



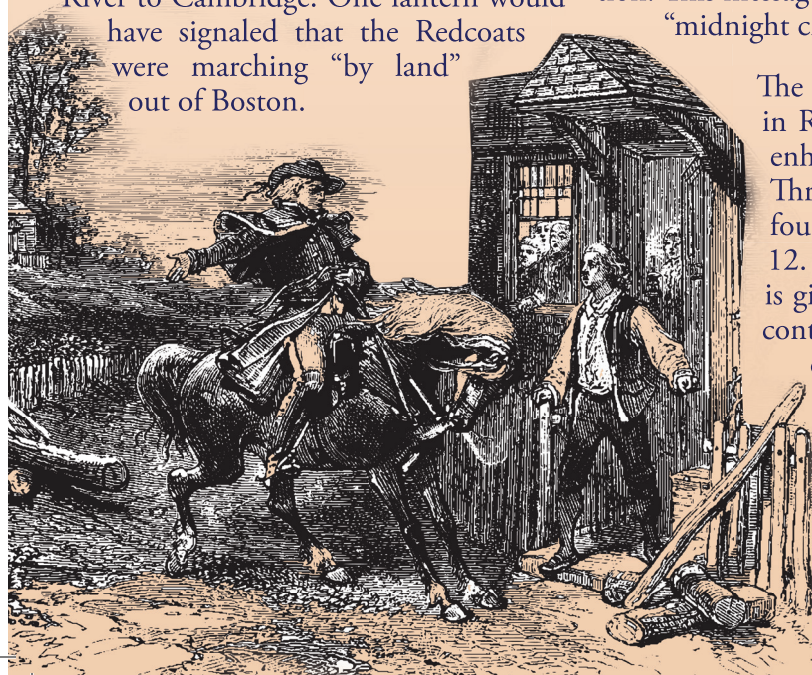
LESSON 4

UNDERSTANDING THE LOUD CRY

It was the evening of April 18, 1775, and Dr. Joseph Warren of Boston had summoned Paul Revere, directing him to ride to Lexington, Massachusetts, with a message of warning. Revere was to alert the colonists that British soldiers were preparing to march into the countryside northwest of Boston.

According to Warren, the British would continue to the town of Concord to capture or destroy military stores of gunpowder, ammunition, and cannons being stockpiled there.

Revere enlisted the aid of a friend, instructing him to hang two lanterns in the tower of (what is now called) the Old North Church as a signal in case Revere was unable to leave the city. The sign of the two lanterns meant British forces would travel by sea across the Charles River to Cambridge. One lantern would have signaled that the Redcoats were marching “by land” out of Boston.



Revere then left to deliver his message, a message of warning about what was coming, so that the Americans might not be taken by surprise. On he rode that night, quickly going house to house to share his midnight cry of warning along the way. His ride and warnings are well known in American history, for he truly woke the sleeping people and warned as many as possible.

The following day, being duly warned of what was coming, the Americans met the British on the field of battle, and the historic “shot heard round the world” was fired. The American Revolutionary War had begun.*

In Bible prophecy, we find God’s people, like Paul Revere, also sharing a special loud cry message to awaken people to make their final decision for salvation. This message is also symbolized as a “midnight cry.”

The message itself is found in Revelation 18 and is an enhanced repeat of the Three Angels’ Message found in Revelation 14:6-12. This warning message is given during earth’s final contest between the forces of good and evil.

We find the Bible’s description of this Loud Cry, as follows:

“And after these things I saw

another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.”
—Revelation 18:1

Habakkuk 2:14 refers to this same time when it says:

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

The descent of the angel coming with power represents the spiritual light that will break forth upon our world when the Holy Spirit descends upon God’s waiting people, much like the day of Pentecost, in Acts chapter 2.

Joel 2:28 tells us:

“I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh.”

This does not mean that all people, including all the wicked, are filled with the Holy Spirit, but it does indicate the message of salvation will be abundantly shared everywhere.

