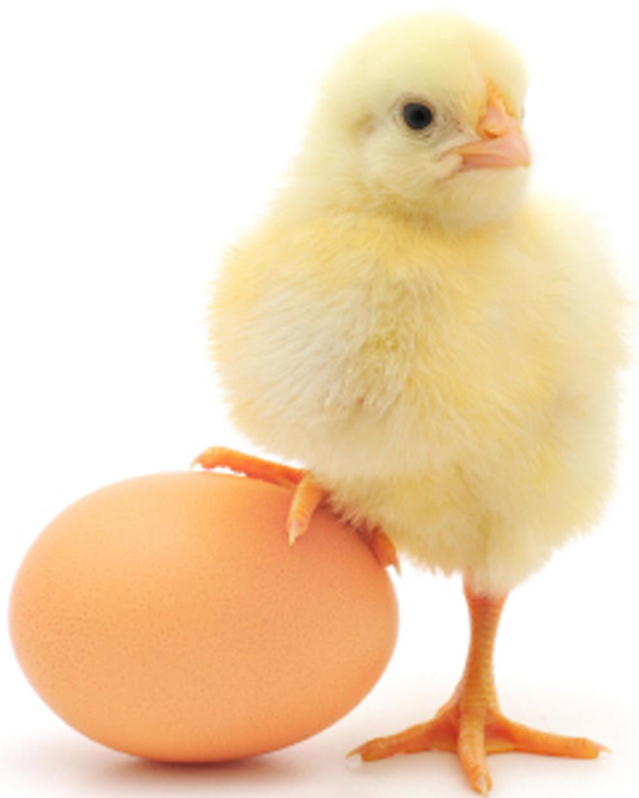


FROM A
NOBODY
TO A
SOMEBODY



RANDALL J. BREWER

This book is dedicated
to Lewis Berry with
whom I shared the most
meaningful spiritual
experience of my life.

**FROM A
NOBODY
TO A
SOMEBODY**

RANDALL J. BREWER

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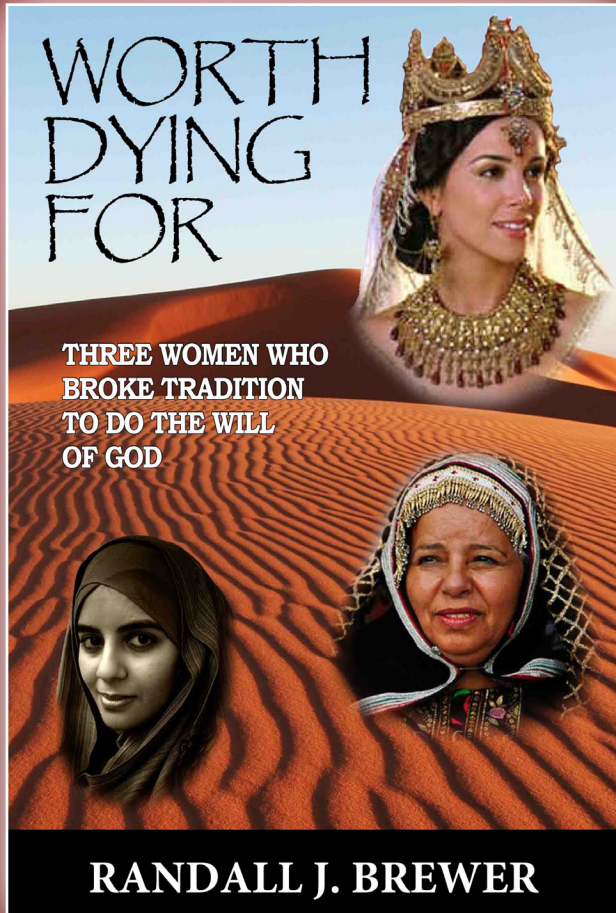
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ABOUT THE
WILL OF GOD THAT
A WOMAN OF FAITH
IS WILLING TO DIE FOR

