

Notes: August 15, 2020

Start: 10 AM

**Order of service:**

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Jeri - Drash
8. Praise and Worship Songs
9. Message
10. Aaronic Blessing
11. Kiddish
12. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Summer of Faith Tour - Gid'on (Gideon)

I continue to share this perspective when talking about trust / faith last Shabbat...

“Our faith is revealed through the framework of culture. We do not truly know what we can endure unless it is tested. It is tested by the time and the culture we reside in. Faith is not required in a vacuum, absent of trials and tribulation. Faith flourishes when tested. You don't know what the true capacity of your faith is until it is tested to its limits.

Each Shabbat since we have started our tour I have reiterated our foundational verse with definitions for the the words of this verse.

This is from the Complete Jewish Study Bible translation...

**Heb 11:1** Trusting is **being confident** of what we hope for, **convinced** about things we do not see.

**Confident** (translated as substance in KJV) is defined as...

state of feeling certain about the truth of something.

feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust.

**Convinced** (adjective) Not the verb to convince. (Translated as evidence in the KJV)

completely certain about something, firm in one's belief with regard to a particular cause or issue.

State of the Nation:

**Jdg 6:1** But the people of Isra'el did what was evil from Adonai's perspective, so Adonai handed them over to Midyan for seven years.

**Jdg 6:2** Midyan exercised its power harshly against Isra'el, and because of Midyan the people of Isra'el hid themselves in mountains, in caves and in other safe places.

**Jdg 6:6** Isra'el became very discouraged because of Midyan, and the people of Isra'el cried out to Adonai.

**Jdg 6:7** When the people of Isra'el cried out to Adonai because of Midyan,

**Jdg 6:8** Adonai sent a prophet to the people of Isra'el, who said to them: "Adonai the God of Isra'el says, 'I brought you up from Egypt, out of a life of slavery.

**Jdg 6:9** I delivered you from the power of the Egyptians and from the power of all your oppressors. I drove them out ahead of you and gave you their land.

**Jdg 6:10** And I said to you: "I am Adonai your God; you are not to be afraid of the gods of the Emori in whose land you are living." But you paid no attention to what I said! "

### **The Call of Gid'on:**

Just as Adonai heard the cries of His people in Egypt...

**Exo 2:23** Sometime during those many years the king of Egypt died, but the people of Isra'el still groaned under the yoke of slavery, and they cried out, and their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.

**Exo 2:24** God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov.

**Exo 2:25** God saw the people of Isra'el, and God acknowledged them.

And called out Moshe through the burning bush, soto, Adonai would again identify another unsuspecting individual with whom He would rescue His people from an oppressive nation.

This time the location wasn't an Angel of Adonai that caused a bush to burn and not be consumed, but this time an Angel of Adonai would simply sit under a tree, waiting for their intended target.

**Jdg 6:11** Then the angel of Adonai came and sat under the pistachio tree in `Ofrah that belonged to Yo'ash the Avi`ezri. His son Gid`on was threshing wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from Midyan.

**Jdg 6:12** The angel of Adonai appeared to him and said to him: "You valiant hero! Adonai is with you!"

As opposed to Moshe's curiosity in investigating the bush, Gid'on was rather skeptical to what was said to him. It wasn't as much the hero statement as it was Adonai being with Him...

**Jdg 6:13** "Excuse me, sir," answered Gid`on, "but if Adonai is with us, then why is all this happening to us? And where are all his miracles our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Didn't Adonai bring us up from Egypt?' For now Adonai has abandoned us and handed us over to Midyan."

**Jdg 6:14** Adonai turned to him and said, "Go in this strength of yours and save Isra'el from the hands of Midyan. Haven't I sent you?"

Based on the current state of Isra'el under the control and oppression of Midyan, Gid'on questioned if Adonai is with us, where are the miracles? Why are we oppressed by another nation?

Was this not similar to when Isra'el was in Egypt?

Where is God???

Is this your life as a believer?

Where is God???

If I am a child of the King...(fill in the blank)?

Gid'on was skeptical because of the current state of the nation. They were being oppressed again. We will find out more about the internal condition of Isra'el in a moment.

Where is God when all this is happening?

Adonai calls Gid'on to save His people for which Gid'on has a Moshe moment...

**Jdg 6:15** But Gid'on answered him, "Forgive me, my Lord, but with what am I to save Isra'el? Why, my family is the poorest in M'nasheh, and I'm the youngest person in my father's house!"

Let's review...

