

# Gideon – Part 1 – Judges 6

## Beat 1: Israel's Oppression (Judges 6:1-10)

- **Sub-Beat 1:** Israel's Sin and Consequences (6:1-2)
    - The Israelites do evil in the Lord's sight, prompting God to deliver them into the hands of the Midianites for seven years.
    - The Midianites' oppression forces the Israelites to retreat to caves, dens, and mountain strongholds.
  - **Sub-Beat 2:** Devastation by the Midianites (6:3-5)
    - The Midianites, along with the Amalekites and other eastern peoples, invade Israel during harvest season, destroying crops and livestock.
    - Their numbers and destructive actions are compared to swarming locusts, leaving Israel impoverished and desperate.
  - **Sub-Beat 3:** Israel Cries Out to God (6:6-7)
    - The Israelites, overwhelmed by suffering, cry out to the Lord for deliverance.
  - **Sub-Beat 4:** The Prophet's Warning (6:8-10)
    - God sends a prophet to remind the Israelites of His past faithfulness in delivering them from Egypt.
    - The prophet rebukes them for disobedience, highlighting their failure to remain faithful to God.
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## Beat 2: Gideon's Call (Judges 6:11-24)

- **Sub-Beat 1:** Gideon Hiding in Fear (6:11-12)
  - Gideon is found threshing wheat in a winepress, hiding from the Midianites.
  - The Angel of the Lord greets him, calling him a "mighty man of valor."
- **Sub-Beat 2:** Gideon Questions God's Presence (6:13)
  - Gideon expresses doubt, questioning why God has allowed suffering and why Israel hasn't experienced the miracles of old.
- **Sub-Beat 3:** God's Promise of Victory (6:14-16)
  - The Angel of the Lord commissions Gideon to save Israel, assuring him of God's presence and victory despite his perceived inadequacy.
  - Gideon objects, citing his weak family background and personal insignificance.
- **Sub-Beat 4:** Gideon Requests a Sign (6:17-18)
  - Gideon asks for a sign to confirm the divine nature of his calling.
  - The Angel agrees to wait while Gideon prepares an offering.
- **Sub-Beat 5:** The Angel's Miraculous Sign (6:19-21)
  - Gideon prepares an offering of meat and bread.
  - The Angel consumes the offering with fire from a rock, revealing His divine identity.
- **Sub-Beat 6:** Gideon Builds an Altar (6:22-24)
  - Gideon fears for his life after realizing he has seen the Angel of the Lord.

- God reassures him, saying, “Peace be with you.”
  - Gideon builds an altar and names it *The Lord Is Peace*.
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### **Beat 3: Gideon Destroys Baal’s Altar (Judges 6:25-32)**

- **Sub-Beat 1: God Commands Gideon to Destroy the Altar (6:25-26)**
    - God instructs Gideon to tear down his father’s altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.
    - Gideon is told to build an altar to the Lord and offer a burnt sacrifice using the wood from the Asherah pole.
  - **Sub-Beat 2: Gideon Obeys in Secret (6:27)**
    - Fearful of his family and the townspeople, Gideon performs the task at night with the help of ten servants.
  - **Sub-Beat 3: The Town’s Outrage (6:28-30)**
    - The townspeople discover the destroyed altar and demand Gideon’s execution when they learn he is responsible.
  - **Sub-Beat 4: Joash Defends Gideon (6:31-32)**
    - Joash, Gideon’s father, defends his son by challenging Baal to contend for himself if he is truly a god.
    - Gideon earns the nickname *Jerubbaal* (“Let Baal contend”).
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### **Beat 4: Gideon Prepares for Battle (Judges 6:33-40)**

- **Sub-Beat 1: The Midianites Gather for War (6:33)**
  - The Midianites, Amalekites, and other eastern peoples assemble in the Valley of Jezreel to attack Israel.
- **Sub-Beat 2: Gideon’s Call to Arms (6:34-35)**
  - The Spirit of the Lord comes upon Gideon, empowering him for leadership.
  - Gideon blows a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites and other tribes to join him.
- **Sub-Beat 3: Gideon’s First Test with the Fleece (6:36-38)**
  - Gideon asks God for confirmation of victory by requesting that a fleece be wet with dew while the ground remains dry.
  - God fulfills the request, reassuring Gideon.
- **Sub-Beat 4: Gideon’s Second Test with the Fleece (6:39-40)**
  - Gideon, seeking further assurance, asks for the opposite sign: the fleece to remain dry while the ground is wet.
  - God grants the second sign, strengthening Gideon’s confidence.

## Story Structure for Judges 6

### Exposition (Judges 6:1-10)

- **Setting the Stage:**
    - Israel does evil in the sight of the Lord, leading to their oppression by the Midianites for seven years.
    - The Midianites and their allies invade Israel, destroying crops and livestock, leaving the people impoverished and desperate.
    - The Israelites hide in caves and cry out to the Lord for deliverance.
  - **God's Response:**
    - God sends a prophet to remind Israel of His faithfulness in delivering them from Egypt and rebukes them for disobedience and idolatry.
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### Inciting Incident (Judges 6:11-12)

- **The Call of Gideon:**
    - The Angel of the Lord appears to Gideon, who is threshing wheat in a winepress to hide from the Midianites.
    - The Angel calls Gideon a “mighty man of valor” and tells him that the Lord is with him, setting the stage for Gideon’s role as Israel’s deliverer.
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### Rising Action (Judges 6:13-27)

- **Gideon's Doubts and Reassurance (6:13-18):**
    - Gideon questions why God has allowed Israel’s suffering and doubts his ability to save Israel.
    - The Angel reassures him with the promise of God’s presence and victory.
  - **The Sign of the Offering (6:19-24):**
    - Gideon requests a sign, and the Angel miraculously consumes an offering with fire, confirming His divine authority.
    - Gideon builds an altar to the Lord and names it *The Lord Is Peace*.
  - **Destroying Baal's Altar (6:25-27):**
    - God commands Gideon to destroy his father’s altar to Baal and build an altar to the Lord.
    - Gideon obeys but does so at night, fearing his family and the townspeople.
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### Climax (Judges 6:28-32)

- **Conflict with the Townspeople:**

- The townspeople discover the destroyed altar and demand Gideon's execution.
  - Gideon's father, Joash, defends him, challenging Baal to contend for himself.
  - Gideon earns the nickname *Jerubbaal* ("Let Baal contend"), solidifying his role as a bold leader under God's guidance.
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### **Falling Action (Judges 6:33-35)**

- **Preparation for Battle:**
    - The Midianites and their allies gather in the Valley of Jezreel to wage war.
    - The Spirit of the Lord empowers Gideon, and he summons the tribes of Israel to join him in battle.
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### **Resolution (Judges 6:36-40)**

- **Gideon Seeks Further Assurance:**
  - Gideon asks for two signs with the fleece to confirm God's promise of victory:
    - First, the fleece is wet with dew while the ground is dry.
    - Then, the fleece is dry while the ground is wet.
  - God fulfills both requests, solidifying Gideon's confidence in his calling and preparing him for the confrontation with the Midianites.