

## Chapters 4, 5, 6

After Sisera's forces were defeated,  
the land enjoyed peace for 40 years.

But then the Israelites again lapsed into idolatry,  
and so they were oppressed by the Midianites for 7 years.

The Lord then raised up Gideon to rescue the people.

Following the Lord's instructions,  
Gideon at night time destroyed the altar to Baal  
in his father's house.

When the Midianites heard what Gideon had done,  
they prepared to attack the Israelites.

The spirit of the Lord came on Gideon  
and he rallied the Israelites.

Gideon asked for a sign of success in battle,  
and said to the Lord:

"See now, I spread out a fleece of wool on the ground;  
tomorrow morning, if there is dew only on the fleece  
and not on the surrounding ground,  
then I know you will deliver Israel by my hand."

And so it happened the next morning:  
the ground was dry but the fleece was drenched with dew.

Gideon asked for a second sign,  
requesting that the fleece be dry  
but the ground covered with dew.

And God did what Gideon asked:  
the fleece stayed dry, and there was dew on the ground.

Dear Lord, thank you for hearing Gideon's prayer  
(and please bless the work of the Gideon Society  
which puts Bibles in hotels around the world!)