

Chapter 7

Gideon prepared to go to war with the Midianites.
But God told him to reduce his number of soldiers.

The army was told

"Let anyone who is frightened or fearful go home."

22,000 men went home; 10,000 stayed.

The Lord said there were still too many.

"So many men might cause Israel to claim that
a victory had nothing to do with the Lord."

So Gideon got the men to go to the river to drink.

All those who lapped the water, like a dog,
he put on one side. These numbered 300.

The rest knelt down and used their hands to drink.
These were sent home.

Gideon divided his 300 men into 3 groups,
surrounding the Midianite camp.

To each man he gave a horn and an empty water container,
with a torch inside each container.

In the middle of the night, they attacked.

They sounded their horns and smashed their containers,
holding a horn in their right hand and a torch in their left.

The Midianites woke in terror,
thinking that the Israelites had a huge number of men.

In their panic, the Midianites attacked each other
as they fled the camp.

The Israelites drove the Midianites
from the Israelite homeland.

Dear God, thank you for the courage
and leadership of Gideon