

Overwhelmed & Ensnared

Judges 8:22-35

Gideon

Practical Application week 1

Let living under God,
in a trusting relationship with the living, loving King,
overshadow your feeling of being overwhelmed.

What are the benefits of being under GOD?

Our identity, security and purpose are in HIM!

Practical Application week 2

Let living with God's Spirit in you,
as you trust the living, loving King,
overpower your feeling of being overwhelmed.

What are the benefits of being with GOD'S SPIRIT?

He is present with us always & power is available in HIM!

Practical Application week 3

Let living in awe of God,
as you trust the living, loving King,
overpower your feeling of being overwhelmed.

What are the benefits of being in awe of God?

We can find rest in His Sovereignty, Wisdom and Love!

The major/cyclical judge cycle (introduced in 2:6-3:6) is composed of the following basic components.

1. Israel does evil in the eyes of Yahweh.
2. Yahweh gives/sells them into the hands of oppressors.
3. Israel serves the oppressor for **x** years.
4. Israel cries out to Yahweh.
5. Yahweh raises up a deliverer (i.e. judge)
6. The Spirit of Yahweh is upon the deliverer.
7. The oppressor is subdued (reversal of component 2).
8. The land has “rest” for **x** years.

Judges 8:28 So Midian was subdued before the sons of Israel, and they did not lift up their heads anymore. And the land was undisturbed for forty years in the days of Gideon.

Judges 8:29 Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house. 30 Now Gideon had seventy sons who were his direct descendants, for he had many wives. 31 His concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech. 32 And Gideon the son of Joash died at a ripe old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

33 Then it came about, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the sons of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-berith their god.

The land has rest for forty years.

Judges 8:28 So Midian was subdued before the sons of Israel, and they did not lift up their heads anymore. And the land was undisturbed for forty years in the days of Gideon.

The Right Words and the Wrong Action

Judges 8:22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, both you and your son, also your son’s son, for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.” 23 But Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you.” 24 Yet Gideon said to them, “I would request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his spoil.” (For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.) 25 They said, “We will surely give them.” So they spread out a garment, and every one of them threw an earring there from his spoil.

Personal and Congregational Idolatry

Judges 8:26 The weight of the gold earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and besides the neck bands that were on their camels' necks. 27 Gideon made it into an ephod, and placed it in his city, Ophrah, and all Israel played the harlot with it there, so that it became a snare to Gideon and his household.

One Life - One Lifetime

Judges 8:29 Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house. 30 Now Gideon had seventy sons who were his direct descendants, for he had many wives. 31 His concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech. 32 And Gideon the son of Joash died at a ripe old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Again, Israel does evil in the eyes of Yahweh.

Judges 8:33 Then it came about, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the sons of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-berith their god. 34 Thus the sons of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side; 35 nor did they show kindness to the household of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) in accord with all the good that he had done to Israel.

- Israel failed to establish The Word of the Lord for the next generation.
- Israel failed to make disciples/practitioners of God's Word.

Again and again, Israel does evil in the eyes of Yahweh.

Judges 2:10 All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel... (the major/cyclical judge cycle introduced in 2:6-3:6)

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Hebrews 11:32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Psalm 78:4-7 (NIV)

4...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done...

6 so the next generation would know them...

7 Then they would put their trust in GOD and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Practical Application week 4

Let living under God,
in a trusting relationship with the living, loving King,
overpower the bondage of being ensnared.

What are the responsibilities of being under GOD?

We see and want to show that we were created for God's glory.
We receive God's grace as opposed to drifting from the gospel.
We embody the priorities of a disciple and pass them along
in relationship.