



The Reverend Dr. David V. Silvernail, Jr.
Judges 6:36-40

September 20, 2020
English Standard Version

“Gideon and His Fleece”

This is the 3rd sermon in a topical series entitled,
Misused Stories of the Bible

Judges 6:36-40

“Then Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said, ³⁷ behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.” ³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, “Let not Your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew.” ⁴⁰ And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.”

INTRODUCTION: *The List of Fears* ¹

1 The Introduction is adapted from the sermon *“Calling and Courage: Gideon: Judges 6”* by J.D. Greear, The Summit Church, Durham, NC, nd, *The J.D. Greear Sermon Archive*, [Logos Bible Software 8.15](#)

A FLEECE OF _____ 2

Judges 6:1, “*The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.*”

Judges 6:5-6, “*For they would come ... like locusts in number ... so that they laid waste the land as they came in.* ⁶ *And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.*”

Judges 6:14-15, “*And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?”* ¹⁵ *And he said to Him, “Please, Lord, **how** can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the **weakest** in Manasseh, and I am the **least** in my father’s house.”*”

Exodus 3:11, “*Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”* **Exodus 4:10**, “*Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since You have spoken to Your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.*”

1 Samuel 9:21, “*Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have You spoken to me in this way?”*”

1 Samuel 18:18, “*Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father’s clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?”*”

Judges 6:12, “*And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, **O mighty man of valor.**”*”

2 The Exposition of the text is adapted from the sermons, “*Don’t Get Fleeced*” by Dr. Ray Pritchard, Keep Believing Ministries, preached when Pastor of Calvary Memorial Church, Oak Park, IL, 10/24/93, www.keepbelieving.com; “*Big God / Little God*” by Dr. John Ortberg, preached when Pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church (ECO), Menlo Park, CA, November 2008, www.preachingtoday.com; “*Strength in Weakness*” by Dr. Stuart Briscoe, Pastor Emeritus, Elmbrook Church, Brookfield, WI, www.preaching.com; and “*Grace for Gideon*” by Dr. Cory Brock, Minister of Young Adults and College, First Presbyterian Church (PCA), Jackson, MS, 5/31/20, www.fpcjackson.org.

And the books, *Preaching the Word – Judges and Ruth: God in Chaos* by Dr. Barry Webb, pages 138-140; *Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - Old Testament (Volume 2: History)* by Dr. Warren Wiersbe, pages 113-117; *Old Testament Survey Series: The Books of History* by Rev. James Smith, pages 151–155; *Right in Their Own Eyes: The Gospel according to the Book of Judges* by Dr. George Schwab, pages 99–105; and *Christ-Centered Sermons: Models of Redemptive Preaching* by Dr. Bryan Chapell, pages 41-54.

And the article, “*The Gideon Narrative as the Focal Point of Judges*” by Dr. J. Paul Tanner, Training Coordinator for Biblical Studies, East Asia School of Theology, Singapore, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Volume 149, Number 594 (April-June 1992), pages 146-161.

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APPLICATION: The Dangers of Fleeces ⁴

Matthew 12:38-39, “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹ But He [Jesus] answered them, “**An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.**”

CONCLUSION: *So Big* ⁵

³ Part of this section is adapted from “*Judges*” by Rev. Michael Glodo, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, in *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised* by Dr. Miles Van Pelt, Ed, page 187-190.

⁴ The book, *Knowing God’s Will* by Blaine Smith, is an excellent book on Biblical decision-making.

⁵ The Story of Dr. Robert Dick Wilson comes from *Preaching the Word: Romans* by Kent Hughes, page 99.