



Ancient winepress in Israel

Gideon, Part 1 of 2

Summer Study Campout: July 13-16, 2016

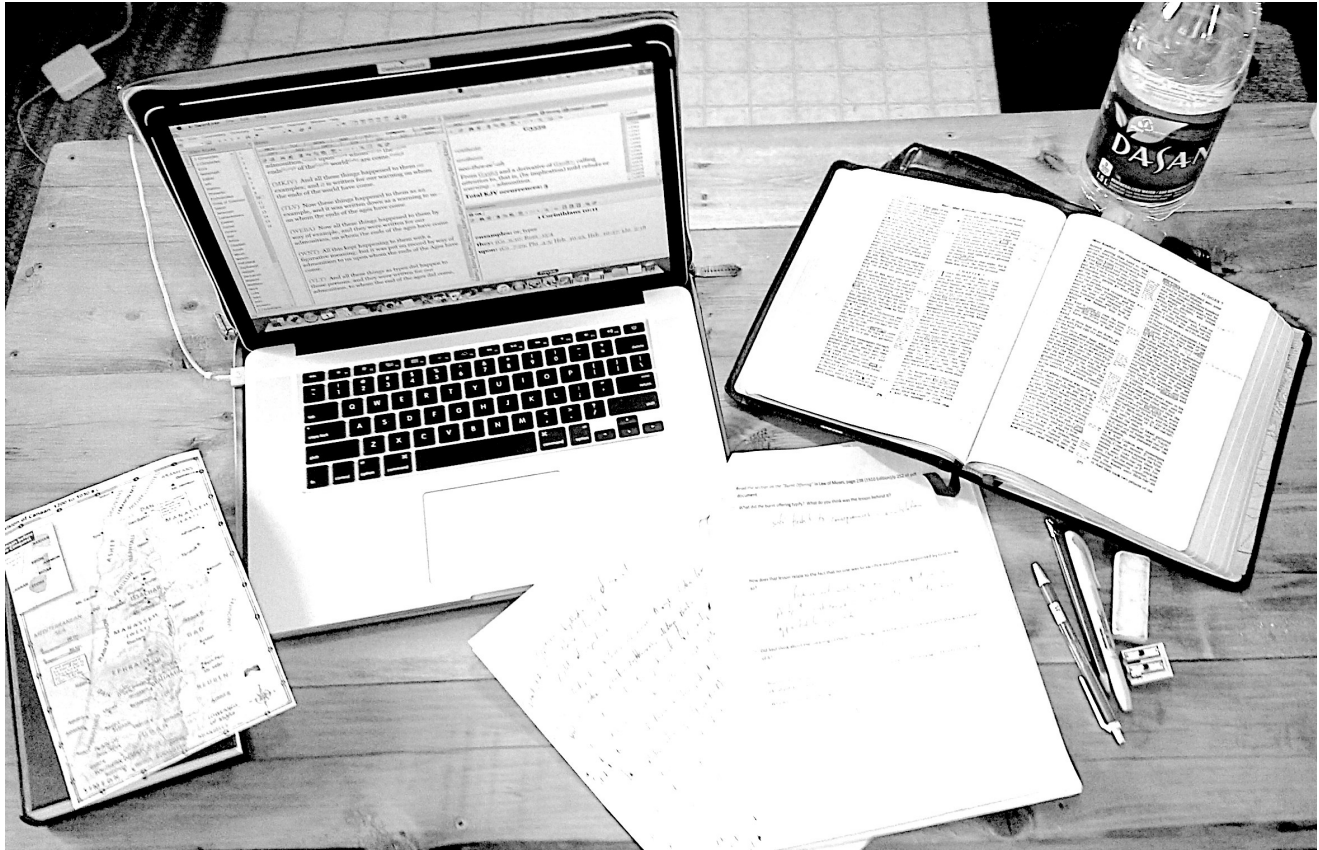
Due: July 3, 2016 (part 1 and 2)

RSVP by June 6, 2016 to glendonrhoades@gmail.com

NAME:



Ax of the style used in ancient Israel



A Recommended Study Setup. From right: Bible, pen/pencil/highlighter, workbook, scratch paper, laptop w/ e-sword, maps and other resource books.

