

# TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

## TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 2 - 4th Quarter - Issue #12



### CREATION CORNER

#### March of the Spiders

ABOUT nine o'clock one morning late in March, I was hurrying down the flagstone that leads to the chapel, on the campus of the Nashville Agricultural Institute, near Nashville, Tennessee. I was hurrying, for there was to be a committee meeting in this building, and I was a member of the committee and was already three minutes late. When within about fifty feet of the chapel I saw something that caused me to stop, and I fear I was much more than three minutes late when I finally reached the committee.

The thing I saw was a line of peculiar-looking spiders marching across the walk. I had never seen such burly, stubby-looking spiders before, and I had never before seen a long line of spiders marching single file, so I stopped to learn what was happening, and I will tell you what I found.

These spiders were as nearly alike as two baby white leghorn chickens, everyone about the size of a grain of pearly barley, and everyone a yellowish brown in color. Their legs were reasonably long, but they were so stocky and hairy that they looked

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much shorter than they really were. In fact these spiders reminded me of a lot of tiny, short-legged bulldogs. I had chanced to arrive at just the right time, for the head of the line had not passed over the walk more than three or four feet, so I got to see the leader. She differed in no way from her fellows save that she was their leader. But she clearly was their leader, for she not only marched at the head of the line, but she spun a thread of silk as she went and left it on the ground to guide the line that followed.

Evidently she had come out of a hole in the ground some twenty feet away, for the line was still coming out of this hole, not like a helter-skelter lot of boys just turned out of school, but slowly and deliberately, every one in her place. I watched to see where this general was leading her army, if I may call her a general and her followers an army.

Slowly she marched, straight to an ash tree that grew near the southeast corner of the chapel. Evidently she chose this tree because it stood in such a place as to leave a free open space to the west and southwest, though I did not recognize this reason at once.

When she reached the tree she did not hesitate for an instant but marched straight up the trunk, still leaving her silken thread behind her. She went

on steadily till she reached the tip of the very topmost twig. The spider next behind followed, also laying down a silken thread beside that of the leader, till she was near the top of the tree, when she branched off and climbed to the tip of another twig.

So, it was with every spider that followed, at least with every one till the silken threads they spun formed a road about a half inch wide. Every one laid down his silken thread as he marched, and every one climbed to the tip of a twig. There was a strong but steady wind blowing from the east, so every spider climbed to the tip of a twig on the west side of the tree, so there would be nothing between it and the way the wind was blowing. When the road was wide enough for all to march on a street of silk I could not tell whether they still laid down threads or not.

By the time a score or two of spiders had climbed the tree, they began to leave the main road soon after reaching the lowest branches, but there was no regularity about where they left it or which way they climbed, except that all crept to the top of a twig that left an open space to the west. It was nearly three o'clock in the afternoon before the last spider climbed out of this hole and took her place at the end of the line.

What kind of spiders were these, why were they in that hole in the ground, how did they all happen to march to this tree on the same day, and what did they mean to do at the tip of their various twigs? These were some of the questions that interested me, and may interest you.

I was able to learn the answer to some of these questions, and I will give them to you. They were wolf spiders and belonged to the family of American tarantulas, a family of very large spiders that usually live in holes they have burrowed in the ground. They were in this hole because it had been the home of their mother the past summer. She had laid her eggs there the fall before and these eggs had hatched and the baby spiders had stayed in the home-nest till the weather was warm enough for them to seek homes for themselves.

It did not take long for me to see that these spiders were climbing so high in the tree that I must follow if I wished to learn what they were doing there, and to climb the tree meant to mash many of the spiders. I must get a ladder in order to get up into the tree, and I had no time to do this till faculty meeting was over and I had eaten my dinner.

It was almost two o'clock in the afternoon when I brought my ladder and climbed the tree, but the

line of march was still unbroken. In fact the last spider did not climb out of the hole and take her place in the line of march for some time yet, so I had a better chance to learn what they were actually doing than if I had come sooner.

This was what I learned. No sooner did a spider reach the tip of a twig than she fastened a web to it and allowed this web to float a few inches into the air, as if she were testing the strength and direction of the wind. When satisfied, she pulled in her line and began weaving it into an airplane or magic carpet which floated into the air as fast as it was done. This carpet was about a third of an inch wide, and was woven so carefully that it had much the appearance of a strip of silk cloth. Nor was its manufacture the work of a few minutes. It took a spider several hours of steady spinning to complete her work.

