

Judges 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jerubbaal (Gideon) and his army camp at the spring of Harod, while the Midianites camp in the valley north of them by the hill of Moreh. The geographical positioning is strategic—Israel holds high ground near a water source while the enemy masses in the valley below. The name Harod (charod, חָרַד) derives from charad (חָרַד, 'to tremble'), foreshadowing verse 3's test. That Gideon is now called Jerubbaal emphasizes his transformation from fearful thresher to bold reformer. The contrast in army sizes (32,000 Israelites vs. 135,000 enemy per 8:10) sets up God's miraculous reduction strategy.

Historical Context

The spring of Harod (modern Ain Jalud) flows at the foot of Mount Gilboa in the Jezreel Valley. The hill of Moreh rises prominently north of the valley, providing the Midianite coalition a defensible position. This same valley saw Saul's final battle against the Philistines (1 Samuel 28-31). The site's strategic importance—controlling east-west and north-south trade routes—made it perpetually contested territory.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Gideon's name change to Jerubbaal demonstrate God's power to transform identity through faithful obedience?
2. What does the army's positioning—Israel above, enemies below—symbolize about spiritual warfare from position of strength in Christ?
3. Why does Scripture emphasize geographical details rather than just recording the battle outcome?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁכְרוּ that were with him H7925	וַיִּרְבֹּב עַל Then Jerubbaal H3378	הָיָה H1931	גִּדְעוֹן who is Gideon H1439	וְכָל H3605	
וְכָל הָעָם and all the people H5971	אֲשֶׁר H834	אֶת H854	וַיִּסָּב and pitched H2583	עַל H5921	יֵין H0
בְּצַד הַבְּרֶד beside the well of Harod H5878	וַיִּמָּחֶה so that the host H4264	מִדְיָן of the Midianites H4080	הָיָה H1961	לֵוִי H0	
מִצָּפוֹן were on the north side H6828	מִגְבֵּעַ ת of them by the hill H1389	הַמִּזְרָח of Moreh H4176	בְּעֵמֶק in the valley H6010		

Additional Cross-References

Judges 6:32 (Parallel theme): Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.

Genesis 12:6 (Parallel theme): And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org