WORKBOOK INFO

Objective

An in-depth study of the character Gideon.

Goals

- Develop stronger **Bible study habits**
- Become more effective in **use of study resources**
- Deepen understanding of the **lessons and principles** in the story of Gideon
- **Build relationships with others** around Bible study

Requirements

All parts of the workbook must be completed by the due date in order to attend. Note that the due date is 10 days *prior to* the start of the campout. If you feel you may not meet the due date, let the organizers know where you are in the workbook right away.

Resources You'll Need:

All resources are available in digital form from www.nevercease.org>resources

- **BIBLE**, preferably one with cross references and marginal notes. Space for notes beside the text is great, too. King James Version is preferable, with other versions to compare against.
- **Workbook, parts 1 & 2, printed.** Both can be downloaded at www.nevercease.org>study campout 2016. Part 1 is put out early, so that plenty of time can be given to the study. Part 2 will be put on the site about a month after part 1, God willing.
- Biblical resources:
 - **Strong's** concordance
 - ***ISBE** (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)
 - **TSK** (Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge)

*note that the **e-sword** software (free download) has Strong's, ISBE and TSK as modules. ISBE must be downloaded through the module downloader in e-sword. Click the "Download" menu, and select "Dictionaries". The "e-Sword Module Downloader" window should appear; select ISBE and anything else you'd like to add, then click the "Download" menu at the top of this window and select "Start".

- **Maps of Israel** during the time of the judges (see first two pages)
 - **Law of Moses**, Robert Roberts
 - **Eureka**, Vol 1-3, John Thomas
 - **Elpis Israel**, John Thomas
- } .pdf files at nevercease.org>resources>digital library

STUDY SETUP

*This is a large study; it will take lots of time to work through. If you have a good study setup, you'll make good progress, and learn lots with the time you put in. If you have a poor setup, **you may spend 3 or 4 times as long on the study, and still not learn as much** as if you'd used a good setup. Get a good setup and you'll learn more, enjoy it more, and waste less time.*

Use a print Bible, and have it open to the story of Gideon. Having a Bible as part of your workspace means that you can easily glance back at any passage in the story with a turn of the head. Using a digital Bible on the same device you are using for research limits your ability to do this.

Use a laptop (or at least a tablet) for e-sword. Small devices like cell phones are great for convenience and portability, but when you sit down to do a serious study, set it aside and use a laptop or desktop computer if you can. I find looking things up on a laptop about **3 times** as effective as looking them up on a phone, because you can see the passage in question, TSK, ISBE and Strong's *all at the same time*, without losing your place between screens. Less confusion=better study.

Keep other resources handy. Keep your workbook, a good map, scratch paper, and other books you are using for resource close by, so that you can easily look things up without losing your train of thought.