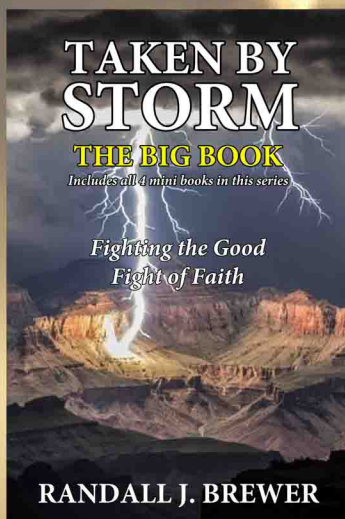
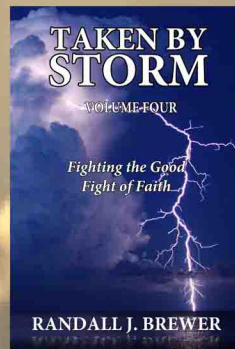
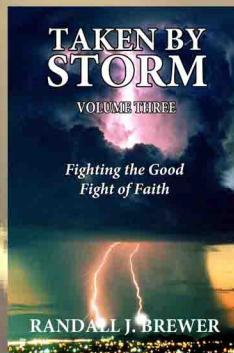
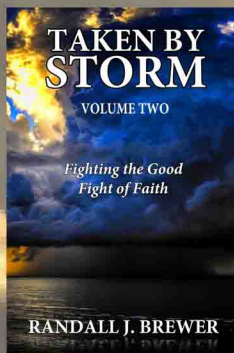
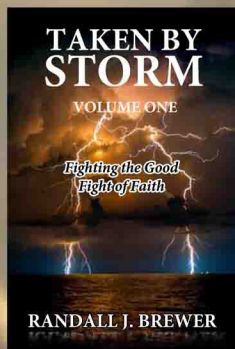


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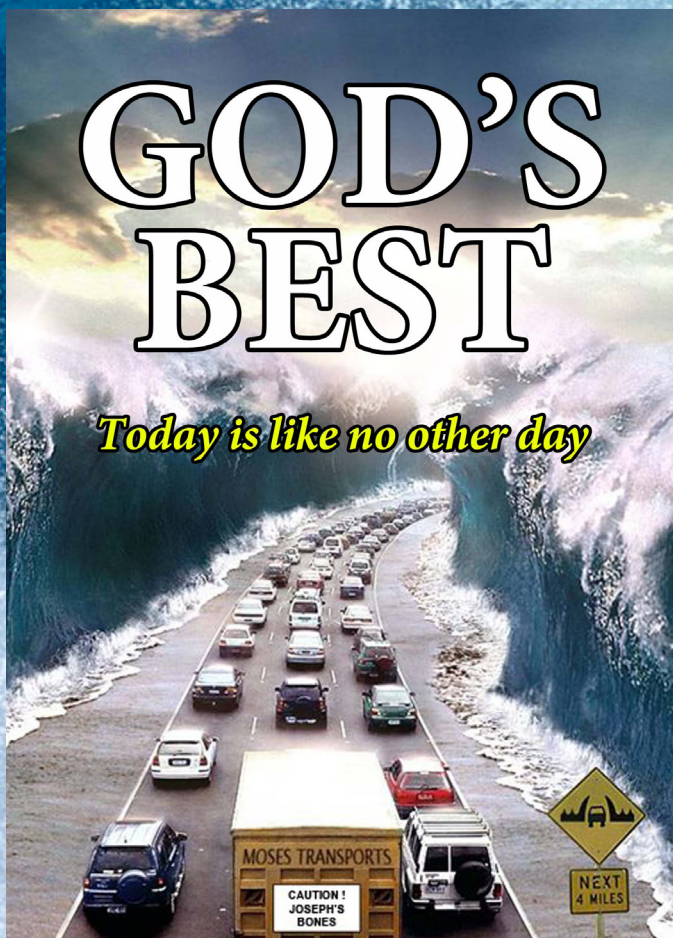


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LET THE WEAK SAY “I AM STRONG.”