This will lighten the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

Continuing in Revelation 18:2:

“And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”



The Babylon referred to here is our modern-day Babylon, characterized by false religion or fallen churches, meaning those churches that have allowed confusion and false doctrines to enter their midst. In addition, it says these churches have become dwelling places of devils or evil spirits, referring to the end time when evil spirits will appear as angels of light or as dearly departed loved ones, attempting to deceive people into accepting their falsehoods. The fallen churches will accept the word of evil spirits disguised as angels of light, in place of the Word of God. Thus, the time is ripe when the true in heart among God's people must depart from these corrupting falsehoods.

Now the Bible says the angel cried mightily with a "strong" voice. The word "strong" in the original Greek is the same word used for "loud," as in loud voice, found in Revelation 14:7.

The Bible goes on to say:

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.
—Revelation 18:3-5

Here we see that apostate religion has filled up her cup and God now allows judgments to fall. Thus, the call goes out to His people everywhere: come out of falsehood and worship in truth!

Clearly, this is a message of significant import and given at the end of time with a Loud Cry. It is both a message of warning — come out of her My people — and a message of judgment upon modern-day Babylon.

Now with this background, let us examine five basic facts of the Loud Cry message:

1. THE LOUD CRY MESSAGE OF REVELATION 18 IS BASED ON THE MESSAGE OF THE THREE ANGELS, FOUND IN REVELATION 14:6-12.

It is the Three Angels' Messages, enhanced, deepened, and made strikingly relevant during earth's final crisis. What is the Three Angels' Message?

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."
—Revelation 14:6-7

God's judgment of humanity takes place prior to Christ's return. Many mistakenly think God judges the world at the return of Christ. And though there is a type of judgment at that time, it is the judgment or punishment of the wicked, and the reward of the just. Yet, prior to Christ's return, during the day and hour we are now living, the Bible indicates a Heavenly determination is being made of who will be counted with the righteous and who will be counted with the wicked. The first angel's message is that earth's judgment hour is now come.

After the first angel, a second angel is seen flying in heaven:

"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen,

is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."
—Revelation 14:8

The word Babylon comes from the word Babel and means confusion. Prior to the return of Christ, the Bible indicates earth will be in a time of confusion. We see this in a myriad of differing religious beliefs, all teaching they have the truth, or at times that there is no truth.

The second angel's message is calling God's true people to come out of religious confusion and worship God in truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation."
—Revelation 14:9-10

The last message, warning the world to avoid the mark of the beast, occurs during earth's final time of trouble. To avoid the mark of the beast, God's people must have a living connection with Him, so they are not deceived into compromising. This living connection solidifies them in the Word of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.

The three messages, in totality, are one message.

The servant of the Lord tells us:

"A similar work will be accomplished when that other angel, represented in Revelation 18, gives his message. The first, second, and third angels' messages will need to be repeated."
—Manuscript Releases, Vol. 16, 270.1

The repeating of these messages during the Loud Cry is the startling and final warning that they are being fulfilled in real time. For judgment will be taking place for the living as God's true followers are being called out of religious confusion (Babylon) and are being warned not to take the mark of the beast, which is then enforced!



As God's people go forth with power to deliver the message, we find the ultimate fulfillment of verse 12:

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

2. THE LOUD CRY COMES AFTER GOD'S CHURCH HAS EXPERIENCED THE SHAKING AND SUBSEQUENT LATTER RAIN, ENABLING THOSE WHO RECEIVE IT TO GIVE THE FINAL MESSAGE.

The Latter Rain is the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon His waiting people.

In previous studies, we have seen how God's church will be both shaken and purified and how His people will rise up and give the final warning message to the world. The message they give is the Loud Cry.

Preceding this message is a time of repentance, which we read about in Jeremiah 50:4:

"In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping; they shall go, and seek the LORD their God."

Notice this weeping and seeking after the Lord will occur as those who are truly Christ's come together in a united purpose. This repentance results in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, also called the Latter Rain in Scripture. Joel speaks of this in the following passages:

"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month." —Joel 2:23

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions." —Joel 2:28

The outpouring of the Spirit at the end of time will be much like what happened in the early church on the day of Pentecost. Note this quote in *Spirit of Prophecy*, Volume 4, Page 424:

"As the time comes for the loud cry to be given, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to his service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of his Spirit than by the training of literary institutions ..."

