

AND THEY STOOD EVERY MAN IN HIS PLACE

The background features a warm, orange-toned gradient. Overlaid on this are several interlocking gears in dark brown and black. In the lower right, a large, stylized hand in dark purple and blue tones is shown, with its fingers positioned as if turning or supporting one of the gears. The overall theme is mechanical and collaborative.

JOINT SUCCESS REQUIRES INDIVIDUALS TO ACCEPT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

Judges 6 & 7; Hebrews 11:32; Ephesians 4:16

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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.

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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)

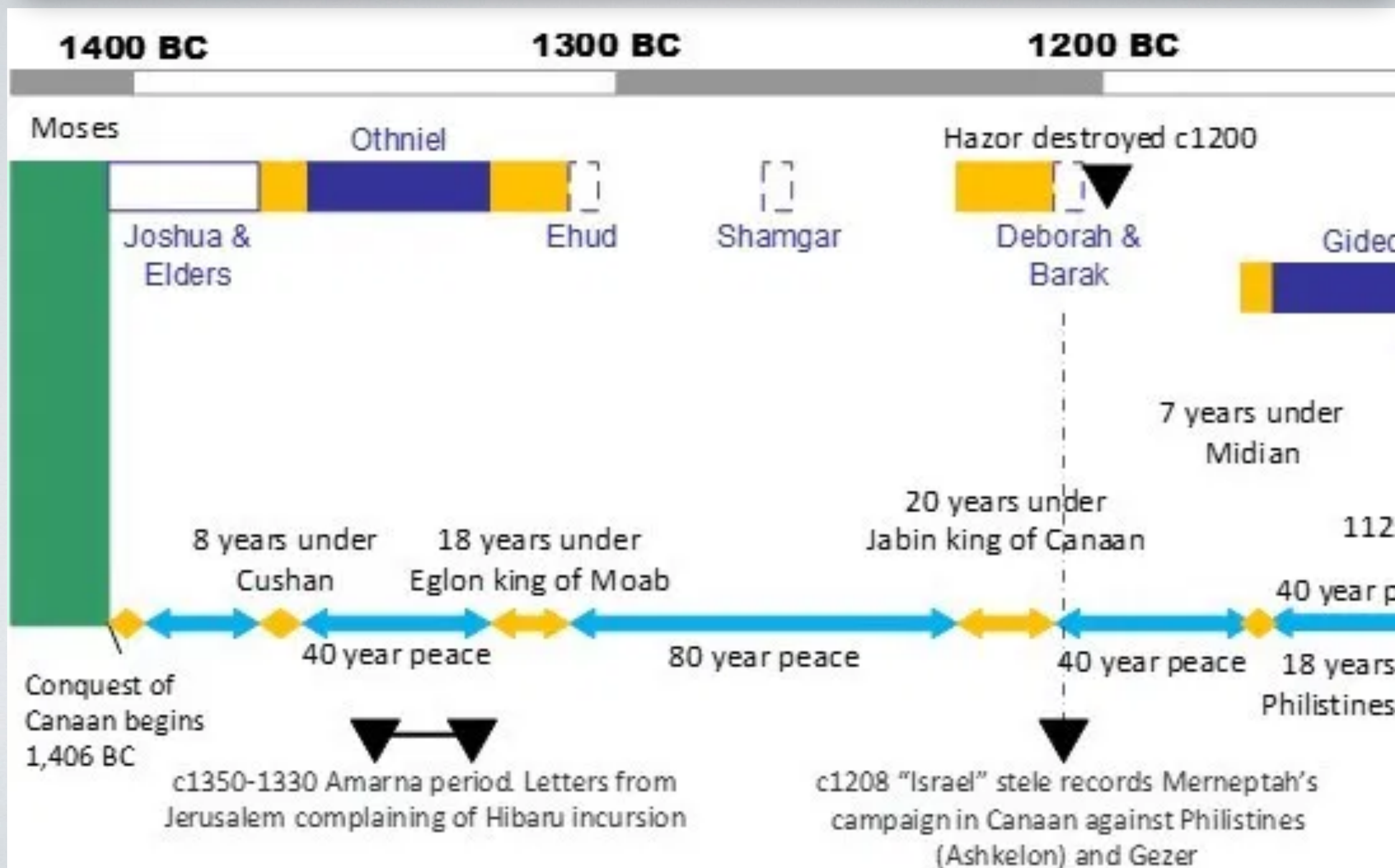
Elon (12:11,12)