JOEL 3:10

It is an amazing testimony to the love, patience, and never ending grace and mercy of our Heavenly Father, when we consider the up and down history of the nation of Israel as revealed in the scriptures.

Continually, the great God of the universe would bless and protect His chosen people from the oppression of their enemies, only to have them forget His loving kindness and return to their wicked ways. As a result of their treachery and the coldness of their sin, judgment would fall and backslidden Israel would be overtaken and enslaved by an enemy nation who would afflict and impoverish them.

After years of captivity, the children of Israel would cry out to God for mercy, and an anointed prophet or deliverer would be sent to rescue the people from the

jaws of destruction in which they were ensnared. Israel would be set free to enjoy a season of blessing, and before long they would again become complacent and indifferent and the whole process would begin all over again.

The story of Moses and the exodus from Egypt is one example of this rhythm of events. After the death of Moses a new leader named Joshua rose up and led the younger generation of Israelites into the Promised Land, where battles were fought and victories won.

Time passed and a season of peace and prosperity was enjoyed by all. Eventually Joshua and this generation were promoted by their passing on to the next life, and once again the people of Israel returned to the muck and mire of their evil ways. This is the setting for the Book of Judges, which re-



cords story after story about how God would send a judge to deliver and rule over His people.

In the midst of this continual cycle of rebellion and divine restoration, there arose a man by the name of Gideon, who in the span of a short period of time, went from being a *nobody to a somebody*. In his own eyes Gideon was a man of little strength but in the eyes of God he was “a mighty man of valor.” This is his story.

THE OPPRESSION

JUDGES 6:1-10

For forty years the nation of Israel had rest from their enemies, and as the new generation of people arose, the history of God’s wonderful dealings with their nation had become for them an ancient tradition.

As spiritual ignorance increased and their zeal for the things of God dwindled down to nothing, the people lost all regard for their Heavenly King, Whose provision had brought them the peace they now enjoyed. With reckless abandonment they cast

aside the laws of God and instead,

“Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” ^{Judges 21:25}.

No longer did they bow down and reverence the one true God Who had made covenant with their father Abraham. Instead they chose to commit all forms of worship to the sun god Baal, and this included the sacrifice of innocent children. Having departed from the covenant standards of conduct, the nation lost sight of it’s identity of being called God’s chosen people, and instead attached itself to the traditions, morals, and gods of the land of Canaan.

Throughout the Bible we are taught that there is a price to pay for sin ^{Rom. 6:23}, and for this corrupt generation it would be no different. Written within the law which the people had turned their backs on was this warning,

“Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways will be desolate. And if by these things

you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins. And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of My covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy” ^{Lev.26:21-25}.

The “sword” brought against the nation of Israel was a despicable band of people called the Midianites who were more than qualified

to bring into manifestation the words of Heb. 10:31,

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

The Midianites were a ruthless multitude of desert dwelling renegades whose ancestry dates back to the birth of a son to Abraham through his second wife, Keturah ^{Gen. 25:2}. They grew to be a nation south of Edom and north of the Gulf of Aqaba, and it was Midianite merchants who joined

with the caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead who bought Joseph from his brothers and carried him to Egypt ^{Gen. 37:25,28}.

Moses later took shelter with a tribe of Midianites when he fled from Pharaoh in Egypt and eventually married a daughter of a Midian priest named Jethro ^{Ex. 2:15-21}. Midianites joined with the descendants of Moab in hiring Balaam to curse the Israelites, and

afterward seduced the people to idolatry and licentiousness ^{Num. 22:4-6; 25:1-18}.

Midianite women later seduced the men of Israel ^{Num. 25:6-18; 31:1-18}, and

a religious war broke out when Moses was directed to kill the five kings of Midian along with all the male population of the district and the married women.

From this time on enmity prevailed between the two races, and with the passage of nearly two hundred years the remaining remnant of the Midianite people became so multiplied and powerful that they were capable of being a threat to any nation. And it was



this undisciplined mob of uncultivated and unintelligent nomads that came forth to make war on the children of Israel for once again turning their back on God.

