

GIDEON

FAITH IS THE
VICTORY

Judges 6 & 7
Hebrews 11:32

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

Hebrews 11:32–35 (NKJV)

³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

Israel Serves
The Lord

Israel Falls Into
Sin & Idolatry

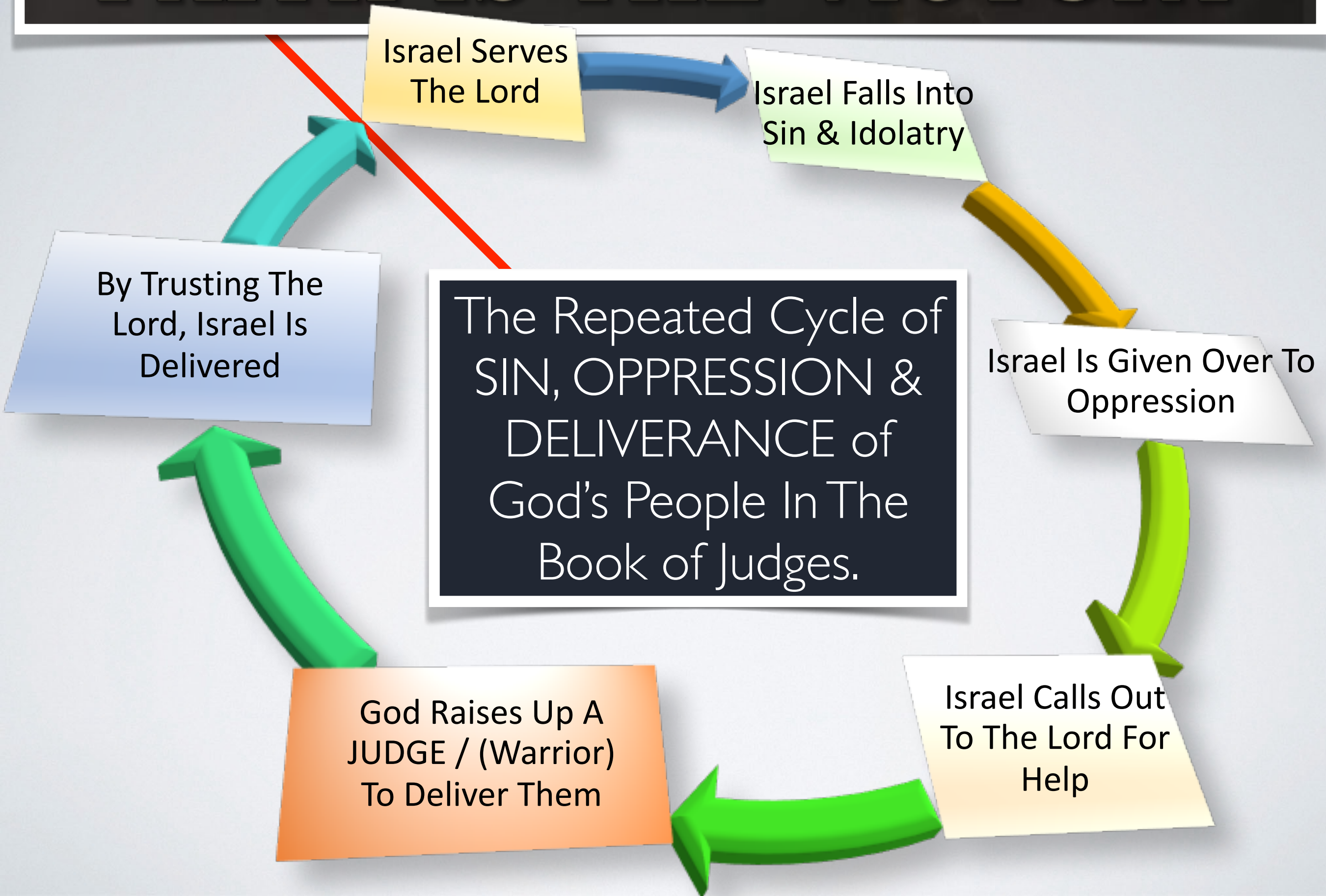
By Trusting The
Lord, Israel Is
Delivered

The Repeated Cycle of
SIN, OPPRESSION &
DELIVERANCE of
God's People In The
Book of Judges.

