

G is for ... Gideon

The Bible is a wonderful book of true stories that tell us how God comes to his people and helps them to do great things. Have you ever asked the question "Why?" Gideon asked that question when the Angel of the Lord appeared to him.

Gideon asked him, "Why has all this happened to us if God is with us?" You see God's

people had turned away from the one true God and had begun worshipping false gods and so God had allowed them to be conquered by their enemies.

But God is good and he called Gideon to lead an army to fight the enemies of his people Israel. Gideon's army started out with 32,000 men. God said that was too many otherwise the people may boast that their own strength saved them. Any

who were afraid were told to leave and 22,000 soldiers went back to their homes. God said that there were still too many. The men had to go to drink by the water. Any who lapped the water like a dog were told to



go home. Only the men who scooped up water in their hands to drink were allowed to be in Gideon's army.

With a small army of 300 soldiers God gave the victory. It's an exciting story the victory didn't come by the men using swords but trumpets, torches and jars!! You can read the story for yourself in the book of Judges chapters 6 and 7.

Quiz: How many men in the story drank water by lapping it like a dog?

Answer: 700

Facing life's uncertainties

There seem to be a number of uncertainties facing us at the moment. There are national issues such as Brexit, and terrorist attacks are on the increase. There are also the international concerns over the developments in North Korea and the hurricanes hitting various places across the world.

Individually we face economic uncertainties with the pound in our pocket not going as far as it used to, job insecurity and break up of family life for many.

For some, our response can be to want to hide away and wake up when it is all sorted out. The snag with that approach is that it is unlikely to get sorted. Lessons from history teach us that we are no better today than in previous generations. They said poverty needed to be eradicated, education needed to be available for all and the world would be sorted. That was a lie, because the problem is deeper than our external factors - it lies deep within each of us. How can we find peace when the

trouble is within us. Our security has to be found, not in ourselves and not in our uncertain externals, but in God alone who can deal with our troubled hearts.

Jesus comforting his disciples said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."

The Psalmist in Psalm 46 says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea..." That's real security that depends, not on ourselves, not in our external circumstances, but in the infinite, all knowing, all powerful God of the universe.

Martin Luther, who began the Protestant Reformation exactly 500 years ago, knew hardships but also knew this security. He had to face the might of the church of the day and go into hiding, but God helped him. We are grateful for his stand for the authority of the Bible and the truth that salvation is available through faith alone in Christ alone.



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Insight

- Issued four times a year
- To keep you informed
- To stimulate thought
- To invite you to our events

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Fake News



President Trump has put the issue of 'fake news' on the agenda – whether accusing others of producing it or being accused of producing it himself. Fake news is nothing new, it's

another name for propaganda: putting a particular spin on the news or presenting it with a certain bias or using only select elements to further a specific agenda.

The leading characters in the Bible are never 'airbrushed' or presented in a flattering light – their faults and failures are laid before us, sometimes in excruciating detail! Moses loses his temper, Samson compromises himself with Delilah, David commits adultery, Peter denies Jesus. We are presented with the REAL news about humans – we are all flawed and stand guilty before God.

However, in contrast to the other Bible characters, Jesus stands out as free from fault. In his dealings with all and sundry, his character is unblemished: *"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth"* (1 Peter 2 verse 22).

The apostle Peter, who spent some three years with Jesus, later stated, *"We did not follow cleverly invented stories"* (or fake news) *"when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty"* (2 Peter 1 verse 16).

Rather than fake news, Peter shared *"the GOOD news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all...that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name"* (Acts 10 verse 36 & 43).

Will you face the real news about yourself and trust the good news about Jesus?

Peter Rush



Market Overton
Free Church

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Diary Dates:

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Morning Worship - Every Sunday, 10.30am
MO Village Hall - suitable for all.

Evening Worship - Every Sunday 6.30pm except the last Sunday: All Age Service 4.30pm
Edmondthorpe Social Club

Midweek meeting - Most Thursdays, 7.30pm
MO Village Hall (but check website)

Coffee Hour - Friday, 10.30am:
8 September, 13 October, 10 November
Time with Friends 27 October
MO Village Hall

For latest
information:
www.mofc.org.uk

Recently moved house?

It's a big thing, isn't it? It is one of the most significant changes in life. We move for all manner of reasons: made redundant; promoted or transferred; the old house got too small or too big; change of school; getting away from a bad neighbourhood; too long to commute to work; retirement, or medical reasons.

Well, you are here now, but how do you know that things are going to be any better? Everything might have changed in your surroundings, but will that be enough? You haven't just brought all your belongings with you, but you've brought all your 'baggage' too: your ways of dealing with issues, your ways of relating to people, your work ethic, habits, hobbies, routines, your abilities and limits, health or illness, emotions, memories, and desires. Jesus, just before leaving them to return to his home in heaven, spoke to his disciples about a new home for them: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for*



you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:1-3)

If you did believe in Jesus, you wouldn't need to worry anymore. You could hand over everything that troubles your heart to him. Not that your problems would disappear suddenly – although some might – but you would change! You would realise that this new house of yours will not provide the abiding happiness and security you seek, but the prospect of being in the Father's house with Jesus for ever will. Many uncertainties surround a house move, but there's no uncertainty regarding that eternal home and the joy of dwelling there. So come and hear what Jesus has done to provide this home for those who believe in him. A warm welcome awaits you at Market Overton Free Church.

Edina Matthews



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