**Exo 4:1** Moshe replied, "**But I'm certain they won't believe me, and they won't listen to what I say**, because they'll say, 'Adonai did not appear to you.' "

**Exo 4:10** Moshe said to Adonai, "**Oh, Adonai, I'm a terrible speaker. I always have been, and I'm no better now, even after you've spoken to your servant!** My words come slowly, my tongue moves slowly."

Gid'on did not see himself as Adonai saw him.

He was the youngest like someone else whom Adonai would also choose...

**1Sa 16:11** Are all your sons here?" Sh'mu'el asked Yishai. He replied, "There is still the youngest; he's out there tending the sheep." Sh'mu'el said to Yishai, "Send and bring him back, because we won't sit down to eat until he gets here."

By what standard did Adonai use to choose David...

**1Sa 16:7** But Adonai said to Sh'mu'el, "Don't pay attention to how he looks or how tall he is, because I have rejected him. Adonai doesn't see the way humans see—humans look at the outward appearance, but Adonai looks at the heart."

If only we could see ourselves through Adonai's eyes, we would likely see something much different. For He created us not to be uncertain, timid, fearful, but rather confident and fearless. For we are created in His image and likeness...

**Gen 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves; and let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the animals, and over all the earth, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the earth."

**Psa 139:13** For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**Psa 139:14** I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders—I know this very well.

**Psa 139:15** My bones were not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**Psa 139:16** Your eyes could see me as an embryo, but in your book all my days were already written; my days had

been shaped before any of them existed.

**Psa 139:17** God, how I prize your thoughts! How many of them there are!

**Psa 139:18** If I count them, there are more than grains of sand; if I finish the count, I am still with you.

Gid'on continues...

**Jdg 6:16** Adonai said to him, "Because I will be with you, you will strike down Midyan as easily as if they were just one man."

**Jdg 6:17** Gid'on replied, "If indeed you favor me, would you mind giving me a sign that it is really you talking with me?"

Moshe had a sign of the burning bush not being consumed, so what would Adonai do as a sign for Gid'on?

**Jdg 6:19** Gid'on went in, cooked a young goat and made matzot from a bushel of flour. He put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, brought them out to him under the pistachio tree and presented them.

**Jdg 6:20** The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and matzot, lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." Gid'on did so.

**Jdg 6:21** Then the angel of Adonai reached out with the stick he was holding, touched the meat and matzot, and fire shot up out of the rock and burned up the meat and matzot. Then the angel of Adonai disappeared before his eyes.

**Jdg 6:22** Gid'on realized that he was the angel of Adonai and said, "Oh no! My Lord! Adonai! Because I've seen the angel of Adonai face-to-face!"

**Jdg 6:23** But Adonai reassured him, "Shalom to you, don't be afraid, you won't die!"

**Jdg 6:24** Then Gid'on built an altar there to Adonai and called it "Adonai-Shalom"; to this day it remains in `Ofrah of the Avi`ezri.

### **Gid'on' Bold Action:**

Upon the call of Adonai, Gid'on is instructed to take action.

**Jdg 6:25** That very night Adonai said to him, "Take your father's bull and the other bull, the seven-year-old. Destroy the altar to Ba`al that belongs to your father, cut down the sacred pole next to it,

**Jdg 6:26** and build a proper altar to Adonai your God on top of this strong-point. Then take the second bull; and offer it as a burnt offering, using the wood of the sacred pole you cut down."

**Jdg 6:27** Gid'on took ten of his servants and did what Adonai had told him to do. He didn't do it by day, because he was afraid of the men in his father's household and those from the city, so he did it at night.

We learn that the altar belonged to Gid'on's father. There was a divide within the family. His father was not serving Adonai, but rather Ba'al. It would be his son who would follow Adonai.

The "mob" was angry that their altar and sacred poll had been destroyed. Yet, it was Gid'on's father who stood up to them and ultimately spoke...saying...

**Jdg 6:31** But Yo'ash said to all those crowding around him, "You're defending Ba`al, are you? It's your job to save him? Anyone who defends Ba`al will be put to death before morning! If he's a god, let him defend himself! After all, somebody destroyed his altar!"

With his action, Gid'on had a name change...something we have seen with Avram and Ya'akov. A distinction made between their previous status and their transformed status through Adonai. Gid'on would now be known as...

**Jdg 6:32** Therefore on that day Gid'on was given the name Yeruba'al [*let Ba'al defend*], because they said, "Let Ba'al defend himself against him, since he destroyed his altar."

### **Trust But Verify:**

The boldness of Gid'on was seen in tearing down the altar of Ba'al, but going against an entire nation was something entirely different. For faith to function, fear cannot be present.