Israel Is Given Over To
Oppression

Israel Calls Out
To The Lord For
Help

God Raises Up A
JUDGE / (Warrior)
To Deliver Them



FAITH IS THE VICTORY

J

Othniel (3:7–11)

U

Ehud (3:12-30)

D

Shamgar (3:31)

G

Deborah (4,5)

E

Gideon (6-8)

S

Tola (10:1,2)

Jair (10:3-5)

Jephthah (11:1-12:7)

Ibzan (12:8-10)

Elon (12:11,12)

Abdon (12:13-18)

Samson (13-16)



FAITH IS THE VICTORY

1400 BC

1300 BC

1200 BC

Moses

Othniel

Hazor destroyed c1200

Joshua &
Elders

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah &
Barak

Gideon

8 years under
Cushan

18 years under
Eglon king of Moab

20 years under
Jabin king of Canaan

7 years under
Midian

112

40 year p

18 years
Philistines

Conquest of
Canaan begins
1,406 BC

40 year peace

80 year peace

40 year peace

c1350-1330 Amarna period. Letters from
Jerusalem complaining of Hibiru incursion

c1208 "Israel" stele records Merneptah's
campaign in Canaan against Philistines
(Ashkelon) and Gezer

FAITH IS THE VICTORY



The story of Gideon occurs a little over 215 years after Israel entered the promise land (ap 1191 BC)

- Israel again did evil & the Lord delivered them into the hands of Midian (6:1)
- Israel was greatly impoverished by the Midianites (6:6)
- Israel had repeatedly ignored God's previous warning (6:10)
- God calls Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites (6:11-7:25)

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD CALLS GIDEON TO DELIVER ISRAEL



Judges 6:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which *was* in Ophrah, which *belonged* to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide *it* from the Midianites.

¹² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, “The Lord *is* with you, you mighty man of valor!”

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GIDEON's LACK OF FAITH



❖ Questioned God (6:13)

- “**If** the Lord is with us”
- “**why** has all this happened to us?”
- “**where** are all His miracles ... ‘**Did not** the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’”
- “**But** now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GIDEON's LACK OF FAITH



◆ Inferiority complex (6:15)

■ **I can't** - "O my Lord, how can I save Israel?"

■ **I don't have what it takes** - "Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

◆ **Gideon was right, but it was NOT his strength that would bring victory** (6:16; cf. Num. 13,14; 2 Cor. 3:4,5; Phil. 4:13; etc.)

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GIDEON's LACK OF FAITH



- ✦ Needed A LOT of reassurance (6:15)
- The sign of the offering (6:17-23)
- Obeyed God in the dark (6:25-27)
- The Sign of the Fleece (6:36-40)
- The overhearing of the Midianite's dream (7:9-15)
- ✦ God patiently reassured Gideon (6:14, 16, 40, 7:9)