By three o'clock in the afternoon some of the spiders were testing their carpets. A spider would attach a thread of web to her carpet and allow it to float a foot or two out in the breeze. Then she would carefully and slowly run out on this thread to see if the carpet would support her weight. If the line sagged too much with her weight or if the carpet gave down too far when she got on it, she quickly ran back to her twig, drew the carpet in by winding up the thread that held it, and set to work, making it longer.

Before long some of the spiders had woven carpets that would support their weight nicely. As soon as a spider found her web would do this, she would break the thread that held it and clinging in the middle of the web, would float away wherever the wind carried her. Wishing to know how far a spider would travel in this way, I watched several till they passed out of sight. I had no way of finding how far such spiders flew, but have been told that they may fly for miles in this way. Some were caught in eddies of the wind and hurled to the ground only a few rods away. Whenever or wherever a spider alighted she immediately left her carpet. It had served its purpose. She had taken her one and only flight. She had used up all the silk she could spin at one time and she could never hope to get her carpet into the air again. So she left it at once and began hunting a suitable place to dig a nest hole and establish a home of her own. Floyd Bralliar approx 1930= ^ .. ^ =

## TRUE-STORY-TIME

### The Angels Camp Around us!

A letter from a TEMKIT reader in India

"I have many experiences where the Lord sent His angels to protect our dwelling place, a thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee Psalm 91:7.

The whole of Psalm 91 is for God's people to claim at all times. In fact, our children, say it while they walk up and down this wilderness area surrounded by poisonous scorpions, centipedes, spiders and snakes (very poisonous). All these many years (12) God has not let us down. Praise His dear name.

Some of our children are as young as age 4. I keep them in prayer all the time, committing them into their guardian angels hands.

One time, while we were gone to look after my father-in-law who was dying, Robbers tried to break into our home, they tried all the doors and even damaged the main, and side doors, but they just could not get in.

When the watchman suddenly realised he was locked inside his room, and tried to get out, the robbers hearing the sound thought there was more than one man inside and so were terrified and ran away. In and around our villagers there were so many thefts, but we did not lose a pin! All Praise to Jesus.

Our worst enemy is Self. When we can subdue it, we will surely conquer through Jesus. God's word says in Proverbs 16:7. When our ways are pleasing to God, He makes even our enemies to be at peace with us. = ^ .. ^ =

### The Mountain Man's Story 1917

New Zealand is largely hilly, in many parts mountainous, and has a very changeable climate. One day, an storm had caused a land slide at a place where the railroad cuts into the face of a steep hill. The next train which passed that way had to wait some hours, while men with big shovels cleared the tracks.

In the railway car were a number of people, some angry at the delay, others wisely trying to make the best of it.

In the corner sat an old man, comfortably but plainly clad in home-made garments. A crutch placed in the corner, told that at some recent time, he had met with an accident. Our elderly friend

soon became quite chatty, telling the younger members of the company about New Zealand's early pioneering days, when oxen did most of the hauling, and horses were the most rapid means of travel.

He told how, with his wife and family and all their possessions in two wagons, he set out to seek for themselves a new home. These were godly parents, and early taught their children lessons of strict temperance. The old man said that neither he nor his ancestors as far back as he knew, had used either liquor or tobacco. He told how, with the money saved by not using these harmful things, he had been able to educate his children; and their minds, kept free from these narcotics, they had done very well in learning.

Upon their farm, father and sons invented useful machines to aid their work including the first milking machine.

"You can't have pure blood, and poison it all the while," our aged friend continued. "Nothing is more poisonous to the system than alcohol and tobacco. In our home, we never needed a doctor. By the use of simple foods and nature's remedies, we all kept well. You see, our blood is pure, as for generations we have avoided harmful habits."

Then he told of the accident from which he was just recovering. When he was carting hay from the field to the barns, the cart went into a rut; and in less time than it takes to read this, the load had slipped and fallen, striking him in such a way as to break and dislocate his thigh, and partly bury him under the hay.

The son, who was on horseback, hurried to the rescue, and as gently and quickly as possible, removed his beloved father to their home.

He continued: "My son helped me home. and onto the bed, and I said: 'Now I think we can manage this without a doctor. Of course, this is severe enough to kill a man of my age who was poisoned with alcohol and tobacco; but my blood is pure, and I think it can mend this broken bone all right.'

