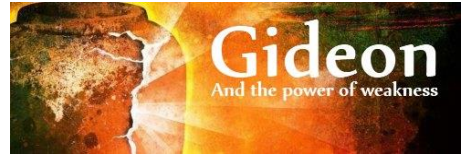


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**“The Special Test of  
Gideon  
(Judge 6:14-32)**

**Summary of Sunday Sermon  
(7 May 2023)**



The 3 salient points were:

**1. Anguish of the People (vs 1-8)**

- Who were the Midianites? Median was the son of Keturah the second wife of Abraham and Jethro (Moses' father-in-law) was a priest of Midian.
- Num 25:14-18 - the time when Midianites & the Israelites became enemies when they tempted Israeli into sin and God was angry with them and God commanded Israel to attack them in Num 31.
- The children of God cried out to the Lord after oppression by the Midianites for 7 years as they vexed Israel when they were powerful.
- But God allowed it to happen because the Israelites did evil in the sight of the LORD.
- **Similarly, every Christians will face difficulties & trials of life. The Israelites came to their senses arising from the oppression. The reason for their trouble was that they have sinned against God. It is good to examine ourselves when we are afflicted whether we need to repent before the Lord due to our sins.**

**2. Angel of the Lord & Signs (vs 8-22)**

- Who was this Person? Some scholars believe the Angel of the Lord in this instance was Christ Himself. He was no ordinary angel but none other than the Preincarnate Christ, who had appeared to Joshua before.
- The Lord looked upon Gideon & saw in Gideon what he could be, not what he was currently.
- “I am with you”.
  - **Gideon was first focusing on himself, but the Angel of the Lord refocused his perspective. It's not about him, but about who is with him.**

- What does God want to do in your life? He must increase, I must decrease as we do so in humility.
  - Is God King of your life in name only? What are you living for, for heaven's sake?
- Who are you living for? if any - there are many distractions in life ie social media TV, HP games, etc.
  - What are you feeding your mind with? Garbage In, Garbage Out. We have to shut out the world's distraction & get it right.
- Gideon asked for a sign and God gave it to him.
  - the Angel of the Lord gave him a sign.
  - the fire came out of the rock to consume the cake & the meat.
  - be careful that we do not ask for signs today as Gideon did before the canon was complete and God is sovereign to give or not.
- **Sometimes God speaks to us with a still small voice, but we do not hear it, then God sends something big in our life to get our attention.**

### 3. Altar & Action of Faith by Gideon (vs 23-32)

- Gideon built an altar of thanksgiving to God. Be grateful always. Gideon named the place Jehovah Shalom, God our Peace.
- God asked Gideon to clean his father's house first who was worshipping Baal- Gideon did it by night because he was fearful.
- sometimes in life, God puts us through a test to see if we are obedient before He uses us for a bigger task. What is it that grapples and frightens you?
- are we willing to take that small step of faith to trust the Lord and do His will?
- surprisingly, Gideon's father, Joash who worshipped Baal, spoke up for Gideon very logically and did not go against his son but defended him instead.
- What is hindering us to do what is right for God?
- God used the originally frightened & fearful Gideon to defeat the Midianites with just three hundred men who dared to obey God.
- **Sometimes our worst fear may not come true as God is still on the throne.**
- **Serve God not in our own strength, but in God's strength. God does not need our strength, but in our weakness is God's strength manifested,**
- **Gideon was poised to defeat the Midianites later after he passed this test by the help and will of God, and by faith.**

### Conclusion

Every Christian will be tested, and true faith will always pass the test if we rely on God and not ourselves. Let us be faithful and courageous and look to the Lord in all circumstances of life,

*Ng Kim Meng*

## ***The Salvation of a Soul by the Mercy of God***

***Luk 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.***



On 30 April 2023, Pr Mok requested me to go with him to NUH to share the gospel in Cantonese or Chinese with brother Tee Meng's mom, Mdm Tang Wai Cheng who was due for a major surgery. His son from Canada had returned to see his mom and requested for this.

We were there by 3,30pm and we were allowed to visit even if it was outside normal visiting hours. The Lord opened her heart to the Gospel as we **spoke in Cantonese and Chinese and shared of our sinfulness and grave need for Christ as our only Lord and Saviour, and of Christ's death for us and His resurrection. She listened and later acknowledged that she is a sinner and was receptive to the Gospel and her need for Christ as her Lord and Saviour.** After ensuring that she truly understood the gospel, I lead her in the sinner's prayer in Cantonese as an expression of her heart's desire to seek Christ as our only Lord and Savior. We gave her our Chinese gospel tract, the Chinese Bible and one of our Chinese books for her to read. May the Holy Spirit continue the work of repentance in her heart.

Do uphold her in prayer in her spiritual growth as a young Christian and her post-surgery recovery. Pr Mok will follow up on this young believer. We have sent to her son some of our Chinese articles and gospel tract for her to read via his HP. Let us continue to share Christ when there is an opportunity as this is our church motto below.

*Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

Sis Grace Lai invited her brother to join us for the Chinese fellowship meeting last Sunday where he heard the Gospel. Pray for the salvation of Vincent as the Lord leads. **We commemorated the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Chinese ministry of SHBPC 2 weeks ago as it was started during the circuit breaker of the pandemic in April 2020 and has continued every Sunday**

with brethren from 3 countries till today and beyond.

May the Lord continue to use SHBPC as a Gospel witness for Him wherever He puts us and in the saving of souls in local and foreign missions by His enabling grace and strength.




Jack Sin

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LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR APRIL - JUNE 2023

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE OT FOR OUR LEARNING

MAY 2023		<b>14*</b>	The Marks of Awakening under a godly King (2 Kings 23:1-14)		MAY 2023
		<b>21</b>			
		<b>28</b>			
MAY 2023		<b>4</b>			JUNE 2023
		<b>11*</b>			
JUNE 2023		<b>18</b>			JUNE 2023
		<b>25</b>			
JUNE 2023					



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## Memory Verse

2 Kings 23:3 And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Marks of Awakening under a Godly King (2 Kings 23:1-14)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Significant Events in the OT for our Learning***".
3. Pastor will preach next Sunday on "***The Uncompromising Testimony of Daniel (Dan 1:1-21)***".
4. Sunday School classes after worship service:
  - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
  - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
  - Book of Acts – Pr Mok
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Basic Theology, and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551**]
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode:218178**]
7. The **Annual Church Camp** will be held at **Pulai Springs Resort (Johor Bahru, Malaysia), June 7-10, 2023**. Rev Philip Heng is our camp speaker "***Exercise unto Godliness in an Ungodly World***".
8. We need willing hands and hearts to assist in the weekly cleaning of the premises. Do let Dn Yue Kay if you are available to serve in this area.
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.

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