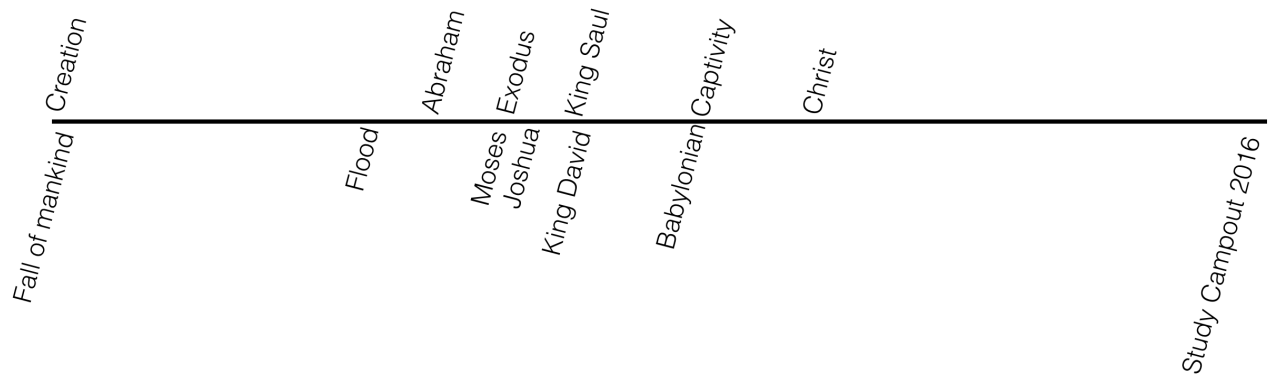
HELP

The best thing you can do is **start early**. If you start early, and find you're having trouble, you have time to get help, and time to overcome learning curves. This is a challenging workbook, and a big study - particularly if it's the first time you've done serious Bible study. Don't be intimidated, but give yourself plenty of time, and I'll be happy to help you with difficulties that arise. Email me with questions or issues and I'll try to answer them or we'll set up a time to talk online or by phone. *Don't wait until the last second to ask for help!*

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SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

Read Judges 2:6-23 carefully. Familiarize yourself with the general events of Judges 1-5. These chapters provide the context for the story of Gideon, particularly the passage in Judges 2.



1.1 Where does this story fall in the history of the Bible? Draw an arrow in the appropriate place on the timeline above.

1.2 What law was Israel under at this time?

1.3 Was the temple built yet?

1.4 Did Israel have a king at this time?

1.5 ¹What are the 3 parts of the cycle described in Judges 2?

¹hint: see vs 12-16

1.6 In Judges 2, why does it say God didn't continue to drive out nations in Israel's territory?

1.7 List the judges of Israel from Judges 1-5. Who did each deliver Israel from?

Judge	Nation delivered
Joshua	Major nations of Canaan

Extra Notes:

Read Judges 6-8. You may listen to the chapters if you'd rather. The idea is to gain a grasp of the overall story, before looking at parts in detail.

1.8 With Bible closed, list the events of the chapter in order, with as much detail as you can. Leave a space between each event (you may want to use pencil).

1.9 Now go back to your Bible and fill in the events that you had forgotten, so that you have all the major events listed in order.

SECTION 2: ISRAEL'S OPPRESSION

2.1 Read carefully Judges 6:1-10. As you read, make notes of interesting points or things you'd like to look up.

2.2 Where in the cycle of Sin/Oppression/Deliverance is Israel as the story opens?

2.3 Who is the oppressor? What is the history of this nation? Do we know their ancestry from any other part of scripture? Note any other interesting facts you find about the nation

2.4 What does Midian mean? Is this applicable to them as a people?

2.5 How long did Midian oppress Israel?

2.6 How is this number used in scriptures? Note examples.

2.7 How did Midian oppress Israel? Was this typical warfare?

2.8 What did Israel do to save themselves from the Midianites?

2.9 Were these defences effective? Did they solve the problem of oppression by Midian?

2.10 Who were the Amalekites?

2.11 Who were the “children of the east” (v3)?

2.12 Where is Gaza? (mark it on the map)

2.13 There is a transition in verse 6 from oppression to the beginning of deliverance. What brings about God’s intervention?

2.14 How does God respond to Israel’s cries?

2.15 Does the prophet deliver Israel? If not, what *does* he do?

2.16 Scripturally, does deliverance from God depend on our repentance (turning away) from sin?

2.17 ²Who does Christ say was the *greatest* prophet?

2.18 What did John preach? What was his purpose according to Christ? note verses

2.19 In Judges 6, how does the prophet seek to turn Israel back to God? What does he remind them of?

2.20 Does this explain to Israel why God has allowed them to come to such a terrible position? Does it answer the question Gideon has been wrestling with in vs 13?