As Deut. 32:20,21 so clearly states,

“And He said, ‘I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faith. They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those that are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.”

In Genesis 13:16, God promised Abraham that He would increase his descendants as the dust of the earth, but the sin of Israel subsequently stunted their growth and diminished their effectiveness against their enemies. Interestingly, the Midianites, though inferior to Israel in every way, was able to come in and overpower the land because of the vastness of their multitude.

These were not skilled warriors trained in the art of war as were the armies of Rome. Nowhere do we read of any king or

general having lordship over this invading force, because all they were was a caucus of wandering robbers whose strength was in their numbers.

The Midianites did not come to engage Israel in a military battle in the field, but instead as a confused swarm of locusts they came to plunder the country of its produce and livestock.

Judges 6:3-5 describes the destruction that took place,

“So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amelekites and the people of the east would come up against them. Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it.”

In typical nomad fashion, the Midianites settled in the land using it as pasture for their herds and flocks and would take its produce for themselves. For seven years the Midianites allowed the

people of Israel to plow their land and sow their seed only to come in at harvest time and seize it all. For years the Israelites had neglected to honor God with the first fruits of their substance and chose instead to give to Baal that which rightfully belonged to God.

Now that God had forsaken them, others were able to come in and reap that which the Israelites had sown for themselves. And Israel, being separated by sin from their God, had not the heart or spirit to resist the invasion, thus making them powerless against the much inferior Midianites. A heart that departs from God is lost, and Israel overcome with fear, resorted to imprisoning themselves in dens, caves, and mountain retreats as places of refuge.

For seven long, grueling years the Israelites suffered at the hands of the Midianites, and being deprived of all means of survival they finally cried out to God for help. Even more sad is that no where in their desperate plea was there even a hint of sorrow for

their life of sin. Nor was there any promise given of repentance and returning back to God the lordship of their lives. It was for the sole purpose of survival that they even considered calling out to God for His intervention.

Our God is a merciful God, but at the same time He is a just and holy God. He is always willing to bless those who call out to Him, but before deliverance could come

to the children of Israel they first had to be convicted of their sin. Thus was sent to them an unnamed prophet whose message is recorded in

It is an undeniable shame how bad things have to get before some people will turn loose of their ignorance and pride, and call out to God for His divine protection and provision.

Judges 6:8-10,

“Thus says the Lord God of Israel:

‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. Also I said to you, “I am the Lord you God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose

land you dwell. But you have not obeyed my voice.””

The errand of this prophet was to get the people to stop complaining of their troubles and instead, with sorrow and shame, be convicted of their sin and cry out for God’s forgiveness. The Lord wanted true repentance from the people, because of Who He was and not because of a future benefit for themselves.

For this reason no promise of a deliverer was given as the man of God went from one encampment to another proclaiming the same message.

He begins by attacking their idolatry by saying his words were from the “Lord God of Israel.” They had forsaken the one, true God and to Him they must return. Through this prophet the Lord rebuked Israel for forgetting His past faithfulness and goodness when He saved their ancestors from Egyptian bondage and had given them the land in which they now dwelt.

The Bible says that “the goodness of God leads a man to repentance” ^{Rom. 2:4}, and because the people still clung to their evil ways the prophet next gives them a stern rebuke from God, “But you have not obeyed My voice”

Judges 6:10.

The charge is short and to the point. It was the continual sin of disobedience that had brought these calamities upon them under which they were now groaning in despair. This unnamed prophet was sent to instruct the people and make them ready for repentance. It was only fitting that their sorrow over their wayward actions should result in true, heartfelt repentance. Then, and only then, could a savior be raised up to deliver the people from their bondage and oppression.

THE CALL

JUDGES 6:11-16

At the time of the Midianite oppression, there lived in the city of Ophrah a man named Joash the Abiezrite. In this village west of the Jordan River Joash had succumbed to the evil traditions of his fellow tribesmen and had built a sacred shrine and altar where the people came to worship the sun god Baal instead of the One Who had created the sun, as well as the heavens and all

the earth.