**Jdg 6:36** Gid'on said to God, "If you are going to save Isra'el through me, as you said you would,

**Jdg 6:37** then, here: I will lay a wool fleece on the threshing-floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, while all the ground stays dry, I will be convinced that you will save Isra'el through me, as you said you would."

**Jdg 6:38** And it happened! He got up early in the morning, pressed the fleece together and wrung dew out of it, a bowlful of water.

**Jdg 6:39** But Gid'on said to God, "Don't be angry with me because I am asking one more thing, let me make one more test, please: this time let it be dry only on the fleece, with dew all over the ground."

**Jdg 6:40** And that is what God did that night—it was dry only on the fleece, even though there was dew all over the ground.

I would consider this to be another Moshe moment...

Moshe asked for a sign by which the people of Isra'el and ultimately Pharaoh would believe Adonai had sent him. I also believe these were signs for Moshe himself...

**Exo 4:2** Adonai answered him, "What is that in your hand?" and he said, "A staff."

**Exo 4:3** He said, "Throw it on the ground!" and he threw it on the ground. It turned into a snake, and Moshe recoiled from it.

**Exo 4:6** Furthermore Adonai said to him, "Now put your hand inside your coat." He put his hand in his coat; and when he took it out his hand was leprous, as white as snow.

**Exo 4:7** Then God said, "Now put your hand back in your coat." He put his hand back in his coat; and when he took it out, it was as healthy as the rest of his body.

**Exo 4:8** "If they won't believe you or heed the evidence of the first sign, they will be convinced by the second.

Would this be any different than what we are told to do in testing the spirits?

**1Jn 4:1** Dear friends, don't trust every spirit. On the contrary, test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Gid'on was not able to do as Yochanan had further conveyed as follows:

**1Jn 4:2** Here is how you recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges that Yeshua the Messiah came as a human being is from God,

**1Jn 4:3** and every spirit which does not acknowledge Yeshua is not from God—in fact, this is the spirit of the Anti-Messiah. You have heard that he is coming. Well, he's here now, in the world already!

This is in relation to false prophets and the words they speak. This is something we can do.

Gid'on received confirmation through very specific instructions.

When you pray, how specific are you? How detailed are you?

So far we have seen that when Gid'on was convinced and confident, he went into action. When he sought Adonai for clarity, he was specific. He focused on what Adonai had called Him to do – Save Isra'el through him. Then Gid'on was specific in his request to Adonai. Then Adonai responded to both requests so Gid'on had further confidence and therefore convinced to proceed. Tearing down an altar is one thing, going against a nation is another.

### **Preparing for Battle:**

Prior to the fleece, Gid'on would round up men from the other tribes of Isra'el...

**Jdg 6:34** But the Spirit of Adonai covered Gid'on. He sounded the call on the shofar, and Avi'ezer rallied behind him.

**Jdg 6:35** He sent messengers throughout all M'nasheh, and they too rallied behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Z'vulun and Naftali; and they came up to join them.

They would come to set up camp near Midyan where men of Isra'el from four tribes had come to join Gid'on for the ensuing battle, only to hear from Adonai...

**Jdg 7:2** Adonai said to Gid'on, "There are too many people with you for me to hand Midyan over to them, because I don't want Isra'el to be able to boast against me, 'We saved ourselves by our own strength.'

Gid'on now is instructed to winnow down the army that will go up against Midyan...

**Jdg 7:3** Therefore, proclaim to the people 'Anyone who is anxious or afraid should go back home, while we stay here on Mount Gil'ad.' " Twenty-two thousand returned, but ten thousand remained.

From 32,000 down to 10,000. Not as big an army but still a significant number to go up against Midyan.

Then Adonai responds to Gid'on again...

**Jdg 7:4** Adonai said to Gid'on, "There are still too many people. Have them come down to the water, and there I will screen them for you. If I say of anyone, 'This one is for you,' he will go with you; and if I say, 'This one is not for you,' he won't go with you."

Adonai gave Gid'on these instructions, so he would bring them down to the water and Adonai would guide him in choosing men to go up against Midyan...

**Jdg 7:5** So he brought the people down to the water, and Adonai said to Gid'on, "Put to one side everyone who laps up water with his tongue the way a dog does, and put to the other side everyone who gets down on his knees to drink."

**Jdg 7:6** Three hundred lapped, putting their hand to their mouth; all the rest of the men got down on their knees to drink water.