Abdon (12:13-18)

Samson (13-16)



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■ 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 (6:1,6)
- Israel had repeatedly ignored God's previous warning (6:10)
- God calls Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites (6:11-7:25)



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- ❖ **Questioned God (6:13)**
- ❖ **Doubted himself (6:15)**
- ❖ **God patiently reassured Gideon (6:14,16, 40, 7:9)**
- ❖ **Gideon HAD TO LEARN it was NOT his strength that would bring victory (6:16; cf. Num. 13,14; 2 Cor. 3:4,5; Phil. 4:13; etc.)**

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- ◆ **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)**

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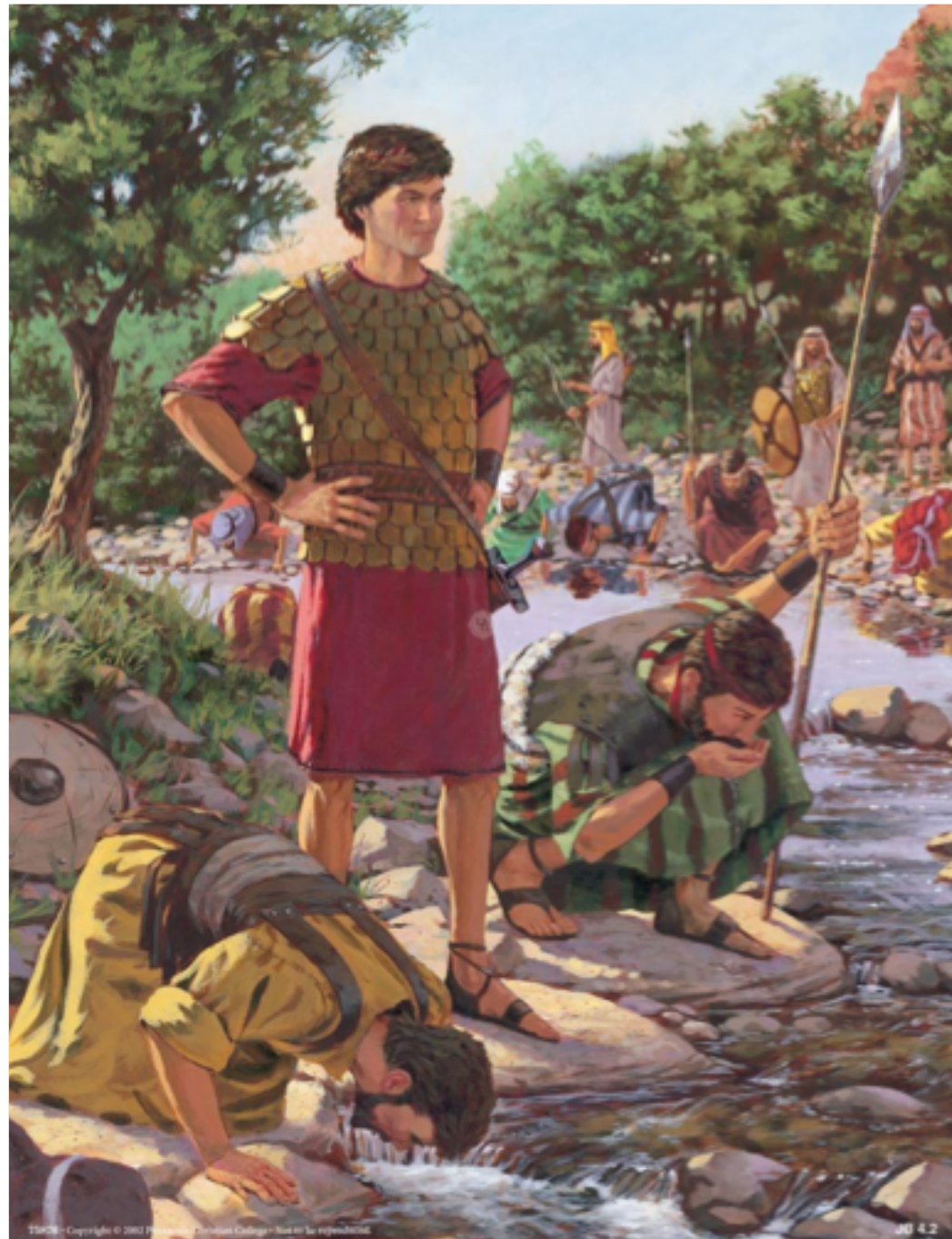
❖ **The Lord tells Gideon to reduce the size of his army (7:1-8)**