Joash was head of one of the smallest families in the half tribe of Manasseh and had suffered much pain and heartache when all of his sons were killed in the upheaval. All, that is, except the youngest. His name was Gideon. Along with the rest of the nation, Gideon was living on the edge of despair. In so much fear was he that he was driven to thresh wheat in a deserted winepress in order to hide it from the Midianites.

N o r -
mally, thresh-
ing wheat
was done in
an exposed
area near the
harvest field



where a stone slab was pulled over the grain by a yoke of oxen. This was done until the kernel had been separated from the ear with only the straw chaff remaining. Gideon, however, was flailing the grain with a stick which was both inefficient and time consuming.

Within the confines of a wine press, the quantity of wheat he could beat out in a single day would be barely enough to meet the needs of his own household. Threshing wheat by hand

was an act of desperation, as this righteous man also felt the painful impoverishment and common calamity caused by the Midianite oppression.

As sweat ran down his brow, Gideon was all alone, because he would not submit to and comply with the idolatrous rituals of those around him. For this he was considered an outcast which made him the perfect candidate to be the deliverer of God's now repentant people.

In the New Testament Paul gives a detailed yet unlikely description of the person God takes delight in using to fulfill His will and purpose here on earth. We read in 1 Cor. 1:26-28 these words,

“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things

of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen...”

According to Paul, God delights in choosing people who are not highly educated or gifted with special insight and enlightenment, according to worldly standards. Rarely does He call those who are from the high class of society, but instead chooses those from a normal, average background.

Elisha was a farmer, while Moses and David were both shepherds. Paul says God uses the “base things of the world.” These are people who the world will never recognize. God calls those who are considered insignificant and despised by the world. Is. 53:3 tells us that even Jesus was “despised and rejected by men.” Whom the world rejects and throws away, God will use.

A better and more detailed rendering of what Paul is saying to the Corinthian church is this,

“For you see your calling, brothers, how not many of you were especially bright, educated, or enlightened ac-

cording to the world’s standards. Not many of you were impressive. Not many of you came from high-ranking families or from the upper crust of society. Instead, God selected people who are idiots in the world’s view; yet God is using them to utterly confound those who seem smart in the world’s eyes. God has picked out people who are laughable; yet through them, He is confounding those who think

they are high and mighty. Low-class, second-rate, common, average. These are the ones whom God

has chosen...”

The word “chosen” is a compound word which literally means, “Out! I say!” God says to come “Out!” from the world, and when we do we immediately become what Peter describes in 1 Peter 2:9,10,

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His

Movie stars, stock brokers, bankers, and those of high prestige and royalty are almost never called to be used by God.

marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God...”

Considered a social reject and outcast by those who worshiped Baal, Gideon was about to go from being a nobody to a somebody. But first he had to have an encounter with God.

There is not one person in the Bible that God ever used without first giving them an encounter with Himself. Paul had an encounter with God on the road to Damascus, just as Moses did at the burning bush. The New Testament church was birthed in the upper room, when those present had an encounter with the Holy Spirit. Gideon’s encounter with God came when he was threshing wheat alone in the winepress with his thoughts focused on the miraculous deeds which his God had performed in the past.

It is important that Gideon was working in obscurity, for God often manifests Himself to His people when they are out of the noise and hurry of the world around them. Moses, for example, was on the back side of the desert when he had his encounter with God. Silence and solitude will remove from us all distractions and will make us more sensitive to

hearing the voice of God.

One day a strange visitor came to Gideon as he strived to meet the needs of his family. The message to Israel came from an unnamed prophet, but the call to Gideon came from the Angel of the Lord which, in fact, was a physical manifestation of God Himself. From threshing wheat Gideon was about to be called to thresh the Midianite stronghold.

“And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, ‘The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!’”

Judges 6:12.