²hint: see Luke 7, middle of chapter

2.21 ³Can you find any verses in scripture that indicate that the story of Gideon and the victory over Midian applies to us, or is a type? How does it apply?

You may want to add to this answer as you look at cross-references in Judges 6-7

³ hint: search for "Midian"

2.22 Looking back at the summary of events from question 1.8/1.9, and considering what you've read and studied so far, do you see any types becoming apparent? Make a note of any ideas you have so far, and any verses or passages related to them. This can be revised as we get further along in the study.

2.23 How about major lessons, so far? Make a note of ideas you have at this point. Again, this can be revised as we get further along.

2.24 Lastly, re-read the section and look back at your notes from reading earlier (Q2.1). Have you explored everything you wanted to consider? If not, it's a good time to look into them, and note findings below. (These may be good discussion points since they aren't in the workbook explicitly.)

SECTION 3: GIDEON'S CALL & *YAHWEH-SHALOM*

3.1 Read carefully Judges 6:11-24. As you read, make notes of interesting points or things you'd like to look up.

3.2 Returning to vs 11, "There came an angel of the Lord,". What is the significance of this phrase? Think about what angels are, what they do, why this angel came, and what other events in scripture this might make you think of. List your thoughts below.

3.3 In vs 11, the angel “sat under an oak”

a) ⁴What is the original word for oak?

b) What is the meaning of the original word?

c) ⁵Where else in scripture is this word found?

d) Can you see any significance to the scriptures telling us this angel “sat under an oak”?

⁴Use Strong’s concordance to look up the word and find the word’s number, e.g. “424 (Hebrew)” for this passage. Then look up the number in the Strong’s Hebrew/Chaldee dictionary at the back to get the original word and meaning, e.g. “*êlâh* (ay-law’) Feminine of [H352](#); an oak or other strong tree: - elm, oak, teil tree”.

If you have downloaded e-sword (free download; www.nevercease.org/resources), use the KJV+ translation, and simply click on green numbers above the word. The Strong’s number, original word, and definition show in the Dictionaries window.

For more help, search for e-sword tutorials or email glendonrhoades@gmail.com.

⁵ Using e-sword, select the KJV+ translation. Then right-click the Strong’s number above the word you’re interested in and click “search”, or type the number into the search window (binoculars icon brings up the search window). Note that you must have KJV+ selected to search for original words. Searching for an original word may also be done using a [Young’s concordance](#).

3.4 a) Where is Ophrah?

b) What does the word “Ophrah” mean in Hebrew?

3.5 a) What does Joash mean?

b) How was Joash related to Gideon?

3.6 What is an Abiezrite?

3.7 Do you find it odd or significant how Gideon is introduced here? If so, why?

3.8 What does Gideon mean?

3.9 What was Gideon doing here? Explain in everyday terms.

3.10 What do most translations⁶ have for the phrase “by the winepress”?

⁶ After downloading e-sword, you can download extra translations of the Bible by clicking the “Download” menu at the top, and selecting “Bibles” (see pg iii).

3.11 The KJV has “to hide it from the Midianites.” What do you think this phrase should indicate to us that Gideon was doing?

3.12 What can you find about ancient winepresses in the middle east? How were they built; what did they consist of; how were they used; how could Gideon hide in one and in what part would he hide?⁷

3.13 Does the angel’s greeting to Gideon parallel other instances in the Bible? What other instances?

⁷ You may find the cover photo on page 1 useful.

3.14 Why would the angel call Gideon a “mighty man of valour” (v.12)?

3.15 Is there a relation between the Hebrew for “mighty man” and the name “Gideon”, do you think?

3.16 What is Gideon struggling with in v13?

3.17 ⁸What is the answer to this dilemma?