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

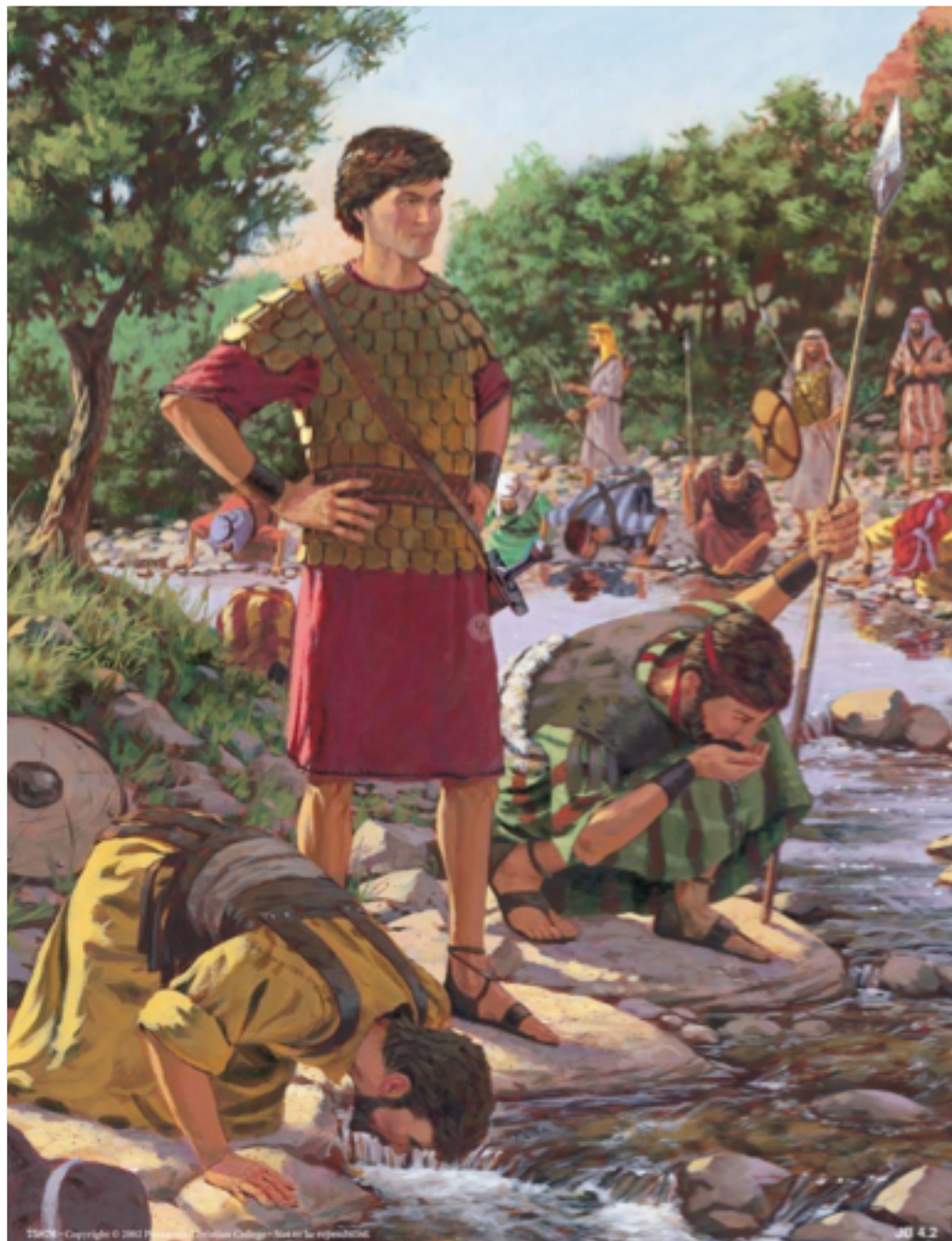
GIDEON's RESPONSE of FAITH



- ◆ **FIRST: Destroyed the altar of Baal and it's image (6:25-32)**
 - Repentance demands the destruction of sin (6:36-40)
 - We **MUST** purify ourselves before we can be of service to God (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim 2:4, 19-21)
 - Must replace our idols with obedience (6:26,28)
- ◆ **Gideon amassed an army of 32,000 men (6:34, 7:3)**