"So I said, 'Mother, please bring me a large towel.' This I tied to the foot of the bed, and then pulled as much as I was able to bear, until soon I heard the thigh ball slip into its socket with a click.

"Simple fomentations did much to relieve the pain of the bruised leg. I am making a wonderful recovery, thanks to my pure blood, free of poisons. Now I rarely use a crutch, only when going some distance, and then to rest the leg a little until it grows

quite strong again, which, even at my advanced age, it is fast doing.

“I’ve worked hard to stamp out those two enemies, drink and tobacco; for they weaken the body and ruin the brain. The good health we have enjoyed, and the success my sons have achieved, under the blessing of God, we owe to our temperance.”

The line was cleared, the journey continued, and our temperance lesson ended, but not before we had received much food for thought.

The Lord tells us to honor the face of the old man, and to rise up before the hoary head. If we do this, and listen when the aged speak, we shall learn much wisdom. = ^ . ^ =

## STORY LESSON

### God’s Plan for Education 2

#### “Why the Jews Rejected Jesus”

Did you know that many of the false ideas that still are a large problem in the world today, came from ancient Greece? We hear a lot about Greek philosophy and it is made such a big thing of in schools that people seem to think it is the most important learning anyone can ever have.

This is a terrible lie and a trick of Satan; Greek philosophy is just a form of spiritualism that leads people to doubt and question even the very Word of God. The Bible explains this when it says, “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,” Romans 1:22. Linked up with this foolishness comes a lot of pride as they feel they know it all and no one else is worth listening to.

Greek philosophy causes its believers to make fun of the gospel of Jesus: “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;” 1 Corinthians 1:23. You will find today that one of the main things that these worldly-wise people like to do is make fun of the Bible and those who believe in it. The day will come when they will be very sorry, but it will be too late.

In the years 331 BC -168 BC, Greece ruled the world, including the country of Israel. It is during this time that the ideas were planted that caused these people who had been looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, to fail to recognize Him when He came. How did it happen?

The philosophy and so-called learning of the Greeks caused some of God’s people the Jews, to want to imitate them and get close to them. Just

like Idolatry had influenced God’s people to copy the ways of the heathen, now, though they would never worship an idol again, they made an idol out of the ‘learning’ of the Greeks.

Did you know this is where our word ‘Gymnasium’ came from? The Greeks began to worship the human body and the ideas of sports and art. Wherever they went they set up large buildings where they went to do sports, and what today we would call, “work out”. The word means the ‘place of nakedness’, because they did not wear any clothes at these places.

Some of the young Jews wanted to get in on this ‘physical training’ and go to the ‘Gymnasiums’. Some even had a special operation done so they would look like the Greeks; they were ashamed of the symbol God had given them as Jews. By the way, the Bible is clear that God does not approve of people associating together naked, or half naked.

A spirit of friendship developed between the Greeks and the Jews. Then someone got the idea to have a large number of religious leaders from Jerusalem go to Alexandria, Egypt, where there was a huge Greek learning center; to translate the writings of the Jewish Scriptures into the Greek language.

It was also suggested by the Greeks that the Jews send their talented young men to Alexandria for training in the sciences and learning of the Greeks.

The older and wiser elders of Israel feared to do this. They counseled the young men not to go there or get into the Greek ideas. These young men argued that it would be a good idea for strong, thoughtful, vigorous young men to enter the schools of Greeks, as they might influence the philosophers and Greek scholars to see the beauty of the Jewish religion.

But it never works that way, instead, more and more Greek ideas began to get brought into the Jewish teachings and their religion was changed. As many of Israel’s influential men yielded to Greek influence they were told that the synagogues where the children were taught their religion would not be interfered with, so they need not worry.

Some people believed that they could send their youth to these heathen schools and God would help their young men be true to their religion, and the training schools of Jewery would have a better standing in the eyes of the nations.

Gradually the Jewish schools came to do as the Greeks and give degrees and titles to their

graduates. There was the Rav or Rabbi, the Tana, the Goyon, the Sadi, and the Rabbon. It was thought necessary for the graduates of the rabbinical schools to show the marks of rank by wearing different clothing. The man with a degree must wear a particular gown and cap. Little by little a special educational nobility was formed, which was called the San-he-drin.

The religious schools continued to operate but God's blessing was not found there and spiritual power was missing. Year by year the Word of God was studied less, and the courses based on culture and philosophy studied more. God was less thought of, the people with the degree of Rabbi were honored; people without degrees were looked down upon. This was not at all God's way or His will for His people.

