

# Today's Gideon 300

Israel had been suppressed for years by the Midianites and the Amalekites. In their distress they cried to the Lord for a deliverer. He sent them Gideon who put out a call for a volunteer army. Thirty-two thousand men responded, quite a small number to complete the task before them.

But God had a different twist. “You have too many men,” the Lord told Gideon, “lest Israel should boast in her own strength. Tell all those who are fearful to go home.” Twenty-two thousand responded, leaving a meager army of ten thousand for the fight.

“Still too many!” The Lord said, at which point He told Gideon to take the men to the spring of Harod where He would reduce the army still further. The ten thousand were given an alertness test. Over nine thousand men did not pass the test and were sent home. Only three hundred proved adequately alert to be chosen to go against the entire Midianite/Amalekite horde.

And these three hundred were without weapons – no swords, no shields, only trumpets, empty jars and torches. A small band of men who were ready to listen for the strategy of the Lord, who were ready to obey His command – men who had been tested for alertness and who refused to walk in fear. An army who no longer judged by what they saw or heard, but whose judgment came from the word of God.

Today we stand in the midst of another enemy invasion. Economic chaos and worldwide terrorism are engulfing the earth. Confusion reigns. Godlessness and oppression are on the rise. Families are disintegrating. Fear is escalating. In the midst of it all, the Lord is raising up leaders and recruiting an army, an army who will not judge by the opinions or observations of men, but who will listen carefully for the Voice of the King.

This present day volunteer army (today's church) already seems small compared to the force of the enemy. But the Lord is not looking for numbers. He is looking for a faithful worldwide remnant who will not disqualify themselves through fear and who will be continually vigilant.

The tests are coming. Will we refuse fear and remain watchful and prepared? Will we be counted among today's "Gideon 300?"

Serious days ahead. Be alert. Practice careful listening and radical obedience. Allow the enemy no hold on you. Be done with apathy and spiritual dullness . Be a part of the army who will defeat the enemy.

-Don Finto