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GIDEON'S RESPONSE of FAITH



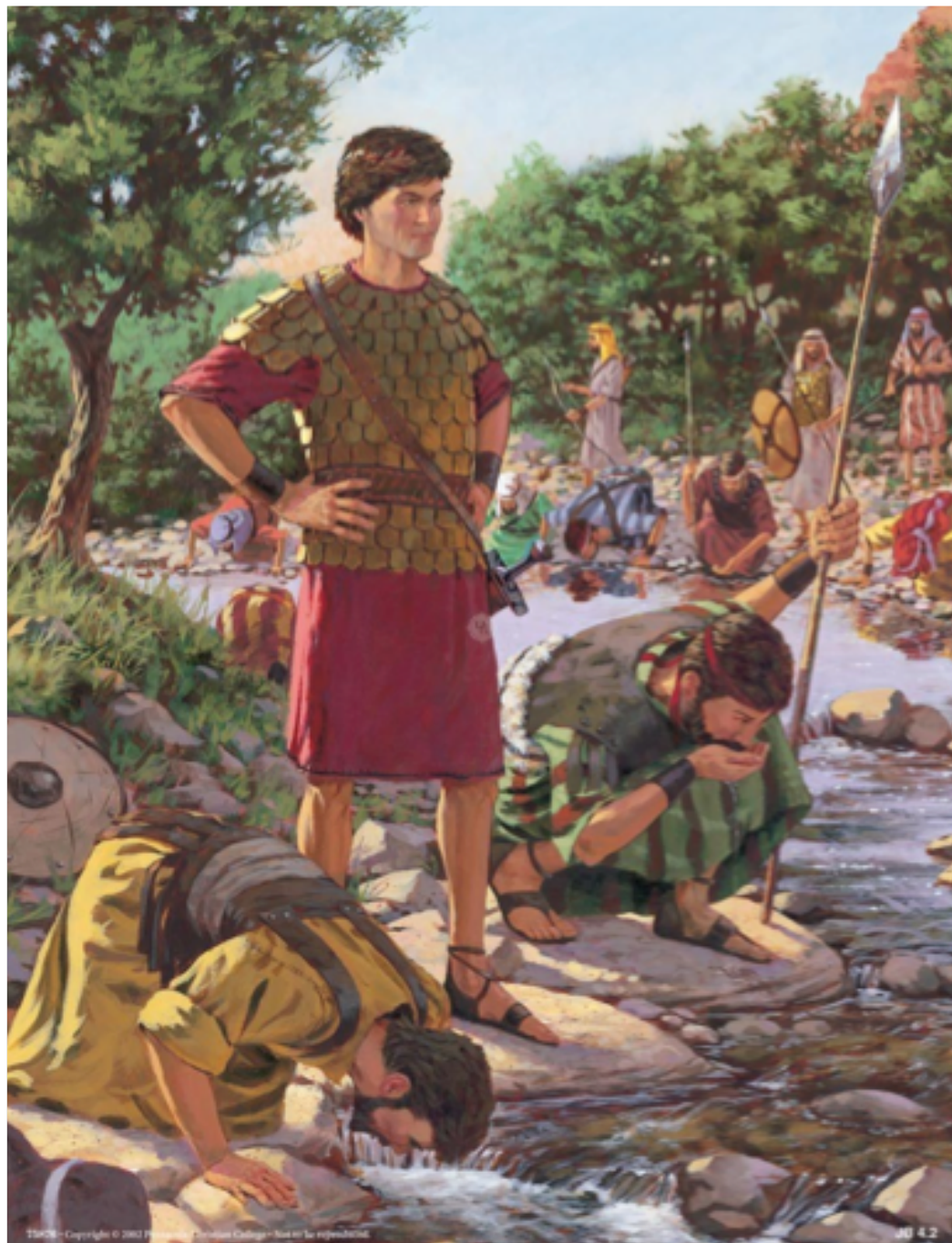
◆ Gideon OBEYS the Lord when told to reduce the size of his army (7:1-8)

Judges 7:2 (NKJV)

² And the Lord said to Gideon, “The people who *are* with you *are* too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ ... ⁴ But the Lord said to Gideon, “The people *are* still *too* many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there.