3.18 Was Gideon familiar with the history of God and Israel?

3.19 Do you think, then, that Gideon knew Israel's relation to God as a nation? What is that relation?

⁸ Review Q2.20

3.20 ⁹What are the things that constitute a kingdom?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

3.21 How did these things relate to Israel as God's kingdom?

3.22 What does God make Gideon to Israel in v14?

3.23 God says, "Have not I sent thee?" Who does the New Testament refer to similarly? Note verses as examples.

⁹ You may find *Elpis Israel* by John Thomas helpful. See the section titled "The Twelve Tribes Constituted The Kingdom Of God" (p309 in the Logos Edition).

3.24 What can we learn from Gideon's response in v15?

3.25 Do you find this consistent with what we read about Gideon's family in vs 25-28?

3.26 Gideon mentions his family "in Manasseh". Was he in the land of Manasseh, now?

3.27 The Lord says that because He's with Gideon, he will smite the Midianites "as one man". Where else in scripture do we find a similar phrase related to a victory? To Christ's victory?

3.27B **(Bonus Question!)** In Isa 63:1-3, we have a picture of Israel's deliverer coming in, and the popular question about him "Who is this that comes from Edom?" etc. The answer is "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me." etc. Who does this include (treading the winepress alone), and how? and when does this event occur?

3.28 Gideon asks for a sign. What is significant about the way he starts his request, "If now I have found grace in thy sight,"?

3.29 Compare this to others in scripture who asked for a sign.

3.30 What was the sign, do you think?

3.31 What did Gideon's sacrifice consist of?

3.32 What is an ephah?

3.33 ¹⁰Does this align with the sacrifices under the law of Moses?

3.34 How did Gideon bring it? Look into the things used.

3.35 How does the angel instruct the offering to be made?

¹⁰ You may find "The Law of Moses" by Robert Roberts helpful. p76-78 and p227-245

3.36 Is this consistent with the connection you made to a sacrifice under the law?

3.37 The angel refers to “this rock” vs. 20. What is the original word and meaning?

3.38 Is this the same “rock” as in vs 21? What is the original word and meaning there?

3.39 Why might there be two different rocks in the winepress?

3.40 Where else are these words used for rock that might be significant?

3.41 What might be the parallel between the rocks in Gideon's story and that of the Exodus or that of Manoah's sacrifice? ¹¹Think about and look for what those rocks represented

3.42 The angel has a staff in v21. What does the staff indicate to us, and why would the angel use one here?

¹¹ hint: The New Testament tells us exactly what the rock "they drank of" was.

3.43 What might the fire coming out of the (tsur) rock point to?

3.44 Why would God have given this as a sign to Gideon that He talked with him?

3.45 Why is Gideon afraid about seeing an angel “face to face” (vs 22)? Indicate cross references.

3.46 What is the meaning of the name of the altar? (note that *Jehovah* is a different pronunciation of the name *Yahweh*)

3.47 Why do you think Gideon called the altar *Yahweh-Shalom*?

3.48 What was this altar made of? Indicate cross reference.

3.49 Can we be sure the oak under which the angel sat, the winepress stones, and Gideon's original offering place are all in the same location?

3.50 Looking back at the summary of events from question 1.8/1.9, and considering what you've read and studied so far, do you see any types becoming apparent? Make a note of any ideas you have so far, and any verses or passages related to them. This can be revised as we get further along in the study.

3.51 How about major lessons, so far? Make a note of ideas you have at this point. Again, this can be revised as we get further along.

3.52 Lastly, re-read the section and look back at your notes from reading earlier (Q3.1). Have you explored everything you wanted to consider? If not, it's a good time to look into them, and note findings below. (These may be good discussion points since they aren't in the workbook explicitly.)

