

# Judges 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

## Analysis

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The test results: 300 lapped water with hands to mouth, while all the rest knelt to drink. This tiny fraction—3% of the already-reduced army, less than 1% of the original 32,000—will constitute Gideon's fighting force. The Hebrew specifies 'the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth' emphasizing the precise method. That so few maintained vigilance while drinking reveals how rare genuine alertness is even among professed warriors. These 300 combine genuine courage (not among the 22,000 who left) with tactical awareness (not among the 9,700 who knelt). They represent the faithful remnant theme throughout Scripture—the few truly ready to serve God's purposes.

## Historical Context

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Elite military units throughout history have comprised small percentages of total forces—Sparta's 300 at Thermopylae, Roman Praetorian Guard, modern special forces. The 300 who lapped water demonstrated natural warrior instincts and discipline without formal training. Their selection through behavior under routine circumstances (merely drinking) rather than combat trials shows how character reveals itself in mundane actions.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does the tiny percentage who pass both tests illustrate Jesus' teaching about the narrow way that few find (Matthew 7:14)?
2. What does God's selection of the alert 300 teach about quality versus quantity in spiritual warfare?
3. How do your mundane actions and habits reveal readiness (or lack thereof) for spiritual service?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָהּ י' H1961	מִסְפַּר H4557	הַמְּלָקִים H3952	בְּיָדָם H3027	אֶל H413		
to their mouth H6310	were three H7969	hundred H3967	men H376	and all H3605	but all the rest H3499	of the people H5971
בָּרַע ו' H3766	עַל H5921	בְּרִכְיָם H1290	לִשְׁתּוֹת H8354	מַיִם: H4325		
bowed down H3766	upon H5921	upon their knees H1290	to drink H8354	water H4325		