Like the early disciples, many of God's people will be common, ordinary individuals, but empowered by the Spirit to give the final message. Thus, they will proclaim the Loud Cry.

3. THE LOUD CRY COMES AT THE SAME TIME AS GOD'S DESTRUCTIVE JUDGMENTS.

Joel 2:29-30 tells us:

"And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke."

The Loud Cry message to come out of Babylon is given at the same time that God's judgments (though still mixed with mercy) are being poured out upon the earth. These judgments awaken many to the reality of the times in which they live, and instill a desire to know the truth.



In Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51, we find that the Bible has much to say about God's people coming out of Babylon. These Old Testament passages are companion chapters to Revelation 18 and enhance our understanding. These passages speak about both coming out of Babylon and the judgments that will fall upon her.

"Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence." —Jeremiah 51:6

Notice in this previous verse, the Lord tells His people to flee from Babylon for judgment is coming. What types of judgments?

"As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein." —Jeremiah 50:40

In verse 40, the Lord compares His judgments upon Babylon with His judgments upon Sodom and Gomorrah. What types of judgments fell on these cities of old? It was fire from heaven.

Referring to the destruction of Sodom, the servant of the Lord states,

"Suddenly as a peal of thunder from an unclouded sky fell balls of fire on the doomed capital." —Review and Herald, November 13, 1913.

How were Sodom and the cities of the plain destroyed? Balls of fire. What does God say comes upon end-time Babylon? The same judgment.

Jeremiah 50:32 says:

"And ... I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him."

In 1906, Ellen White had a dream of God's destructive judgments coming as balls of fire and falling upon the cities. During this time of destruction, she says:

"In the night season I had a presentation ... I saw the whole heavens lighted up. There were balls that looked like fire falling, and these balls looked as if

full of arrows, and wherever they struck there were great calamities.”

As she viewed the terrible destruction, she asked the Lord what it meant, and this reply was given to her:

“I was instructed that destruction hath gone forth upon cities. The Word of the Lord will be fulfilled.”

Continuing, we find additional descriptions of this event/time:

“Houses were set on fire, and no human effort could extinguish the flame. The earth quaked, and homes were falling with a crash. I heard the distressing screeching and praying. There was confusion everywhere. I said to someone, do look. That is the most striking representation of what will be in the last day. Revelation 18. Voices were proclaiming the events taking place. Read and understand, for it will surely be. (Chapter 19) of Revelation will ere long be fulfilled. Revelation 21. There were voices proclaiming the words of these chapters. With great power was the message given.”

—Manuscript 126-1906

Notice that during the ensuing destruction of numerous cities, we are told that “voices were proclaiming the events taking place.” At the same time, we are also told the messages of Revelation 18, 19, and 21 were being proclaimed with “great power”!

What is the message of Revelation 18? It is “come out of her my people,” as well as judgment on modern Babylon.

What is the message of Revelation 19? The return of Christ.

What is the message of Revelation 21? The city of God, New Jerusalem, which represents the bride of Christ or His church. It is the invitation to be part of the bride.

During the Loud Cry, God’s destructive judgments upon earth’s wickedness serve to awaken the minds of the true in heart, those who have never heard the messages of truth, thereby adding great emphasis to the giving of the loud cry.

As the message is given with great pow-

er, many take their stand for the Lord.

4. THE LOUD CRY IS SPECIFICALLY GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD AND REJECTED THE TRUTHS OF THE THREE ANGELS’ MESSAGES.

Prior to the Latter Rain, God’s people have been sealed, as have all who have both heard and rejected the Three Angels’ Messages. As the judgments of God burst upon the world, so the power of the Spirit bursts upon His waiting children. They go forth, not to share with those who have rejected the messages, but to those who have never heard them.

Consider the following quotes from the servant of the Lord:

“The time of God’s destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter. Large numbers will be admitted who in these last days hear the truth for the first time.

Multitudes are to be gathered into the fold. Many who have known the truth have corrupted their way before God and departed from the faith. The broken ranks will be filled up by those represented by Christ as coming in at the eleventh hour.” —Letter 103-19

At the time of the Loud Cry, those who have rejected these messages will find it is now too late to receive them. This includes those in the church who reject them in heart but outwardly still profess to believe. These are the foolish virgins of Matthew 25, who find they do not have the oil (Holy Spirit) when the midnight cry is sounding.

