

**“Historical Books Of The Bible”**

**Judges 8:1-35**

**Wednesday April 3, 2013**

**Judges 8:1-3**

**Judges 6-8 – The Account of Gideon**

**Judges 6 – Before God could use Gideon, Gideon had to get his own personal life in order.**

**Judges 7 – Gideon’s Battle and The Victory.**

**Judges 8 – Gideon’s Mop-Up of The Battle and his final years.**

**Gideon Deals With Disunity In This Chapter.**

**Unity** – is the condition of being united, in harmony or agreement; a steadiness of purpose and/or action; a harmonious, unified arrangement of parts in an artistic work.

**1 Cor 12:12, 14, 20, 27**

**Psalm 133:1-3**

**1. Verses 1-3 – The Danger Of Disunity**

**2. Verses 4-21 – Necessary Separation**

**3. Verses 22-23 – To God Be The Glory**

**4. Verses 24-35 – Gideon’s Final Days**

**1. Verses 1-3 – The Danger Of Disunity:**

Judges 8:1

Ephraim was the largest most powerful tribe of Israel, (Tabernacle at Shiloh in their territory, Joshua from Ephraim)

Where was Ephraim’s joy over the victory that God had brought? Instead it was complaints for their little pride!

Prov 6:19

Acts 6:1

Philippians 2:14-15

Their complaint was a result of 2 things:

1. Wounded Pride: Since they couldn't share in the glory of what God did through Gideon, they were angry rather than rejoicing.
2. Personal Jealousy: Since they didn't fight, they couldn't share in the spoils.

1 Corinthians 12:26

Hebrews 10:24-25

Verses 2-3 – Gideon's Response

Proverbs 15:1

Proverbs 25:11

James 1:19-20

Gideon understood 2 things:

1. The Unity Of God's People Is More Important Than Personal Pride.
2. Gideon Knew To Never Take Your Eyes Off the Enemy.

Acts 20:24

Judges 8:3

## **2. Verses 4-21 – Necessary Separation:**

Judges 8:4

When God calls us to something, we need to see it through till the end!

Judges 8:5-6

Unity is important but sometimes separation is warranted. If unity comes at the cost of compromising the truth, separation is needed.

Jeremiah 17:5

Judges 8:7-9

Personal insults/attacks are one thing but to rebel against God and His chosen people is something else.

That is our line of separation – when people rebel against the clear direction of God's word!

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

Judges 8:10-21

### **3. Verses 22-23 – To God Be The Glory:**

Judges 8:22

"Rule over us, both you and your son, also your son's son," – Wanted Gideon To Set up a Dynasty.

Gideon Was Given The Glory: "for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian."

Judges 8:23 – "But Gideon said to them, 'I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you.'"

"the LORD shall rule over you." – Gideon understood something – God was to rule over them. God was to be their King; no a man, no earthly king.

### **4. Verses 24-35 – Gideon's Final Days:**

Judges 8:24-26

Today's market shekel being about a half ounce about \$1,360,000.

Judges 8:27

Ephod – Garment of the High Priest; An apron-like piece of clothing that the high priest wore while ministering to the Lord. It had the breastplate where the Urim and Thummin that determined God's will were.

The problem was that this was totally against God's Word, which said that worship came via the Levitical priesthood at the tabernacle that was located at Shiloh, not through Gideon at Ophrah.

While his intentions and motives may have been right, the results were disastrous! – "all Israel played the harlot with it there, so that it became a snare to Gideon and his household."

2 Peter 1:19-21

Judges 8:28

Verses 29-31 – Gideon Began To Live Like A King: Judges 8:29

Royal Harem: Judges 8:30

Judges 8:31 – Canaanite's Lifestyle, Concubine.

Royal Title: Abimelech – means "my father is king"; Gideon said he wouldn't be their king, yet each time someone said his son's name, they proclaimed him to be king. (Judges 9)

How tragic that a person who began well didn't end well!

Judges 6:15 – the least of Manasseh

Judges 8:32-35

**Application:**

1. We Cannot Compromise Our Obedience To The Word Of God. Gideon May Have Had A Good Motive For Having Israel Seek And Hear From God, But God Already Established The Priesthood.
2. It Is Great To Declare Jesus As Supreme King In Our Lives, But It Must Be Lived Out On A Practical Daily Basis.
3. The Only Place To Keep Our Spiritual Eyes Is Upon Jesus Christ: Hebrews 12:2.