In the natural Gideon was a long way from being a mighty man of valor. On the contrary, he was nothing more than an ordinary Israelite who had low self-esteem and was living in fear. But God saw Gideon’s heart and knew that he had potential for destiny and greatness.

Standing before Gideon was the One,

“Who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did” Rom. 4:17b.

There is only one reason why Gideon could be called “a mighty man of valor!” The Lord was with

him! God plus one is a majority. Along with each encounter with God, there also comes the power to fulfill that for which one has been called. Paul said in Phil. 4:13,

“I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.”

Paul prayed that his readers would be able to comprehend ,

“What is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power” Eph. 1:19 .

With the Lord on his side Gideon could not fail, and his future exploits as a “mighty man of valor” earned him the distinction of being listed as a hero in the Heb. 11 “Hall of Fame” of faith.

His God-given destiny was later recorded in Heb. 11:34b as one of those who,

“Out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”

Gideon’s first response to the bold proclamation just awarded him indicates that he did not know with certainty Who his guest actually was. Instead, he supposed Him to be a prophet much like the unnamed prophet who had just recently moved about the Israeli camp.

Gideon’s inability to recognize his guest is not surprising, because many of his forefathers such as Abraham ^{Gen. 18:1-21} , Jacob ^{Gen. 32:24-32} , Moses ^{Ex. 3:2} , and Joshua ^{Joshua 5:13-15} , all had similar encounters and difficulties.

What Gideon did do, however, was give a response that validated his ability to be a leader for God.

“And Gideon said to Him, ‘O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us?’”

Gideon did not dispute or deny the Lord’s claim that he was a mighty man of valor. What he did do, however, is associate himself with his people, which is the first and most important quality of being a leader. Moses did this

*In a short period of time
Gideon went from being a zero
to a hero. The power of God
turned Gideon from a
NOBODY TO A SOMEBODY.*

and in Heb. 11:24,25 we read,

“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”

The Lord Jesus also associated Himself with His people. He left the high domain of heaven and,

“Made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men” Heb. 2:7.

The first thing the Angel told Gideon was “The Lord is with YOU!” to which he responded, “If the Lord is with US, why then has all this happened to US?” Gideon’s reply identified himself with his people, and this is one of the most vital ingredients that will guarantee the success of any leader.

The Lord did not argue with Gideon, nor did He answer his question which was already answered in the message of the unnamed prophet. All He said was,

“Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man” Judges 6:16.

The Lord’s response was

clear. God plus one is a majority! For now that was all Gideon had to know.

THE SIGN JUDGES 6:17-24

Considering the magnitude of the task he was commissioned to perform, it is a credit to Gideon that he did not turn his back on his guest and refuse to listen to another word.

Having familiarized himself with the work God did in delivering His people from the bondage of Egypt ^{v. 13}, Gideon knew that those things which are impossible with man, are possible with God Matt. 19:26.

He also knew that when God commissioned Moses at the burning bush, signs were given as confirmation and assurance that He would be with him in his undertaking ^{Ex. 4:1-17}. Gideon, therefore, did not concern himself with the work he was called to do, but instead devoted his response to the assurance that the presence of the Lord was indeed with him.

“Then he said to Him, ‘If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You Who talk to me’”^{Judges 6:17}.

In the back of his mind Gideon was beginning to get a revelation of Who his guest actually was, because before a response could be given, these words were being spoken from his heart,

“Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You”

v. 18a

Gideon knew that meat offerings should only be made to the one true God

and it is a testimony to Gideon’s faith that he offered his guest the one thing that he was in short supply of. Gideon could do this without hesitation.

The patience of God toward His people is also evident when He responded to Gideon’s request,

“I will wait until you come back”^{v. 18b}.

Having received these words of assurance, Gideon departed to prepare the offering which for him would also become the sign for which he was asking.

“Then Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. The Angel of God said to him, ‘Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.’ And he did so. Then the Angel of the Lord

put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleav-

ened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight”

Judges 6: 19-21

Gideon was looking for a sign of confirmation, but instead was given a sign of instruction. God used Gideon’s offering to show him the first thing that needs to be done when one discovers and agrees to fulfill the calling of God on their life.