Yet, at the same time, a great multitude rises and joins God’s people, filling the ranks of those who leave.

“The light that was shed upon the waiting ones penetrated everywhere, and those in the churches who had any light, who had not heard and rejected the three messages, obeyed the call and left the fallen churches.”
—Early Writings, 278.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE THREE ANGELS’ MESSAGES, THE LOUD CRY ALSO SETS FORTH THE SINS OF MODERN BABYLON AND WARNS OF THE PLAGUES ABOUT TO FALL.

The Bible tells us:

“For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known.”
—Luke 8:17



Often, we find that the sins of apostate religion are somewhat hidden from its congregants, but not during the giving of the Loud Cry. Like the early disciples who boldly proclaimed the crucifixion of the Son of God by the nation’s religious leaders, so those filled with the Spirit during earth’s Loud Cry will boldly proclaim the sins and errors of modern Babylon.

In addition, a warning is given that the judgments during this crisis are but a precursor to the final plagues that will fall shortly thereafter.

Notice what the servant of the Lord says:

“Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of a union of Church and State, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power, — all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred.” —Spirit of Prophecy Volume 4, 424

“In the closing work of God in the earth the standard of his law will be exalted. False religion may prevail, iniquity abound, the love of many wax cold, the cross of Calvary be lost sight of, and darkness, like the pall of death, may spread over the world. The whole force of the popular current may be turned against the truth, plot after plot

may be formed to overthrow the people of God; but in the hour of greatest peril the God of Elijah will raise up human instrumentalities to bear a message that will not be silenced.

In the great cities of the land, and in the places where men have gone to the greatest lengths in speaking against the Most High, the voice of stern rebuke will be heard. Boldly will men of God's appointment denounce the union of the church with the world. Fearlessly they will call upon men and women to turn from the observance of a man-made institution to the observance of the true Sabbath."—Review and Herald, November 20, 1913

The Bible says:

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."
—Isaiah 58:1

During the Loud Cry, the voice of God's people has the effect of a trumpet—warning the people and awakening many to the reality of the time. For a deeper glimpse into the work and role of God's people in the end, let us turn to an Old Testament story found in the Book of Judges, starting in chapter 6.

The story of this man was of one who also gave a trumpet blast, which would awaken a sleeping army. The name of that man was Gideon. Here is the background:

In this story, Israel had been unfaithful to God. As a result, trouble came upon Israel, and the Midianites afflicted them.

Gideon was out secretly threshing wheat, attempting to avoid the marauding enemy who was constantly pillaging Israel's food. Israel was hungry and in distress, as a "time of trouble" had come upon them.

"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour."
—Judges 6:12

"And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."—Judges 6:13

Gideon's response to the angel was, "I don't understand. Why has all this trouble happened to us? We didn't expect it would be like this." Might not God's people say the same thing, as earth's final time of trouble descends upon them?

Notice, the Lord did not directly answer Gideon's question, but instead, He gave a command:

"And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?"—Judges 6:14

"And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man."—Judges 6:16

The Lord had called Gideon to do a work and unite the people together as one against their enemy. Gideon was not a trained soldier, neither was he a skilled politician. Instead, he was a common, ordinary man, but one of great character. Which leads us to this question:

How many useful and honored workers in God's cause have received training amid the humble duties of the most lowly positions in life?

"Gideon was taken from the threshing of wheat to be the instrument in the hands of God for delivering the armies of Israel. Elisha was called to leave the plow and do the bidding of God. Amos was a husbandman, a tiller of the soil, when God gave him a message

to proclaim."

—Gospel Workers 1892, 316

Gideon, as we will see in this story, is a type of Christ, like Moses and Elisha were also types of Christ. However, Gideon also represents those called from the plow to give the Loud Cry message. They will be filled with the Spirit of God and will represent the character of their Redeemer.

The servant of the Lord speaks of those engaged in the last great work:

"The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file.