When the time finally came for Jesus to begin His ministry, the people were all set to reject Him because after all, how could this humble man have anything worth listening to when He didn't even have a degree?

Jesus started teaching and although all found a strange power in His Words, they could not accept Him without the degrees, titles and flowing robes of the educated class. His teachings sounded new and strange to them, even though everything Jesus ever taught is found in the Old Testament, the very scriptures that they claimed to know all about!

By mixing the Greek ideas in with their own religion, they lost the truth and gathered up the garbage and falsehoods of the world and made a big deal out of them. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools and rejected the Lord of Glory because He didn't have a degree. = ^ .. ^ =



## STORY-TIME

### Little Lonnie Later

THE easy path is not always the safest. Sometimes it seems very hard to do what we are told to do. It is easy to wait till some other time; but when that other time comes, it is still hard to do what we should.

Now there was Lonnie Lee, who was so kind and good that everybody loved him. But Lonnie had a bad fault. When he was asked to do anything, he would wait, and wait, and wait; and then if any one did what he had been told to do, he would say, "Why, I was just goin' to. . ."

Sometimes he waited so long that he forgot; and when he was reminded of the task he had left undone, the answer was often heard, "I was just goin' to, but I forgot it."

Lonnie's papa and mamma felt very bad because their little boy had such a fault. They tried to help him overcome it, but in vain. Lonnie loved his selfish way better than he loved to do right.

One day, mamma said: "My dear boy, I fear you will always be behind, unless you learn to do the right thing at the right time. It is not enough to be always 'just goin' to,' but you must learn to obey instantly. How sad it would be if at last Jesus should come and find you not ready, because you had always been 'just goin' to,' and you should find that there was no time to prepare your heart so you could live with Him."

Lonnie could not forget that part of what mamma said. He tried to forget; but the thought that papa, mamma, brother, and little sister might go to live with Jesus, and he might be left behind, made him very unhappy.

At last, he threw himself on his little bed, and soon he fell asleep. Then he had a dream, and awoke with such a loud scream that mamma hurried into his room.

"What is the matter, Lonnie?" she asked, as she sat down beside his cot.

"O mamma, I had such a dreadful dream! I thought Jesus came on a big, white cloud, and we were all looking at it, as He came nearer to the earth. He called for you and papa, for Josie and Frank, and ever and ever so many more; but He did not speak to me at all, and I was left behind.

"I called as loudly as I could, and told Him I was your little boy, and I just begged Him to take me with the rest; but He said He did not know me, and that my name was not written in His book.

Then He spoke of ever so many things I had not done, and I told Him I was just goin' to; but He said it would spoil heaven to have such boys as I am there, for there were none in heaven who were always just goin' to. After He said that, He went away out of sight."

You will be glad to know that this dream helped Lonnie overcome his habit of putting off his work till some other time, when it would be easier. He saw that Jesus keeps count of the things we say and do, and that He knows whether we are quick to obey and do our duties, or whether we wait and dawdle.

If we put off our work when we are little boys and girls, we will be likely to do so when we are older. It must have been that way with Governor Felix, who told Paul that later on, when he had time, he would send for Paul and learn to be a Christian. He thought it would be easier to become a Christian some other time than when Paul was talking to him. Perhaps he will be left behind when Jesus comes, because he waited. Let us never have to say, "I was just goin' to." V. J. F. -1917 = ^ .. ^ =



**Year 2: 4th Quarter:**  
**"FROM THE WILDERNESS TO CANAAN"**  
**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 12:**  
**"GIDEON'S BAND 2"**

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days. There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

**MEMORY VERSE: "For many are called, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:14**

### Sunday

**Text: Judges 6:33-35** "Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them."

It wasn't long after Gideon's special experience with the Lord that the three enemies together came to attack Israel. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he blew a trumpet in Israel. Now in prophecy a trumpet being blown means a warning message going out.

So the first thing we see here is Gideon, who represents God's faithful people in the last days, sees all this three-fold enemies joined together to fight against God's people, so he sounds a message of warning. This is what the faithful are doing in our day as we see the Beast power, the Dragon power and the False Prophet power getting together and growing mighty, we are to sound a warning message and urge people to seek the Lord.

Now the verse says that Abiezer came to join Gideon; this name means 'father of help'. So as the faithful see the enemy gathering and they sound the warning, help is given to them from God.