SECTION 4: JERUBBAAL (“LET BAAL PLEAD”)

4.1 Read carefully Judges 6:25-32. As you read, make notes of interesting points or things you’d like to look up.

4.2 When do the events of vs 25-32 occur?

4.3 How many bullocks were involved?

4.4 Where else do scriptures speak of throwing down altars and cutting down groves?

4.5 Whose gods were being worshipped by Israel (what nation)?

4.6 Why might the age of the bullock be significant?

4.7 Who owned the altar? Who used it?

4.8 Who owned the bullocks used?

4.9 What was the grove?

4.10 What sort of practices do you suppose would have been linked with Asherah worship?

4.11 What was done with the grove (two things)?

4.12 What does the phrase “in the ordered place” mean?

4.13 What kind of sacrifice was this?

4.14 What does this sacrifice signify?

4.15 How many altars have been referred to in connection with Gideon so far?

4.16 Where was the altar to be built?

4.17 Had Jerusalem been chosen by God for the place of worship, yet?

4.18 Would you consider “this rock” of vs 26 to be a ¹²“high place” in Israel?

4.19 Does the original word for rock in vs 26 match the original in vs 20 or vs 21?

4.20 What is the original word and meaning for “rock” in vs 26?

4.21 Who did Gideon fear?

4.22 What does this indicate about these men?

4.23 How many servants does Gideon take with him?

¹² hint: see 1 Sam 9:12-10:13 for use of “high places” before Jerusalem was chosen as the place for worship. See 1 Kings 11:17, 2 Kings 23:15, Ezekiel 6:13 for use of “high places” (also “high hill”) after Jerusalem was chosen.

4.24 What does the number of servants tell us?

4.25 ¹³Do the ten servants remind you of anything else in scripture? What can you find that is similar?

4.26 When do you think Gideon destroyed the idol worship and set up the altar?

4.27 When did the men of the city notice?

4.28 How else is this phrase used in scripture?

¹³ hint: Look in the parables of Christ.

4.29 What might be indicated by the use of this phrase concerning the men of the city?

4.30 ¹⁴How might the men of the city know that the “second bullock was offered”?

4.31 How does Gideon’s name relate to what he did that night?

4.32 If you substitute the meanings of the words in their place, how does the phrase read, “*Gideon* the son of *Joash* hath done this thing”?

¹⁴ hint: How long did the burnt offerings usually burn?

4.33 What was the condemnation of Gideon by the idolators?

4.34 Who saves Gideon from death?

4.35 What does "Jerubbaal" mean?

4.36 What types do you think are portrayed in this section?

4.37 If Gideon is the son of “Yahweh our Strength”, and the destroyer of false worship (i.e. Christ), who are the “men of the city” and “his father’s household” who are against Gideon (in type)?

4.38 In Revelations, what does “the city” signify in Rev 11:8, 13; 14:8, 20; 16:19 and ¹⁵17:18?

4.39 Who was Christ’s natural family, i.e. his father’s household?

4.40 Who was involved in Christ’s condemnation to death?

¹⁵ hint: this reference indicates what city is referred to. Sodom and Babylon were already destroyed when Revelation was written (about AD 93). What city ruled then?

4.41 Who delivered Christ from death?

4.42 What do the events in this passage (Jdg 6:25-32) teach about Christ?

4.43 Review your answer to question 3.50, and make any changes you feel necessary at this point.

4.44 Hopefully, the type between Gideon and Christ is becoming apparent. How about major lessons, so far? Make a note of ideas you have at this point. Again, this can be revised as we get further along.

4.45 Lastly, re-read the section and look back at your notes from reading this section of the story (Q4.1). Have you explored everything you wanted to consider? If not, it's a good time to look into them, and note findings below.

