

***Christ In The Old Testament***  
***“Not By Might”***  
***Judges 6-7***

**Introduction:**

1. Tonight - We Are Going To Get Back:
  - Into Our Series On:
    - Christ In The Old Testament:
      - Where - Since The Beginning Of The Year:
        - We Have Found Christ:
          - As He Personally And Visibly Appeared To People In This World!
          - Christophanies!
  - Several Times:
    - Christ Appeared:
      - To Men And Women - As A Man:
        - And When He Did So:
          - He Manifested To Them The Same Character That He Would Possess:
            - At His Incarnation!
      - And That Is Why - Wherever We Find Christ:
        - In The Bible - In Both The Old & New Testaments:
          - He Is “The Same Yesterday, And To Day, And For Ever!” (Hebrews 13:8)
  - Other Times:
    - Christ Appeared:
      - To Men - As A Messenger From God:
        - Or - As The Angel Of The Lord!
      - Though - When He Did So:
        - His Appearance Could Take On:
          - Different Forms!
          - Like Fire & Smoke!
    - But - Whenever Christ Came As:
      - The Angel Of The Lord:
        - He Came To Deliver:
          - An Important Message!
2. If You Remember The Last Time We Were Together:
  - Christ - As The Angel Of The Lord:
    - Remained With His People:
      - All Throughout Their Journey Through The Wilderness!
        - In Isaiah He Was Called:
          - The “Angel Of The Lord’s Presence!”
    - And So - Wherever His People Went:
      - Christ Was With Them!
        - And Through His Presence He Protected His People & Preserved His People:
          - Even When They Weren’t Aware Of It!
      - It Was Christ Who Even Appeared To The False Prophet Balaam:
        - And Prevented Him From:
          - Cursing His People!
    - Well - The Lord Promised:
      - To Be With His People:
        - Even As They Entered The Promised Land!
      - Though - Christ Would Not Manifest Himself:
        - In The Same Daily, Visible Way:
          - That He Had Before!
            - In The Pillar Fire & Smoke!
3. But - This Did Not Mean:
  - That Christ Was Not Still:
    - With Them & For Them!
    - Because He Was!
  - And We See This:

- The Next Time The Angel Of The Lord Appears:
  - Which Is In The Book Of Judges!
  - So Lets First Turn To Judges 2!
- Where - In Judges 2:1:
  - We Are Told That:
    - “An angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I sware unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you!”
- So - Christ Was Still With His People & For His People!
  - And - From Time To Time:
    - He Would Reveal Himself Again:
      - In A Personal, Visible Form:
        - In The Ministries Of The Judges!
- 4. And The First Judge:
  - That Christ Appears To:
    - As The Angel Of The Lord:
      - Is Gideon - Whose Ministry Is Given To Us:
        - In Judges 6-7 - Which I’d Like For Us To Read Together:
          - As We Begin!
    - One Of The Main Themes:
      - In These Chapters Is The Lord’s Salvation And Deliverance:
        - Of His People!
          - The Hebrew Word For “Deliverance” Is Used Nine Times!
            - Sometimes - When The Lord Delivers His People TO Their Oppressors - To Judge Them!
            - But Also - When The Lord Delivers His People FROM Their Enemies - To Save Them!
          - So - The Hebrew Word For “Salvation” Is Then Used Seven Times!
      - And - Back In 6:11-14 - It Is Christ:
        - As The Angel Of The Lord:
          - Who Brings Gideon The Message Of His Deliverance And Salvation!
        - We Can Know This - Because:
          - This Angel Of The Lord:
            - Is Not Just Speaking *For* The Lord - But:
              - Speaking *As* The Lord:
                - 6:11 - “And there came an angel of the LORD!”
                - 6:12 - “And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD [is] with thee, thou mighty man of valour!”
                - 6:14 - “And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?”
  - 5. In This Encounter:
    - Between Gideon And The Angel Of The Lord:
      - I Believe We Can Learn Three Things:
        - About Christ’s Own Deliverance:
          - Of His People!
      - We Can See:
        - When The Lord:
          - Does His Work Of Deliverance!
        - How The Lord:
          - Does His Work Of Deliverance! And:
        - Who The Lord Uses:
          - In His Work Of Deliverance!
      - And - What Christ Did:
        - For And Through Gideon:
          - Here In Judges - He Would One Day Do:
            - For All Of His People:
              - And That Deliverance:
                - Would Last Forever!