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GIDEON'S RESPONSE of FAITH

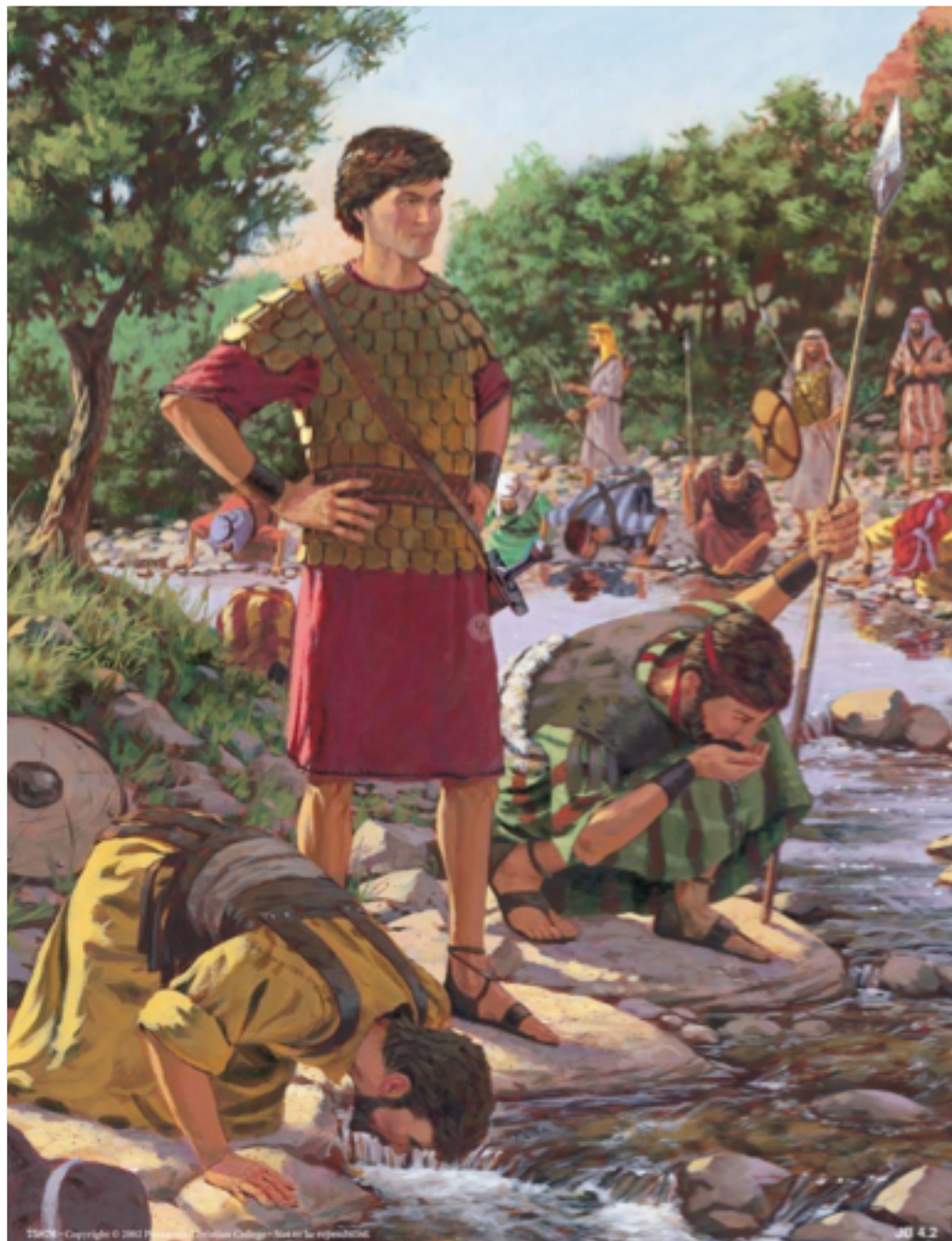


◆ **Gideon OBEYS the Lord when told to reduce the size of his army (7:1-8)**

- God tells Gideon to send away those afraid [22k] (7:3)
- The 10,000 men who were left were still too many so God has him reduce the number even further (7:4-6)
- God chooses the 300 who lapped water with their hands to their mouth – (their heads were still up) - 7:6

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GIDEON'S RESPONSE of FAITH



◆ **Gideon OBEYS the Lord when told to reduce the size of his army (7:1-8)**

At the first, there were
135,000 Midianites and Amalekites
VS. 32,000 Israelites (4 to 1)

THEN:

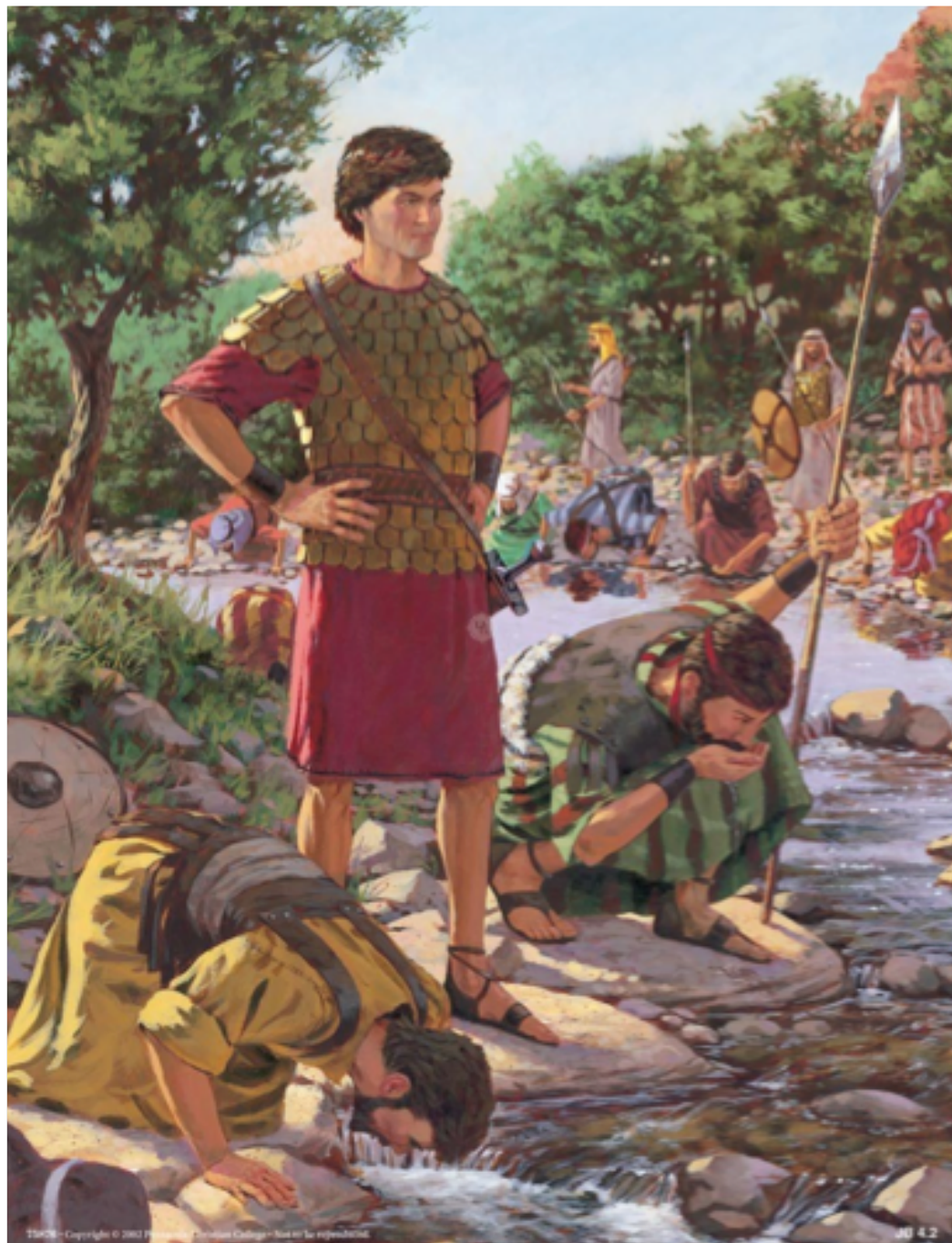
135,000 Midianites and Amalekites
VS. 10,000 Israelites (13 to 1)

THEN:

135,000 Midianites and Amalekites
VS. 300 Israelites (450 to 1)

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GIDEON'S RESPONSE of FAITH



◆ **Gideon's OBEDIENCE to the Lord results in a resounding victory (7:15-35)**

- Gideon divides the 300 men into 3 groups (7:16)
- They surround the Midianite camp and follow Gideon's instructions (17-21)
- 300 men defeat an army of 135,000 men with trumpets, empty pitchers & torches - crying - "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" (7:22)

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GIDEON'S RESPONSE of FAITH



❖ **Gideon's OBEDIENCE to the Lord results in a resounding victory (7:15-35)**

Judges 7:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. ²² When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the Lord set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD BLESSES FAITH WITH VICTORY!