SECTION 5: THE DEW AND FLEECE

5.1 Read carefully **Judges 6:33-40**. As you read, make notes of interesting points or things you'd like to look up.

5.2 Who are listed as coming against Israel in v33?

5.3 Is this the same as the nations listed earlier?

5.4 Where did they camp?

5.5 What does this name mean?

5.6 Research this valley. Mark it on your map. What else happens here? Why might it be a significant place?

5.7 Can you find any tie between this valley and Armageddon?

5.8 In v34, Gideon blows a trumpet. What does this signal?

5.9 How else is the trumpet blast used in scripture, particularly the New Testament?

5.10 Who is Abiezer?

5.11 What do the names “Manasseh”, “Asher”, “Zebulun” and “Naphtali” mean?

5.12 What might the calling of Abiezer and the messengers to Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali represent to us?

5.13 Are the inhabitants of the area around Ophrah mentioned here?

5.14 What is the purpose of the dew and the fleece in the story?

5.15 What does Gideon need, that he's asking for in the dew and fleece?

5.16 *Young's Literal Translation* and the *Apostolic Bible Polygot* both have "**the** fleece" in vs 37. It mentions the "fleece" as if it is something we already know about. Where might this have come from?

5.17 ¹⁶What does dew represent in scripture? Give examples in verses.

5.18 How does John Thomas explain *dew* in ¹⁷Eureka Vol. 1, p139-142?

¹⁷ Page numbers are for the 1861 edition, available as a .pdf doc at [nevercease.org>resources>digital library](http://nevercease.org/resources/digital-library)

5.19 If the fleece is what is left after the sacrifice, and we know what dew represents, what does dew upon the fleece represent?

5.20 How about the dew on the ground afterwards? What does this represent?

5.21 How is this sign related to a confirmation of God's ultimate deliverance of His people?

5.22 Is there indication of God being unhappy with Gideon's request for a sign?

5.23 What does this tell us about Gideon's attitude in asking for this pair of signs?

5.24 If we want more faith, is it acceptable for us to ask for it, if done humbly and sincerely?

5.25 Outline the major types seen in this section, and how they relate to the overall pattern of Christ in the story of Gideon.

5.26 Does your interpretation of the types align with John Thomas' in Eureka Vol. 3¹⁸?

¹⁸ If you have the pdf file, you may search it in most .pdf readers. This is a good way to find resources on a subject you are studying, and to help round out a study, and critique your own conclusions. Make sure you familiarize yourself with the context of the resource you use.

5.27 What are the major lessons gained from this section?

5.28 Re-read Judges chapter 6, with the knowledge you've gained in mind. If there are additional points you want to look into further, use the space below to do so. If needed, revise your answers as you read. Try to tie the whole chapter together, and bring the studies of the various sections together as you read.

5.28B (**Bonus Question**) Gideon is referred to by three names in scripture. What are they?

1. **Gideon**
- 2.
- 3.

CONGRATULATIONS! This completes part 1 of the Gideon workbook!

Download and print part 2 from nevercease.org. Please give me an update to say you've finished part 1!

WORKBOOK DUE (both parts)	<u>JULY 3, 2016</u>	IF YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE MAKING THESE DATES, LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY
RSVP DEADLINE	JUNE 6, 2016	
CAMPOUT DATES	JULY 13-16, 2016	

About the cover photos:

The winepress was discovered not long ago by a group of "amateur archaeologists", a few kids in Israel who had found, dug out, and cleaned up the press before archaeologists were aware that an "unsanctioned" archaeological dig was being done. The treading area is the main, flat portion. Vats for collecting juice can be seen in the lower part of the photo, with hewn trenches or pipes connecting.

The ax is a highly-embellished Syrian battle-ax dated from the 15th century AD. The Syrians have retained the ancient style of ax used in the Middle East, with the exception that modern axes are fastened to the handle by a socket in the ax-head (as in photo), where ancient ones were probably wrapped to the handle. The ax in the photo is part of the Metropolitan Museum collection. It was owned by the cupbearer to the sultan, which is why there is an emblem *in gold* of a cup on the socket of the ax. Made of steel, gold and wood.

After your study of Judges 6, you know how the winepress and ax are relevant to the story of Gideon, right?