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.

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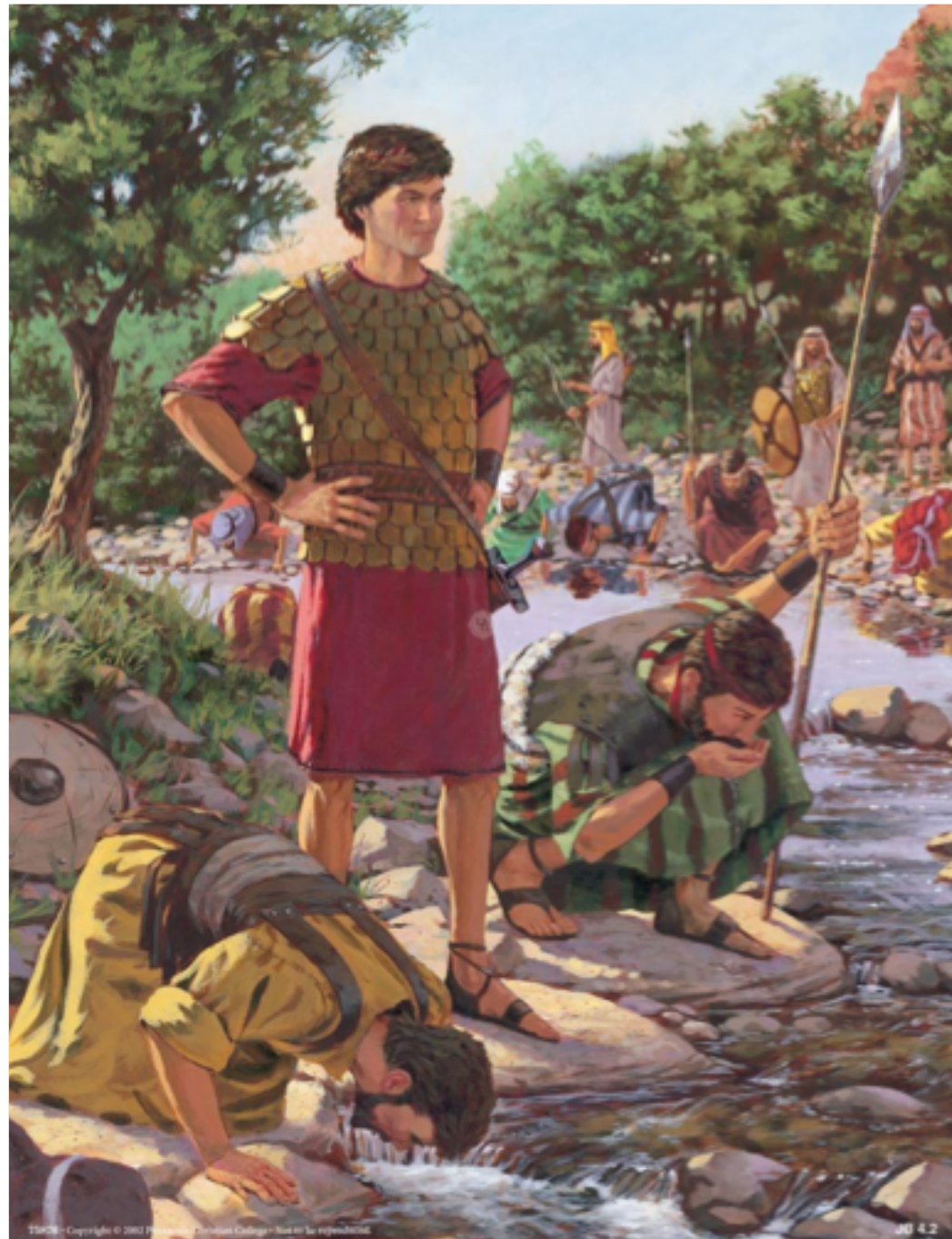