In the Bible, there is nothing that is meaningless and with-

Gideon knew from past history lessons that when you give your all to God, [God] will give His all to you.

out truth. Gideon's meat offering represents the fleshly, carnal nature of man and unleavened bread is always symbolic of sin. Is. 65:4 tells us that broth is a symbol of abomination and iniquity, and denotes anything that is demonic and evil. And of course the rock is one of the many names given to define the solid, unchangeable character of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To go from being a nobody to a somebody one must be diligent to lay their carnal nature on Jesus and pour out all demonic activity from their life. When this happens, the cleansing fire of sanctification will rise up and consume all your carnality and sin thus making you ready for service in and for His kingdom.

We must understand that God is not going to use just anybody. Only those who are willing to pay the price to get habitual sin out of their life are counted worthy to be used by God in fulfilling His purpose on earth. This Gideon was about to do.



Peace had come to Gideon, because he knew the Lord was with him, and as he slept that night the Lord once again came to him with these important instructions,

“Take your father’s young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; and build an altar to the Lord your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image you shall cut down” *Judges 6:25,26*.

Gideon’s first task as the Lord’s warrior was to tear down an altar to Baal and kill his father’s bull. The word “Baal” means ‘lord, master, possessor, husband’ and was believed to be a god who gave fertility to the womb and life-giving rain to the soil. He was pictured as standing on a bull which is a symbol of fertility and strength.

Since idolatry was the prevailing sin of Israel, Gideon was commanded to show his loyalty to God by first bringing reformation to his father’s house, who was a ring-leader in the worship of this

false god (see 1 Tim. 3:4,5). What he had to do was destroy an ancestral bondage from the past that had brought with it a generational curse to his family. Like Christ, he first had to save his people from their sin before he could save them from their enemies.

The Bible teaches that curses are transmitted from generation to generation ^{Ex. 34:7}, and the past sins of your forefathers can frustrate

God's plan for your life.

Gen. 9:20-27 tells the story of the beginning of a family curse. After the great flood, Noah became a farmer and planted a vineyard. One day he got drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.

His son Ham walked in and saw his father's nakedness and went and told his two brothers who immediately took a garment and walking backwards covered the exposed body of their father. When Noah awoke and discovered what his younger son had done, he promptly placed a curse not on Ham, but on Ham's son, Canaan.

Prov. 26:2 says that there is

a cause for every curse, and the example of Canaan shows that inheritance is one type of curse.

Satan wants you enslaved to the past and oftentimes diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease can be inherited from relatives who lived in times past. Violent behavior, divorce, and alcoholism are other examples of curses passed down through the ages.



One of the many faces
of Baal.

The past has the power to imprison each and every one of us, even though we may not be the ones responsible for the curse. Gideon, for example, was not responsible for

the curse on his family and nation. Sad but true is the fact that many people's futures are controlled by their past. The past holds many people in bondage and is a roadblock to the fulfillment of their call in life.

Lot's wife looked back to Sodom and Gomorrah, and the children of Israel looked back to Egypt. God is not interested in where you've been, but rather where you're going. Break out of

the prison of your past, or else you will forfeit the blessings of the future. What Gideon was about to do shows that you must bury your past or your past will bury you.

Gideon was now a “mighty man of valor,” and a fierce and passionate fervor, an all consuming zeal, rose up in his heart as he immediately set out to obey the orders just given him.

Zeal is a weapon used in warfare and it creates in you a deep desire and willingness to be used by God to help destroy the works of the enemy. Zeal births in you an intense enthusiasm and eagerness to do what is good, and it gives you the confidence to boldly complete what you begin.

The Lord is a warrior, and zeal was an expression of Gideon’s faith in God as his supreme military commander. Since faith is an action, so then must zeal lead mighty men of valor to action.

“So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the Lord had said to him” *Judges 6:27a*.