- ◆ Gideon was a man of humble origins - victory is NOT predicated upon our strength, but God's (6:15,16; Eph 6:10-18; Phil 4:13)
- ◆ We cannot fully serve God until we first destroy our Baal's (6:25-32; Col. 3:5-17; Gal 5:24; Rom 6:2-13, 16-18)
- ◆ The armies amassed against the people of God will ultimately lose (6:33-35; 8:28)

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD BLESSES FAITH WITH VICTORY!



- ◆ We should be trusting of God's word - but God is patient with us, desiring that our hearts be assured before Him (6:17-20; 36-40; 1 Thes 3:13; 1 Jn 3:19-21)
- ◆ Numbers, Size, Human Strength, etc. are not important factors in fighting God's battles - (cf. Ps. 33:16; 1 Sam 14:6), but humility, faith, courage, obedience, zeal & endurance - 1 Sam 17:26-51, (esp, vs. 47); Rom 8:31

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD BLESSES FAITH WITH VICTORY!



- ◆ God has given us sufficient evidence to believe, (Rom 1:18ff; 10:17), but as we continue to believe, obey & serve - God grants more evidence - our faith grows - our service grows - our usefulness grows (Mat 13:12; 25:29; John 15:2-5; 2 Pet 1:5-15)
- ◆ God's ways are often unconventional, contrary to human wisdom! (Is 55:8,9; 2 Kings 5; Mark 16:16; Rom 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; 2 Cor 10:4) - [Salvation / the church (work, organization, / Spiritual warfare etc.)]

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD BLESSES FAITH WITH VICTORY!



- Each one had to have tremendous faith - they were out numbered 450-1? (Heb 11:32; Rom 8:31)
- ◆ How many of us would have volunteered for this ???
- ◆ It takes courage to stand up for the truth in an ungodly world! - Josh. 1:6-9,18; Acts 5:20; cf. Acts 4:13; 20:20,27; 1 Cor 16:13.

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD BLESSES FAITH WITH VICTORY!



◆ **Each man stood in their place (7:21)**

- TOGETHER - There is strength in unity! (Ecc 4:12; John 17:20,21)
- The devil knows the power of unity - and that we are vulnerable when divided! (Mark 3:24,25)
- It's not JUST UNITY that is of GREAT importance - but WE MUST BE united with God - upon His Word (Phili 1:27; 2:1-5; Eph 4:1-6; 1 Cor 1:10-13)

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD BLESSES FAITH WITH VICTORY!