Then we see that he sends four messages, and they are named as one and three, Manasseh; ...Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali. In prophecy when we see this three and then one or one and then three, it is showing us the three angel's messages and then the fourth angel who joins near the end. These three and then one more messages will have results and many gather to stand for the Lord.

So now Gideon has an army. But he is still not sure that God really wants him to be the one to lead against the enemy, he still feels unworthy. So he prays to the Lord and asks for a sign that God will really use him to save Israel.

**Thought** - We are not always to ask for signs from the Lord to know what we are to do, but there are times when it is right to do this. It is never right to ask for a sign to prove you are to obey something the inspired writings clearly tell us to do!

## Monday

**Text: Judges 6:36-37** “And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.”

Gideon took a fleece of wool that had been clipped from a sheep and he prayed and asked the Lord to have the wool be wet and the ground around it dry.

The next day, sure enough the fleece was full of water and the ground was dry. But then Gideon had a second thought; it could be natural for the wool to get wet from the night air. So he prayed again and asked for God to do it the other way, let the fleece be dry and the ground wet. This would certainly be a miracle.

Again he laid out his fleece and the next morning there it was totally dry and the ground very wet. So Gideon headed out to gather his army together.

Now there is an interesting meaning in prophecy for this sign of Gideon's. A Fleece is a sheep's clothing, Jesus is the Lamb of God; so it represents those who claim to have on the robe of Jesus' righteousness, the White Raiment.

Now in the end time we are promised that a special gift of the Holy Spirit is to come to God's people to give power to finish warning the world and stand through the last days. It is called the latter Rain.

We are told that when this comes there will be people who receive it while all those around them will not receive it. Also there will be people who do not receive it when all those around them are receiving it. So there will be fleeces who are wet when all the professed around them are dry, and there will be fleeces that stay dry even though all around them are wet with the dew from heaven.

**Thought** – We must make sure by the help of Jesus that we will be wet fleeces in that day when the special gift is given.

## Tuesday

**Text: Judges 7:1,2** “Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were

on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.”

Now Gideon has his army gathered together and it is 32,000 men. It is a very small army to go and fight with the three enemies who are like grasshoppers there are so many. Gideon is worried that his army is too small. The men are worried too; Harod, where they were camped, means ‘fountain of trembling’.

But here comes an order from the Lord, “Gideon, your army is too big. If I deliver the enemies to this army they will boast about how great an army they are and will not honor Me! Tell the army that everyone who is afraid is to go back home.”

Now it was a rule given to Israel that anytime an army was called to go to war, the leader was to make this announcement and allow the ones who were afraid, newly married, had a new house or had just planted a new vineyard that they could go back home. Gideon had not done this because he thought his army was too small to start with. But now he obeyed God and 22,000 men went home!

Gideon was shocked; but here comes another order from God; “There are still too many! Take the army down to the water for a drink and I will tell you who to keep and who to send home”.

Send home more people!! Surely not! Gideon thought, but he obeyed and took the army to the water to get a drink. Now God told him to watch carefully how the men drank the water and the ones that got right down on their hands and knees and drank and drank, they went in one group and the ones that lapped as a dog, ‘putting their hands to their mouths’ went into the other group.

These men were really interested in getting to the battle. They did not get down on their hands and knees, they just scooped up some water in their hands and drank it quickly. The others were more interested in their own comfort so they took time and drank all they wanted. That group was sent home and Gideon was left with only 300 men!

God can only work through those who truly trust in Him and obey Him. He can do more with a little group of these faithful ones that with thousands who claim to believe in Him, but refuse to obey Him.

**Thought** – Today, many are afraid as they see the forces of the world getting ready to destroy God’s faithful. But we can choose to Trust in God and believe in Him, and then we will be part of Gideon’s band!

### Wednesday

**Text: Judges: 6:9-11** “And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, **Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand. But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host.**”

Now Gideon is not a fearful man, but here God sends him and his servant down to hear a special message that will give them courage. The reason this is here is more for us in the last days, because it is showing something to us about the final message.

Remember, these three enemies camped in the valley in the story, stand for the final battle between the forces of Satan and the faithful followers of the Lord. This battle is called in Revelation, the ‘Battle of Armageddon’. It is a prophecy symbol of what happens as the powers of the world get together to enforce the Sunday Law.