A restless, flame-like emotion derived from an intense devotion to his assignment, compelled Gideon to display vigorous and untiring activity in it’s sup-

port and fulfillment.

Verse 27 continues,

“But because he feared his father’s household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.”

The swiftness in which Gideon applied himself to the execution of his assignment demonstrates that he did not fear those opposed to his actions nor their resentment when they discovered what he had done. What he did fear, however, was their intervention and to prevent their resistance he prudently chose to do it at night.

Gideon and his men obeyed God and tore down the altar to Baal and the wooden image that was beside it. He also killed his father’s bull thus breaking the curse described in Exodus 20:1-5. That night two bulls were offered as a burnt sacrifice to God, one for himself and the latter for the sins of the people. It was a prerequisite that peace be made with God before war could be made on the Midianites. Until sin is pardoned, no good can be expected.

Deut. 27 and 28 lists the promised blessings for those who walk in obedience to God’s Word, and the curses that accompany

disobedience. Disobedience and lawlessness is what brings forth a curse, and any time there is a curse in a person's life, there is some root of sin somewhere in their present or past.

To be set free you must break the curse at the roots by crossing over the bridge of forgiveness. Begin by the confession of your sin, your father's sin, and your forefather's sin, both known and unknown. To forgive means "to lose out of mind." You must forget those things from the past, because you cannot walk forward with God while your head is turned backward. Paul says,

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things become new" ^{2 Cor. 5:17}.

You must forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are ahead ^{Phil. 3:13}.

By dying on Calvary's tree, Jesus took upon Himself the curse of the law ^{Gal. 3:13}, and it is our responsibility to appropriate this

blessing into our own personal lives.

When you are born naturally you have no past, and so it is when you spiritually get born-again. Your past is gone forever, and when God looks at your past He sees Jesus hanging on the cross. Your past mistakes and failures and those of your forefathers is what Jesus died for. He dies to set you free from the snare of a sinful past and He once said,

"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" ^{John 8:36}.

Be like Gideon and tear down the idols in your life

and destroy the strongholds that have you bound. Command every evil presence to flee and guard your heart and soul lest sin enter in. Take your past to the foot of the cross and leave it there, because you will never become what you're supposed to become if you don't forget the former things.

Gideon was a man of action and by killing his father's bull he became a mighty man of valor and took on the characteristics of his destiny.

Curses come from practicing heavy sin, and it gets stronger as it passes through each generation.

To go from being a nobody
to a somebody you must do the
same.



All of us at **Randal Brewer Ministries, Inc.** hope you are enjoying and growing from our publications. It is a blessing for us to provide you with the enrichment of God's Word and His teachings, that help to grow and mature Believers into strong and triumphant Christians.

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Thank you!

–Randall J. Brewer

FROM A NOBODY TO A SOMEBODY

RANDALL J. BREWER has been faithfully serving the Lord since the day he first bowed his knees before Him in the summer of 1974.

Since that time Randall has stepped through every door that the Lord has opened for him and over time he has been involved with a children's ministry, a teenage street ministry, and has led a Christian singles ministry. He has been involved with an outreach to those in prison and many inmates have been blessed as the result of his efforts.

Randall has also managed a church bookstore, has been the substitute host of a three hour Christian radio program, and has taught Bible classes at church and hosted many home cell groups.

Recently the Lord had him write the eye opening story "Heaven: The Great Adventure" with the promise that it would open doors all over the world, giving those who read the message the incentive to grow closer and stronger in their own personal walk with the Lord. Since the completion of this book, Randall's work has been translated into several languages, and invitations have come in to go and teach the world.



Randall and his beautiful wife Anne Marie have been bonded together by one God, with one love, for one purpose. They know firsthand the trials and pain that come with having a sincere desire to serve the Lord.

The result of going through many harsh battles is that the Lord has anointed them to lift up and exhort those who are also serving the Lord and going through similar circumstances.

Their mission in life is to encourage all believers to rise up in the midst of their adversity and become all they were meant to be in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. Their heartfelt prayer is that once you read this book, your life will never be the same.