



## Introduction

*Gideon attacks another enemy of the Israelites, the Midianites.*



## Questions

1. Why did the LORD say that the army was too big?
2. What was the Midianite's interpretation of the cake of barley bread tumbling into the camp?
3. What three objects were the Israelites given for the battle?



## Summary Points

- **v 1 to 3** The armies of Israel and the Midianites are facing one another. The LORD tells Gideon (see theme) that his army is too large so 22,000 are sent away
- **v 4 to 8** 300 men are selected and the rest are let go
- **v 9 to 15** The LORD tells Gideon to go down to the camp of Midian. He overhears what the men say and is strengthened for the task ahead
- **v 16 to 25** Gideon divides his men into three groups, then at his signal they blow their trumpets, reveal their torches and shout "the sword of the Lord and of Gideon". The Midianites are confused, attack each other and then flee pursued by Gideon's men

**Timeline** 1100 BC (see below)



## Theme

### Bible characters - Gideon

*A selection of verses showing some significant events in Gideon's life.*

Gideon was a judge or ruler of Israel, under God, after the time of Joshua.

It was a time when Israel's fortunes were at a low point:

*Judges 6 verses 1 and 2*

Gideon was chosen by God despite his low status and his lack of confidence:

*Judges 6 verses 15 and 16*

Gideon, encouraged by God, destroyed an altar to the heathen god Baal at night :

*Judges 6 verses 28 and 29*

He was then tasked with taking on the mighty army of the Midianites. God wanted to show that he, not the Israelites, would give the victory. First of all he drastically reduced the size of the Israelite army:

*Judges 7 verses 2 and 3, 6 and 7*

This was followed by very unorthodox battle tactics:

*Judges 7 verses 20 and 21*

After Gideon had defeated the Midianites, the Israelites had a period of peace:

*Judges 8 verse 28*



## ? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 2, Q 2: v 14, Q 3: v 16

## Bible timeline