The name Purah means leaves or something living green. Living green leaves stand for faith. So Jeru-baal ‘let Baal plead’, let him prove he is a god; goes into the valley, the final battle, with his servant ‘living faith’!

Here we are seeing a special message that helps the faithful at the end to know that God is with them. Gideon and his servant goes down and in a tent he hears two men talking. One says, “I had a weird dream.” And he tells that he saw a loaf of barley bread fall down into the valley and knock over the head general’s tent and all the other tents fell down too.

The other man says, “I know what that means; it is the sword of Gideon, for God has delivered all this army into his hands.” So Gideon and his servant felt more courage.

Now what message is giving courage to us today to know that God is going to deliver His people from the terrible three enemies? Do you know about any

prophecy dream that talks about something hitting the enemies of God and they are overthrown? Yes, it is the dream in Daniel 2. It was a heathen king that had the dream there and in this story it was a heathen also who had the dream.

One of the places that God’s people are going to find courage to stand for God is the study of the prophecies of Daniel and the other prophets. These prophecies show that the faithful, though only a tiny group compared with the ‘three enemies’, will triumph in the power of the Lord!

**Thought** – As we study prophecies that show us that the Lord knows all about what is happening and has told us about it; we find courage to trust in Him, because we can see that He is in charge even though it doesn’t always look like it.

### Thursday

**Text: Judges 7:16-18** “And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. And he said unto them, **Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.**”

Gideon divides his army of 300 into three groups. So we see again three plus one, three groups and Gideon himself. He gives each of the men two things, a trumpet and a clay pitcher or pot with a lamp hidden in it. Now I know many people talk about a torch, but you could not hide a torch in a pot. The Bible says a lamp.

Now these things have much meaning. The trumpet is again a warning message. In one place in Ellen White’s writings she says, “Trumpet after trumpet is yet to sound”. This means God’s faithful will be giving many warning messages to the church and the world.

The lamp we see also in the story of the five wise and five foolish girls that Jesus told about. It stands for the true message of the Word of God. It is the only ‘weapon’ of the faithful against the hosts of darkness. But just as no amount of ‘dark’ can put out even a tiny light, so Satan will not be able to destroy God’s faithful ones and stop God’s

message of truth.

Now what about the clay pot or pitcher? That stands for us weak human beings, children of clay and dust. They have the light of God's truth inside them, but it is only when they are broken that the light shines out.

What does it mean for God's faithful ones to be broken? Jesus talks about it: "Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Luke 20:18. It means they surrender all to Jesus, they repent and give Him all their hearts and allow Him to get rid of their selfish hearts. Those who do not surrender all to Jesus, will be the ones that the Rock or in this story, the loaf of Bread, falls on and they are destroyed.

**Thought** – Sometimes we just want to hide the light of truth inside and not show it to others. We must ask Jesus to help us 'break' our selfishness, trust Him and let our lights shine out!

### Friday

**Text: Judges 7:20-22 "And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath."**

The three groups went to the different sides of the huge camp and just before the dawning of the day, when all the three enemies were sound asleep thinking they were quite safe; Suddenly Gideon gave

the signal on his trumpet and all the men broke their pitchers and help up their lamps! Then they all shouted "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

This made a loud noise as the smashing pots and the trumpets and the shouting all came together and the enemies woke up in confusion! They saw the lights and thought they were surrounded. Their first thought was that Israel had got other armies to fight for them, and they were so afraid and mixed up they grabbed their weapons and began to kill each other!

Remember that Gideon's men just had their lamps in one hand and the warning trumpet in the other; It was the enemies own weapons that killed them. This has great meaning in the last days. The very plans that the enemies of God make, to try and destroy God's faithful ones, will actually result in destroying themselves.

We are also told that there will come a time after the close of probation when those who realize that their leaders have lied to them and fooled them into disobeying God, will be so angry about being lost they will go after their ministers and leaders and want to tear them to bits!

Those who didn't get killed right away began to run for their lives. Then the ones of Israel who had been afraid came out and joined with Gideon and his men as they chased the enemies and wiped them out.

In the end time the brightness of the Lord's coming with all the angels will destroy whatever is left of the 'three enemies'.

**Thought** – What is the Sword of the Lord and Gideon? It is the inspired messages God has sent us through the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. We need to spend much time now learning these truths and obeying them. In the last days we must have our Lamps with oil in them, our warning trumpets and the Word of the Lord in our hearts and minds. = ^ .. ^ =

