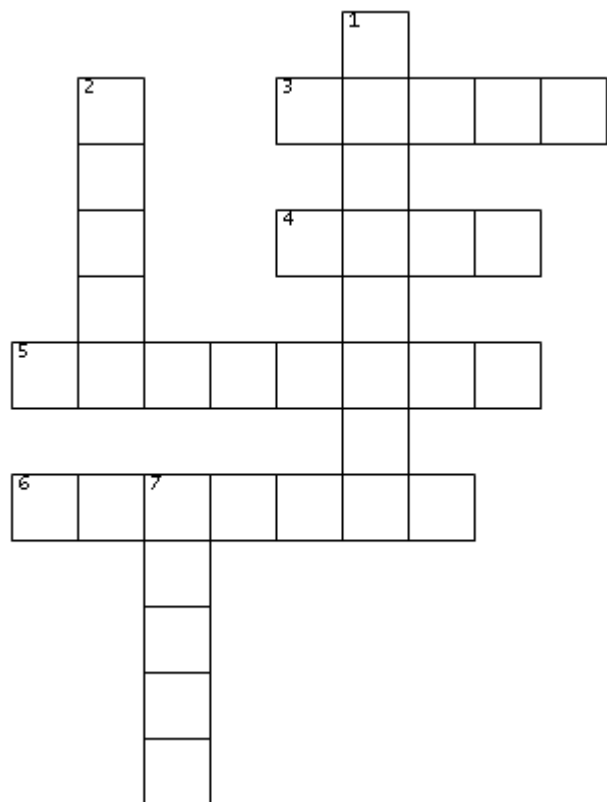
The next morning, the men of the village came to bow before the idol of Baal, and they saw what happened. "Who has dared to do this?" they called out angrily. They asked everybody and, finally, found out that it was Gideon. "We will kill him!" they said to his father.

"No way, if that image is a god it must kill Gideon himself. It must punish Gideon himself. If it can't do that, then it is also not a _____(dgo)!"

The men realized the wisdom in his words, and they also realized their foolishness in leaving the Lord... for an image! And so the Lord protected His servant Gideon.

There is one part of the story that wasn't told here. It has to do with a fleece.... Can you tell the story here in your own words?

Gideon struggled with what the Lord was asking him to do. *Find these verses in which his doubt and fears come out. All in Judges 6.*



ACROSS

3. and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by ____.

4. If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast ____.

5. Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this ____ us?

6. If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou ____ with me.

The lessons we can learn from this story:

- God sees us differently than how we see ourselves.
- God never forsakes His people.
- God calls us to accomplish the tasks He sets for us
- With God on our side, we do not need to be afraid.

Find the underlined words in the puzzle below:

L	M	R	H	V	N	P	R	F	J	S	B	R	H	A
C	J	R	X	C	E	E	U	N	K	G	T	I	S	F
P	C	G	L	O	D	H	V	S	J	G	I	L	I	R
Y	P	M	P	K	R	A	A	E	A	J	E	D	L	A
L	C	L	F	W	D	T	H	J	R	S	A	D	P	I
T	E	S	O	O	U	R	S	E	L	V	E	S	M	D
N	C	B	R	F	S	Q	L	D	M	L	X	T	O	H
E	C	A	S	P	N	A	Y	O	V	Q	X	O	C	G
R	C	L	A	V	X	I	C	N	H	J	B	G	C	E
E	C	S	K	S	L	L	A	C	O	J	Q	K	A	R
F	G	B	E	M	N	S	I	D	E	T	F	K	F	G
F	N	G	S	E	L	O	V	K	U	S	T	W	A	X
I	G	O	E	O	Z	D	L	D	J	U	R	U	L	L
D	A	S	L	Q	J	V	R	V	G	L	L	Y	A	F
H	N	Z	F	I	N	F	Q	L	E	C	V	M	H	N

DOWN

1. and where be all his ____ which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?

2. Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me ____, I pray thee,

7. Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the ____ in my father's house.