**Jdg 7:7** Adonai said to Gid'on, "I will use the three hundred men who lapped the water to save you; I will hand

Midyan over to you. Let all these others go back home."

That night...

**Jdg 7:9** That night Adonai said to him, "Get up and attack the camp, because I have handed it over to you.

In the eyes of Adonai, the battle has already been decided. He has handed Midyan and the other nations to Gid'on.

However, Adonai says this to Gid'on...

**Jdg 7:10** But if you are afraid to attack, go down with your servant Purah;

**Jdg 7:11** and after you hear what they are saying, you will have the courage to attack the camp." So with his servant Purah he went down to the outposts of the camp.

So, what did Gid'on hear?

**Jdg 7:12** Now Midyan, `Amalek and all the others from the east had settled in the valley as thick as locusts; their camels too were beyond counting, like the sand on the seashore.

**Jdg 7:13** Gid'on got there just as a man was telling a comrade about a dream he had had: "I just now dreamt that a loaf of barley bread fell into the camp of Midyan, came to the tent and struck it so hard that it overturned the tent and knocked it flat."

**Jdg 7:14** His comrade answered, "This can only be the sword of Gid'on son of Yo'ash, a man of Isra'el. God has given Midyan and all its army into his hands."

**Jdg 7:15** When Gid'on heard the dream and its interpretation, he fell on his knees in worship. Then he returned to the camp of Isra'el and said, "Get up! because Adonai has handed Midyan's army over to you."

Upon hearing, Gid'on prepared...

**Jdg 7:16** He divided the three hundred men into three companies. He put in the hands of all of them shofars and empty pitchers with torches in them.

**Jdg 7:17** Then he said to them, "Watch me, and do what I do. When I get to the edge of the camp, whatever I do, you do the same.

**Jdg 7:18** When I and everyone with me blow the shofar, then you blow your shofars all around the whole camp, and shout, "For Adonai and for Gid'on!"

A dream and interpretation...a Yosef moment. (I hope you are keeping track)

Does this also not call to your attention a verse from Romans...

**Rom 10:17** So trust comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through a word proclaimed about the Messiah.

### **The Battle:**

Upon hearing the dream and interpretation,

**Jdg 7:19** Gid'on and the hundred men with him arrived at the edge of the camp a little before midnight, just after they had changed the guard. They blew the shofars and broke in pieces the pitchers that were in their hands.

**Jdg 7:20** All three companies blew the shofars, broke the pitchers and held the torches in their left hands, keeping their right hands free for the shofars they were blowing; and they shouted, "The sword for Adonai and for Gid'on!"

Thus taking the enemy by surprise...

**Jdg 7:21** Then, as every man stood still in place around the camp, the whole camp was thrown into panic, with everyone screaming and trying to escape.

**Jdg 7:22** Gid'on's men blew their 300 shofars, and Adonai caused everyone in the camp to attack his comrades; and the enemy fled beyond Beit-Sheetah near Tz'rerah, as far as the border of Avel-M'cholah, by Tabat.

**Jdg 7:23** Then men of Isra'el were summoned from Naftali, Asher, and both regions of M'nasheh; and they pursued Midyan.

**Jdg 7:24** Gid'on sent messengers through all the hills of Efrayim, with the message, "Come down and attack Midyan; and capture the rivers before they get there, as far as Beit-Barah, and also the Yarden." So all the men of Efrayim came together and seized the rivers as far as Beit-Barah and the Yarden.

**Jdg 7:25** They also captured two chiefs of Midyan, `Orev and Ze'ev. They put `Orev to death at the Rock of `Orev and Ze'ev at Ze'ev's Winepress; then, as they kept pursuing Midyan, they brought the heads of Orev and Ze'ev to Gid'on, who had crossed to the far side of the Yarden.

Gid'on did not walk blindly in his faith, but demonstrated everything we are to do today and that which Scripture conveys.

He became confident and thus convinced about Adonai's call to save Israel from Midyan.

He trusted Adonai but also sought confirmation from Him also.

He obeyed Adonai's word.

Remember Gid'on's initial response to Adonai?

**Jdg 6:13** "Excuse me, sir," answered Gid'on, "but if Adonai is with us, then why is all this happening to us? And where are all his miracles our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Didn't Adonai bring us up from Egypt?' For now Adonai has abandoned us and handed us over to Midyan."

Adonai heard the cry of His people

We see similarities between Gid'on and Moshe

They also went up against Midyan, the home of the once exiled Moshe.

There was even a dream with an interpretation.

*And where are all his miracles our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Didn't Adonai bring us up from Egypt?'*

I would say...asked and answered.