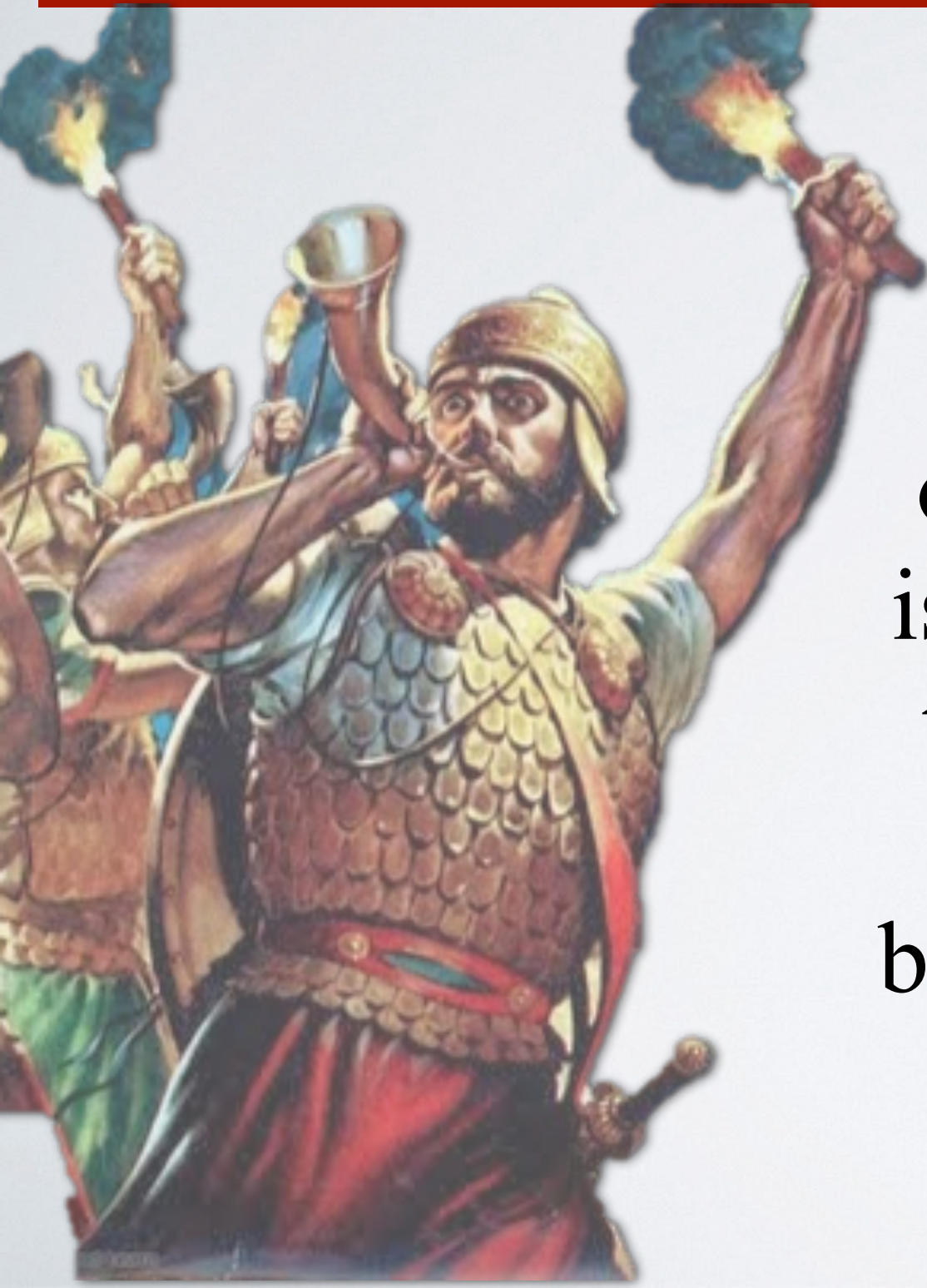


◆ **Each man stood in their place (7:21)**

- Submission to Christ's authority results in unity and brings REAL success! (1 Cor. 1:10; Eph 4:1-6; Col. 2:19; 3:17; 2 Jn 1:9; Mt 7:24-27; Eph 6:10-18)
- The growth and success of this congregation is directly related to each and every member getting actively involved (Eph 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12:12-26)

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD BLESSES FAITH WITH VICTORY!



1 John 5:4 (NKJV)

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD BLESSES FAITH WITH VICTORY!



FAITH GIVES US VICTORY OVER ...

- Our Enemies!
- False teachers & doctrine!
- Temptations!
- Sin!
- Trials!
- Even Death!

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

GOD BLESSES FAITH WITH VICTORY!



◆ They Overcame By Faith - Heb 11:32

- Believed God – 7:13-15
- Obeyed instructions – 7:16-21
- Gained the victory – 7:22-8:12

◆ We CAN Overcome by FAITH

- Believe – John 8:24
- Obey instructions – Acts 2:38;
Rom 10:8-17
- Gain the victory – Acts 2:41,42

GIDEON

Judges 6 & 7
Hebrews 11:32

FAITH IS THE
VICTORY

Charts by Don McClain

Preached November 29

West 65th Street church of Christ / P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062 / 501-749-6928 / Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Prepared w/ Keynote More lessons: <http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/coc/sermons/>

1 John 4:20–5:5 (NKJV)

²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also. ¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

1 John 4:20–5:5 (NKJV)

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?