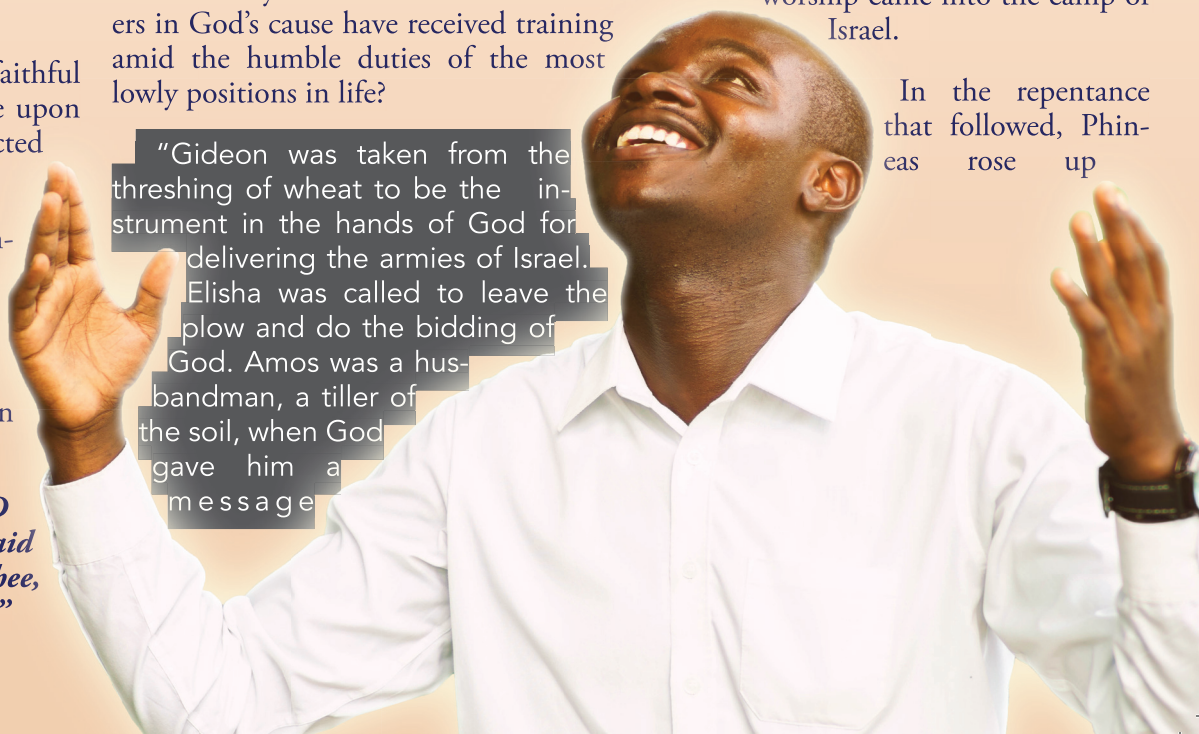
Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them."
—Testimonies Vol. 5, 80

What else do we know about Gideon?

He wasn't afraid to raise a standard against false worship.

You may remember the story in Numbers 25 when Israel was on the borders of the promised land, typifying God's people at the end of time, and how false worship came into the camp of Israel.

In the repentance that followed, Phineas rose up



against the false worship and stopped it. Likewise, in the story here, Gideon also rose up against false worship. God always calls for false worship to be removed prior to a great revival work.

He sought to know God's will.

The Psalmist says:

***"I delight to do Thy will, O My God,
thy law is within my heart."
—Psalm 40:8***

In the last days, those "called from the plow," like Gideon, will love to do God's will.

In this story, Gideon gave a call to the people of God, and 32,000 responded:

It was starting to look promising when the command came ...

"Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return ... And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand."—Judges 7:3

Imagine, two-thirds of those who identified themselves as Gideon's men were found too fearful to go into battle.

It is unfortunate that many go through life in an anxious state. When the going gets tough, they do not rise to the occasion but are the first to fall.

Why is this?

Fear and anxiety often come from an undue regard of self over the needs of others or even of God. Being

preoccupied with ourselves and our own survival and well-being indicates a lack of confiding trust in the Lord.

The heroes of the Bible, though possibly afraid at times, overcame their fears by willingly moving forward in faith and following God anyway, trusting the results to Him.

