

Judges 6:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.

Analysis

The Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon—literally, 'clothed itself with Gideon' (ruach Yahweh lavsah et-Gideon, רוּחַ יְהוָה לָבָשָׁה אֶת־גִּדְעוֹן). This unusual verb pictures the Spirit enveloping Gideon like a garment, empowering him for leadership and warfare. He blows the trumpet (shofar, שׁוֹפָר), summoning Abiezer clan to follow. The response—'they were gathered after him'—shows his newfound authority. Spirit-empowerment transforms fearful Gideon into commanding leader. This pattern recurs with judges (3:10, 11:29, 14:6, 19) and foreshadows Pentecost's empowerment for witness (Acts 1:8).

Historical Context

The shofar (ram's horn) served as military signal throughout Israelite history. Its sound carried for miles across hill country, summoning warriors and signaling attacks. Clan-based military mobilization was standard during the judges period before standing armies emerged under the monarchy. Abiezer clan's immediate response to Gideon shows the authority his Spirit-empowerment and successful Baal confrontation conferred.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the Spirit 'clothing' Gideon illustrate divine empowerment transforming human weakness?
2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in empowering believers for witness and spiritual warfare?
3. How should Christians distinguish between natural leadership abilities and Spirit-given authority?

Interlinear Text

וְרוּחַ	יְהוָה	לָבָשׁ	אֶת	גִּדְעוֹן	וַיִּתְקַע	בְּשׁוֹפָר
But the Spirit	of the LORD	came	H853	upon Gideon	and he blew	a trumpet
H7307	H3068	H3847		H1439	H8628	H7782
וַיֵּקֶץ	אֲבִיעֶזֶר	אַחֲרָיו:				
was gathered	and Abiezer	after				
H2199	H44	H310				

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 12:18 (Spirit): Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

2 Chronicles 24:20 (Spirit): And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

Judges 3:10 (Spirit): And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

Judges 3:27 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them.

Romans 13:14 (References Lord): But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Psalms 51:11 (Spirit): Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Galatians 3:27 (Parallel theme): For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1 Samuel 16:14 (Spirit): But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

1 Samuel 11:6 (Spirit): And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.