❖ The Lord tells Gideon to reduce the size of his army (7:1-8)

- 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

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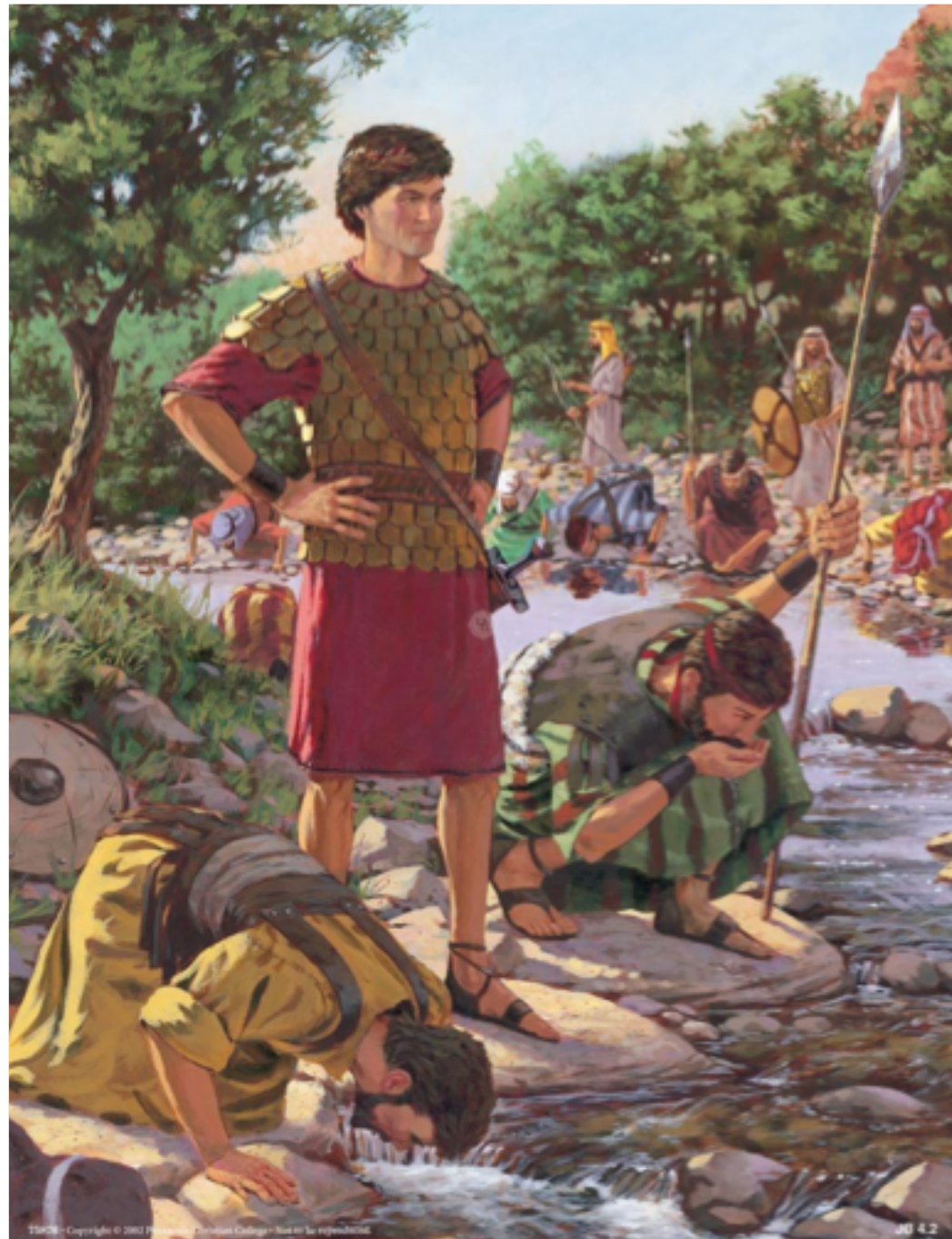
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- ▶ At the first, there were 135,000 Midianites and Amalekites VS. 32,000 Israelites **(4 to 1)**
- ▶ THEN: 135,000 Midianites and Amalekites VS. 10,000 Israelites **(13 to 1)**
- ▶ THEN: 135,000 Midianites and Amalekites VS. 300 Israelites **(450 to 1)**