Now, if the fearful depart, who is left? The brave and those who think they are brave.

"And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there."—Judges 7:4

The word "try" comes from the Hebrew word tsaw-raf, and means to refine, such as gold is refined.

Now, the Lord does refine His church prior to the giving of the Loud Cry? He does this during the time of the shaking, when the mark of the beast is being enforced. This is the test of character for God's people.

In Gideon's day, who were being tried? Those who remained behind, who were identified as the brave. Yet, bravery itself is not an indication of spiritual fitness for duty. The Lord was seeking those who are constantly looking away from themselves and ever-ready to do His bidding, to fulfill His will in the end.

The Lord tested Gideon's men by simple means. Those who would leisurely stop at the brook, get down on their knees, and relax as they drank in the water, oblivious to everything around them, were those

who were not prepared to fight the Lord's battle.

They may appear brave, but in a conflict that bravery would give way to their own desires.

What would cause this type of false bravery? We know it as pride. Eve's false "bravery" was that she trusted in herself, "I won't be tricked into falling, I can take care of myself," she thought. Peter was the same way when he said to Jesus, "I will never deny you."

The proud are often mistaken for the "strong" in the church — those who would never say or do the wrong thing. Their strength comes from their will and force of personality, when it should be coming from the molding influence of Christ.

In the testing of God's people, both then and now, those who choose to remain fearful and proud will be found unfit to join God's people in the final spiritual warfare.

On the other hand, those of Gideon's army, who took their hands and scooped up the water, eyes looking straight ahead and ready for battle, are those who are tried and true and who will be loyal to God in the coming conflict.

"And the number of them that lapped ... were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand."—Judges 7:6-7

In Old Testament times, the battles for the Lord were physical battles, but at the end of time, they are spiritual battles. Likewise, after the testing and shaking of the church, the 144,000 go forth to win the Lord's spiritual battle for the souls of men and women. These are those who are so focused upon Christ, so filled with love and loyalty to him ... that they do not even count their lives dear unto themselves.

These are modern-day spiritual minutemen. They are willing to give the message with a shout.



During wartime in the mid-eighteenth century, a young French soldier had gone for a walk in the forest near to where his army was positioned. Not knowing of any danger in the area, he was suddenly surrounded by enemy soldiers, with 100 bayonets pointed at him. It was an apparent ambush for the nearby French army. "Utter a sound, and you're a dead man," said the enemy to the French soldier. What should he do?

Without a moment's hesitation, the soldier shouted toward his army friends, "the enemy is here." Instantly, he was killed on the spot, but that one shout was credited with saving the lives of 25,000 French soldiers that day!

Like that French soldier, God is calling you and me to be His spiritual minute-men!

Revelation 12:11 says,

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

After the testing, Gideon and his men went forward to battle.

"And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand."
—Judges 7:9

"And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude."
—Judges 7:12

Who was Gideon's army fighting? The children of the East. What were they likened to? Grasshoppers, with camels. In Scripture, from whom were the children of the East descendants? Ishmael.

Now, "grasshopper" comes from a Hebrew word meaning locust. Are the children of Ishmael ever considered as locusts elsewhere in the Bible?

"And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth."
—Revelation 9:3

A study of the trumpets in Revelation 9 reveals that these locusts represent the rise of Islam in Bible prophecy.

In the Loud Cry, who do the 144,000 take the final message to? To those who have never heard. This includes those in countries where the Gospel is not allowed, including the Islamic states (*i.e., the children of the East*).



What's the result? Large numbers come into God's cause.

"And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers."—Judges 7:16

"And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do."—Judges 7:17

"When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon."
—Judges 7:18

Who are we to look upon and do as He does? Christ. Gideon was a type of Christ; his army was a type of the 144,000. During the Loud Cry, it is Christ who gives direction to His people in fighting earth's final spiritual battle for the souls of men. These are they who keep their eyes on the Lamb and follow Him wherever he goes.

