

## **“TAUGHT TO KNOW WAR”**

Pastor Mark Johnson

**INTRO:** Let’s look at one of the most amazing battles in history, involving one of the least likely heroes. What does this incredible battle have to do with us?

### **I. BACKGROUND (Josh. 23-24; Judges 1-5).**

- A. Joshua’s farewell speech before dying (Josh. 23-24).
  - 1. They still had territory to conquer (Josh. 23:4-5).
  - 2. Required courage, obedience & love (vv. 6-11).
  - 3. The same is required of us!
- B. A review of Israel’s history (Josh. 24).
- C. Israel’s continuing conquest of Canaan (Judg. 1).
- D. The Judges cycle: cry out to God -> deliverance -> backslide -> bondage -> rinse & repeat.
- E. **THE “TAUGHT TO KNOW WAR” PRINCIPLE (3:1-4).**
  - 1. God allowed opposition to teach them to know war.
  - 2. Is God doing the same today (2:10)?
  - 3. What we don’t overcome will overcome us!

### **II. MIDIANITE BONDAGE (6:1-10).**

- A. The Israelites were in bondage to the Midianites (vv. 1-2).
- B. The Midianites destroyed Israel’s resources (vv. 3-6).
- C. The Midianite spirit is doing the same in America!
- D. Israel called out to God & God raised up a prophetic voice and Gideon (vv. 6-7; 2Chron. 20:20).

### **III. THE STORY OF GIDEON (6:11-8:35).**

- A. Gideon's call (6:11-12, 14, 16).
- B. Gideon's reluctance (6:13, 15, 17, 36-40).
- C. Gideon's confirmations (vv. 18-23, see also vv. 36-40; 7:9-14)
- D. Gideon's worship (vv. 24-32).
- E. Gideon's anointing (vv. 33-35).
- F. Gideon’s fleece (Judges 6:36-40).

### **IV. THE PRUNING PROCESS (Judges 7:1-7; John 15:1-2).**

- A. God pruned down Gideon’s army so God would get all the glory. Is God doing the same today?

### **V. THE STRATEGY (7:15-18).**

### **VI. THE VICTORY (7:19-8:21).**

**CONCLUSION:** Will you be one of Gideon’s/America’s 300?