

# Judges 7:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

## Analysis

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The timing was precise: 'the beginning of the middle watch' (around midnight), just after the guard change. The freshly posted sentries would be most alert but also most isolated from the sleeping main camp. Gideon's company approached the camp edge, then 'blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.' The simultaneous actions—trumpet blasts and shattering pottery revealing torches—created a shocking sensory assault. The coordination demonstrated military discipline despite the small force and unconventional tactics.

## Historical Context

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Ancient armies divided night into three watches (evening, midnight, morning) or four watches (Roman system). The 'beginning of the middle watch' placed the attack at midnight when most of the camp slept deeply. Guard changes were vulnerable moments—new sentries adjusting to darkness, old guards departing to rest. The element of surprise was maximized because no army expected attack at this hour, especially by inferior forces. The multiple simultaneous sensory inputs (trumpet sounds, breaking pottery, sudden lights) created cognitive overload preventing rational response.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does the precise timing demonstrate the importance of divine wisdom in spiritual warfare?
2. What does attacking during the middle watch (deepest darkness) symbolize about God's power to bring light into darkness?
3. When has God's timing in your life seemed delayed until the perfect moment for maximum impact?

## Interlinear Text

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אַתָּה אֲשֶׁר אִישׁ וּמִתְּאַהֲרֹן גָּדוֹעַ  
that were with him came So Gideon and the hundred men H834 H854  
H935 H1439 H3967 H376

בְּחִטְבָּן הַאֲשָׁם רַאשׁ בְּמִתְּבָנָה הַמִּתְּכִינָה  
unto the outside of the camp in the beginning watch of the middle  
H7097 H4264 H7218 H821 H8484

בְּשִׁמְרָה יָמָם אַתָּה בְּקִימָו בְּקִימָו  
and they had but newly newly the watch and they blew  
H389 H6965 H6965 H853 H8104 H8628

בְּיַדְמָן אֲשֶׁר רַבְבָּדִים וְשָׁוֹר וְתָה  
the trumpets and brake the pitchers that were in their hands  
H7782 H5310 H3537 H834 H3027