The Bible tells us:

"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."
"And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon."
—Judges 7:19-20

In commenting on this battle, the servant of the Lord says:

"And at midnight, at a signal from Gideon, all the three companies blew their trumpets, uncovered their lamps, and broke the pitchers, at the same time shouting, 'The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon!' The light of three hundred lamps piercing the midnight darkness and that mighty shout from three hundred voices suddenly aroused the sleeping army."—*Signs of the Times*, July 14, 1881

Notice here it was a midnight cry that was given by Gideon and his men, such as the midnight cry of the Bridegroom. We could also say it was a loud cry!

As the sounding of the trumpets pierced the air, and the light of the lamps illuminated the darkness, Gideon's army gave a loud or midnight cry, and the sleeping people of the East awakened.

Did we read in Revelation 18 that the earth would be lightened with the glory of God? During the Loud Cry, the voice of God's people is as the sound of a trumpet, accentuated by the judgments of God falling around them.

The light of the lamp is the Word of God, made clear by the power of the Holy Spirit, which is the fire. The midnight or Loud Cry is the last message of a loving God, given to those on earth who had never heard.

As Noah gave a warning to come on the ark and be saved, so God's last message for earth's undecided, is a call to commit themselves wholly to Christ, trusting completely in Him and courageously following Him in truth, during the final crisis.

Suddenly, through the power of the Spirit, the honest in heart see the light as they have never seen it before. The “children of the East” hear the Loud Cry, and as a result, large numbers boldly take their stand for Christ.

Like Gideon and his men, are you and I also willing to give a Loud Cry for Christ?

On the morning of December 26, 2004, Tilly Smith was vacationing with her parents on the Mai Khao beach in Phuket, an island off the coast of Thailand.

Coming from England, Tilly was happy to be out on the sunny beach, leaving the cold of her homeland behind.

As she walked with her mother, Tilly noticed that the seawater appeared bubbly or frothy. It reminded her of a film she had seen in her school geography class a couple of weeks earlier about the Hawaii Tsunami of 1946.

In reflecting on the film, Tilly noted how the seawater in the film appeared just like it did now, prior to the strike of the deadly wave.

“Mother, a tsunami is coming!” Tilly shouted. “We have to get off the beach. We have to run!”

Her mother, Penny, had noticed that strange-appearing seawater as well, but did not relate it to danger and did not take Tilly seriously.

“Mummy, we must get off the beach now!” Tilly insisted.

Now Penny began to worry about her daughter, who was screaming at her. Thinking back, she remembered that Tilly had studied about tsunamis recently in school. Yet, it was Tilly’s father, seeing how upset his daughter was, who said to a security guard, “My daughter thinks there is going to be a tsunami.” To his surprise, the security guard, who recognized the signs on the beach, said,

“She is right!”**

Thus, a warning message went out immediately to all to evacuate the beach!

People who were enjoying the day without the slightest thought of danger were urged to leave immediately! Minutes later, the killer wave showed up.

Afterward, it was found that more than a hundred people’s lives were saved that day because Tilly Smith recognized the signs around her and was not afraid to give the warning cry. Are you willing to do the same?

How Can I Be Ready?

One may ask: How can I be ready to receive the Holy Spirit and be prepared to give the Loud Cry message? What can I do about ongoing struggles with fearfulness, pride, or even a willingness to give my all for Christ? What is the answer?

The Bible says:

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”
—Ezekiel 36:26

It is a transformation that we need, one that unites us in oneness with God as Jesus sets forth in John 17:21. Such transformation occurs as we:

- Recognize we are spiritually wretched, poor, blind, and naked (Revelation 3:17).
- Surrender every decision of our lives to Christ (Luke 14:33).
- Plead with God for the power of His Spirit to fill us and transform us into His image (Colossians 1:13).
- Move forward by faith in doing God’s will (Philippians 3:13-14).

As the world sees the power of Christ in the transformation of His people, as they grasp by faith that it is His righteousness alone that will save and transform; the light of the knowledge of the glory of God dawns upon their hearts, and they accept Him as well.

“The message of Christ’s righteousness is to sound from one end of the earth to the other to prepare the way

of the Lord. This is the glory of God, which closes the work of the third angel.” —Testimonies for the Church 6:19

This spiritual rain will come in answer to our prayers, but it will come in answer to the prayer of faith, the faith of a unified people and the faith that lays hold upon the Lord and will not let go. Do you want to have that kind of faith today?

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