\* So - First - We Can Learn:

**1. When Christ Delivers!**

- When The Lord Does His Work Of Deliverance!
  - When The Lord Sent His Messenger:
    - To Gideon - It Was:
- When The People:
  - Were Wayward:
    - From The Lord!
  - In 6:1 - Which Summarizes These Two Chapters For Us:
    - We Are Told That:
      - “The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years!”
  - So - It Wasn’t Just When:
    - The People Were Merely Wayward:
      - It Was When They Were Downright:
        - Wicked! When They Even “Did Evil In The Sight Of The Lord!”
  - But - This Is When:
    - Christ Came To Deliver His People!
    - It Was Also:
- When The People:
  - Were Weak!
    - In Their Own Might & Strength!
  - In 6:2 - We See That When:
    - “The Hand Of Midian Prevailed Against Israel!”
      - What Did They Do?
        - They “Made Them Dens!”
          - Hiding Places - In The Mountains, And Caves, And Strong Holds!
  - They Were Weak:
    - In Their Minds & In Their Hearts:
      - Which Then Caused Them To Become:
        - Weak In Their Bodies!
    - Its Amazing How Morale:
      - Can Affect Those Who Otherwise:
        - Might Be Physically Strong!
          - **IE:** Think Of The Soldiers Of Ukraine & Russia!
  - But - When Israel Was At Her Weakest Point:
    - That Is When:
      - Christ Came To Deliver His People!
      - It Was Also:
- When The People:
  - Were Wanting!
    - And They Knew They Needed Help!
  - And That Is Why:
    - In 6:6 - When - “Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites!”
      - What Did They Do?
        - “Then the children of Israel cried unto the LORD!”
  - They Knew They Were In A Desperate Situation:
    - And They Needed Help!
      - They Needed The Lord!
- And So - When The Children Of Israel:
  - Where At Their Most Wayward & Wicked & Weakest Point:
    - They Cried Unto The Lord!
      - And He Heard Them!
        - And Came To Deliver Them!
  - We First See That:
    - The Lord Came To Them:
      - Through A Prophet:
        - In 6:8! Though We Do Not Know Who This Prophet Was:

- His Message Was One Of Conviction!
- They Had Been Delivered By The Lord:
  - To The Midianites:
    - Because - 6:10 - “Ye Have Not Obeyed My Voice!”
- But Then:
  - The Lord Came To Them:
    - Personally!
      - In 6:11 - When The Angel Of The Lord - Christ Himself:
        - Brings A Message Of Comfort!
  - They Would Be Delivered By The Lord:
    - Through The Hand Of Gideon!
- And - What Christ Was Sent To Do:
  - Then - He Also Came To Do:
    - At His Incarnation!
      - He Didn't Come To Deliver & Save:
        - Those Of Us Who Were:
          - Righteous Or Strong Or Independent!
    - No - He Came To Deliver And Save:
      - Those Who Were Wicked & Weak & Wanting!
        - In Mark 2:17 - Jesus Said - “They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance!”
      - This Is When:
        - Christ Came To Save:
          - The People Of Israel!
      - This Is When:
        - Christ Came To Save:
          - You & Me!
      - And - We Need To Remember:
        - This Is Still When:
          - Christ Saves!
    - Though We Were:
      - Wicked & Weak & Wanting:
        - Christ Came To Us & For Us:
          - Anyways!
      - Isn't This The Whole Point:
        - Of The Gospel?
          - Romans 5:8 - “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!”
    - And He Saves Us:
      - First By Bringing:
        - His Word Of Conviction!
          - To Bring Us To A Knowledge Of And A Repentance For Our Sin!
      - And Then - He Brings:
        - His Word Of Comfort!
          - To Bring Us To A Knowledge Of And A Faith In Jesus Christ:
            - As Our Savior!
    - But - This Is When - And Only When:
      - Christ Delivers!
        - Jesus Said In Luke 19:10 - “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost!”
      - But - Back In Judges - We Can Also Learn:

## 2. ***How Christ Delivers!***

- How The Lord Does His Work Of Deliverance!
  - When The Angel Of The Lord:
    - Came To Gideon:
      - It Was To Remind Him And His People:
        - Of His Own Presence, Promises, And Power!

- And He Would Be The One To Deliver Them!
- He Would Deliver:
- Through His Own Presence:
  - With His People!
    - In 6:13 - Gideon Complained To Christ:
      - “Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us?”
      - At This Point - Gideon:
        - Neither Sensed Nor Believed In God’s Presence!
    - But - Just Because:
      - He Didn’t Sense It Or Believe It:
        - Didn’t Take Away From:
          - The Truth Of His Presence!
  - Because - 6:11, 12, 21, 22 - The Angel Of The Lord:
    - Is Mentioned - As Being There:
      - With Gideon & For Gideon!
    - His Own Appearance:
      - To Gideon - At A Real Place & In A Real Time:
        - Proved His Presence! And:
          - Proved He Had Not Forsaken His People!
  - Of Course - Gideon Didn’t Realize:
    - That He Was The Angel Of The Lord:
      - Until 6:22! But:
        - Just Because You Don’t Sense Or Believe In The Presence Of The Lord:
          - Doesn’t Change The Reality Of His Presence!
  - And - It Would Be:
    - Through His Own Presence:
      - That Christ Would Deliver Them!
      - Also:
- Through His Own Promises!
  - There Are Several Precious Promises:
    - That Christ Offers To Gideon!
      - The Promise To Use Him:
        - In His Plan - In 6:14 - “And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?”
      - The Promise To Be With Him:
        - In His Work - In 6:16 - “And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man!”
  - We Need To Remember That:
    - The Word Of God:
      - Is His Bond!
        - And - Gideon Should Have Known This!
      - Numbers 23:19 - “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Balaam)
        - This Is True - No Matter Who Says It!
  - And - Christ Would Deliver Gideon & His People:
    - Through His Own Promises!
    - Also:
- Through His Own Power!
  - Much Of What We Read:
    - Were Signs Asked For By Gideon:
      - And Then - Provided By The Lord:
        - To Reassure Him Of His Presence And His Promises!
    - But - What Power Is Displayed:
      - Through These Signs!
  - When - First - In 6:21 - Christ:
    - As The Angel Of The Lord:

- Brought Up Fire From The Rock:
  - To Consume The Food Placed There By Gideon! And:
- And Then - When Gideon:
  - Put Out The Fleece Of Wool:
    - Not Just One Time - But Two Times:
      - To Prove & To Test The Lord:
        - And His Word To Him!
        - But Also:
- When Gideon's Army:
  - Was Winnowed Down By The Lord:
    - To Just 300 Men!
- God Wanted To Show Gideon:
  - And To Us - Just How:
    - He Delivers & Saves His People!
      - Through His Own Presence:
        - Not Ours!
      - Through His Own Promises & Word:
        - Not Ours!
      - Through His Own Power & Might:
        - Not Ours!
  - And - How Christ Delivered His People Then:
    - Is Still How Christ Delivers Us Today!
      - In Ephesians 6:10 - Paul Tells Us:
        - "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might!"
  - When You Need Deliverance:
    - From The Penalty Of Sin:
      - You Can Turn To & Trust In:
        - Christ - Who Will Save You!
  - When You Need Deliverance:
    - From The Power Of Sin:
      - In Your Own Life:
        - You Can Still Turn To & Trust In Christ:
          - Who Will Deliver You - According To His Power & Promises & Presence With You!
- But Then - We Can Also Learn:

### 3. *Who Christ Uses To Deliver!*

- Who The Lord Uses In His Work Of Deliverance!
  - Of Course - In This Passage:
    - Christ Comes To & Uses:
      - Gideon!
  - But - When Christ Came To Gideon:
    - What Did He Find?
- A Fearful Man!
  - At First - Gideon Was:
    - A Very Fearful Man!
  - On 6:11 - Where We First Find The Angel Of The Lord:
    - Sitting Under An Oak - Where Is Gideon?
      - He's Hiding! "Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites!"
    - Of Course - Everyone Else Was Hiding Too!
      - But - How Could The Lord:
        - Use Someone Like Gideon:
          - To Rescue & Deliver His People?
  - He Also Found In Gideon:
- A Feeble Man!
  - At First - Gideon Was:
    - A Very Feeble Man!
      - If Not In Body:

- Certainly In His Mind!
- In 6:12 - When Christ Approached Gideon:
  - And Said - "The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour!"
  - I Can Imagine Gideon Looking Around:
    - To See Who He Was Talking To!
    - It Certainly Couldn't Have Been Him!
- After All - Gideon Even Admitted:
  - In 6:15 - That He Possessed:
    - Nothing Of Might Or Strength:
    - Or Even Use!
  - "And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family [is] poor in Manasseh, and I [am] the least in my father's house!"
    - He Had No Possessions! No Prestige! No Power!
- But - What Did The Lord Call Him To Do Anyways?
  - In 6:14 - To "Go In This Thy Might!"
    - What Might? Not His Might!
    - For He Had None!
    - But In His Weakness, The Lord Would Make Him Strong!
- But - What Else Did He Find In Gideon?
- A Faithless Man!
  - Why Else Would He Put The Lord:
    - To The Test?
- But - It Was This Man:
  - With All His Fears, Feebleness, And Faithlessness:
    - That Christ Chose To Use:
      - To Deliver His People:
        - From The Midianites!
  - But - How Could He?
    - The Answer Is Given In:
      - 6:34 - Where We Are Told:
        - "But The Spirit Of The Lord Came Upon Gideon!"
  - Notice That Word:
    - "But!"
      - Yes, Gideon Was A Fearful Man:
        - "But!"
      - Yes, Gideon Was A Feeble Man:
        - "But!"
      - Yes, Gideon Was A Faithless Man:
        - At First - "But" - What Happened?
        - "But The Spirit Of The Lord Came Upon Gideon!"
- And This Is Still:
  - The Kind Of Person:
    - That Christ Uses:
      - To Bring Deliverance To Others:
        - Just Like Us!
  - When Paul Wrote To The Corinthian Church:
    - In 1 Corinthians 1:26-30 - He Said:
      - "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]: / But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; / And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, [yea], and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: / That no flesh should glory in his presence!"

## **Conclusion:**

1. This Is Who We Are:
  - Apart From Christ!
  - Not Wise! Not Mighty! Not Noble!

- But - Like Gideon - Often:
    - Foolish & Weak & Common!
  - 2. But - When Christ Meets Us:
    - Right Where We Are:
      - He Can Transform Us:
        - Through The Gift Of His Holy Spirit:
          - So That Now:
            - We Can Serve Him In The Power Of His Might!
              - For The Glory Of God & For The Good Of Others!
3. In Zechariah 4:6 - We Are Told:
  - That It Is:
    - "Not By Might, Nor By Power, But By My Spirit, Saith The Lord Of Hosts!"
      - This Is Why Christ Came:
        - To Gideon - Then! And:
          - This Is Why Christ Comes:
            - To Us - Now!
  - To Give Us His Spirit!
    - So That - Out Of Our Weakness:
      - He Can Make Us Strong!
4. And This Is:
  - When & How & Who:
    - The Lord Uses:
      - In His Work Of Deliverance!
        - Now- Trust Him As He Works:
          - Even Through You!

***Grace Baptist Church  
Stephen Elmer, Pastor  
4245 North 200 West  
Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
317-326-2362  
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace  
www.growatgrace.org  
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***