

## Gideon 2

A message from our Lord!

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by

Rev. Charles W. Pendleton, Jr.

### **Judges 6:11-24**

<sup>11</sup>The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup>When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “*The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.*”

<sup>13</sup>“*Pardon me, my lord,*” Gideon replied, “*but if the Lord is with us, why has all this*

*happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."*

<sup>14</sup>The Lord turned to him and said, *"Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"*

<sup>15</sup>*"Pardon me, my lord,"* Gideon replied, *"but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."*

<sup>16</sup>The Lord answered, *"I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."*

<sup>17</sup>Gideon replied, *"If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really*

*you talking to me. <sup>18</sup>Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.”*

And the Lord said, *“I will wait until you return.”*

<sup>19</sup>Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.

<sup>20</sup>The angel of God said to him, *“Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth.”* And Gideon did so. <sup>21</sup>Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the

meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared. <sup>22</sup>When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, *“Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!”*

<sup>23</sup>But the Lord said to him, *“Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.”*

<sup>24</sup>So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

The Angel of the Lord – I LOVE this picture! To me, it is a picture of **the pre-incarnate Christ**, coming in glory to the earth – come to enter into some type of

relationship with whoever it is He is meeting with. It might just be me, but I love reading about these kinds of pre-incarnate excursions to speak with mankind. Every case we read about “the Angel of the Lord” in scriptures, is filled with wonder that the Angel of the Lord – Jesus, the Christ – SO wanted to interact with God’s children.

Gideon was so polite when this “person” showed up on the scene. My imagination wants to wonder about “how” did Gideon know this was a special person, worthy of the “*Pardon me, my lord*” that Gideon used in addressing this angel. It’s evident that Gideon didn’t know right away that this was truly THE LORD! When he realizes it (vs. 22) is the Lord, Gideon is afraid he’s going

to die for having seen the angel of the Lord face to face!

Before Gideon realizes it is God visiting with him, listen to the things Gideon is being told by this wonderful stranger.

**“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”**

**“Go in the strength YOU have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”**

**“I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”**

This is extraordinary to Gideon, but he likes what he is hearing. It is music to his ears.

So much so, that he wants to offer a sacrifice to this person, **JUST IN CASE** it really is God. See **verse 17**...

<sup>17</sup>Gideon replied, *“If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me.”*

Once the sacrifice is burned up supernaturally from the tip of the angel's staff, Gideon freaks out! There's no other way to say it!

He is scared that he is going to die! **I saw God!! Yikes, I'm gonna die!**

Gideon is living in dangerous times. The Midianites and their cohorts are ravaging the land, destroying everything, just to cause pain to the Israelites. To squeeze out a bit of wheat for bread, Gideon uses an "out-of-season" location to thresh his wheat – a winepress. Totally wrong season to be there, but it's working – Gideon is not found by his enemies.

Remarkably, Gideon is not scared – not anymore. Not since the Lord says directly to him, ***“Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.”***

We know that Gideon is no longer scared  
Because he builds an altar to the Lord there  
and calls it “The Lord Is Peace.”

At a time of terror – Gideon is finally at  
peace.

This should be our state of mind too. No  
matter that the *Christian life is continual  
warfare.*

*'The peace of God which passes all understanding' may 'garrison our hearts and minds.'*

*In the inmost keep of the castle, though the storm of war may be breaking against the walls, there will be a quiet chamber where no noise of the archers can penetrate, and the shouts of the fight are never heard. Let us seek to live in the 'secret place of the Most High'; and in still communion with Him, keep our inmost souls in quiet, while we bravely front difficulties and enemies. You are to be God's warriors; see to it that on every battlefield there stands the altar 'Jehovah Shalom.'*<sup>1</sup>

# PRAYER

- 1 MacLaren Expositions of Holy Scripture.  
Biblehub.com Commentaries.