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◆ 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 with trumpets, empty pitchers & torches - crying - "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" (7:22)

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- ❖ 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)

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- ◆ 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

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- ◆ God has given us sufficient evidence to believe, (Rom 1:18ff; 10:17), and 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 way is often unconventional, contrary to human wisdom! (Is 55:8,9; 2 Ki. 5; Mk 16:16; Rom 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; 2 Cor 10:4) - [Salvation / the church / work, organization, / Spiritual warfare etc.)]

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Each man stood in their place (7:21)

- Each one had to have tremendous faith - they were outnumbered 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.

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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)

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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 will be directly related to each member getting actively involved (Eph 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12:12-26)

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Each man stood in their place (7:21)

- All 300 Were Involved! - They, each and every one, had a role in gaining the victory -
- This Is NOT A Spectator Sport! - Each member needs to be involved - 1 Cor. 12:12-26
- The growth and success of this congregation is directly related to each member getting actively involved – Eph 4:11-16

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Each man stood in their place (7:21)

- Our responsibilities cannot be shifted to others - each was equipped to do his part - Heb 10:24,25; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Cor 12
- If every member of this church attended, worked, served & was as involved as I am, what kind of church would this church be? - Phil 2:1-5

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Each man stood in their place (7:21)

- **Every man knew his place** - Are you doing all you can to learn your place & how to use your talents? - Mat 25:14-30
- **Every man was in his place** - It is one thing to know and another to do! - James 1:21-25
- **Every man stayed in his place** - Too many start with zeal, but - Mat 13:20-23; 1 Cor. 15:58

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- ◆ **AND THEY STOOD –**
Required courage,
submission & unity
- ◆ **EVERY MAN –**
Accepted Individual
Responsibility
- ◆ **IN HIS PLACE –**
Each Dedicated To His
Purpose

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EVERY MEMBER OF THIS CONGREGATION HAS A PLACE TO STAND (EPH. 4:16)

- In the body of CHRIST (1 Cor. 12:14-27; Rom. 12:12)
- In each assembly (Heb. 10:24,25)
- In your family (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- In the world (Phili. 2:14-16)
- On judgment day (2 Cor. 5:10,11; Rom. 2:5-11)

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◆ Their **FAITH** brought victory - Heb 11:32

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

◆ Our **FAITH** can bring victory- 1 John 5:4

- Believe (John 8:24)
- Obey instructions (Acts 2:38; 10:43,47,48; Rom 6:16-18; 10:8-17)
- Gain the victory (Acts 2:41,42)

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

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV)

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.