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## Old Testament Israel: Law, **Judges**, Kingdoms

**Story of Gideon** (May become a 2-week study)

### Scripture      **Judges 6-8**

<b>Judges 6:1, 2-6</b>	The oppression
<b>Judges 6:7-10</b>	God and Israel (who's the prophet?)
<b>Judges 6:11-24</b>	Call of Gideon – another Christophany
<b>Judges 6:25-35</b>	Rousing the troops
<b>Judges 6:36-40</b>	Gideon's fleece
<b>Judges 7:1-8</b>	Reducing the muster to 300 men
<b>Judges 7:9-15</b>	Final instruction and encouragement
<b>Judges 7:16-25</b>	Primary victory
<b>Judges 8:1-21</b>	Internal conflict
<b>Judges 8:22-27</b>	Gideon established as ruler
<b>Judges 8:28</b>	40 years of peace
<b>Judges 8:29-35</b>	Next round of rebellion against God

### Discussion:

**Note** the timeline: Joshua = George Washington

**Discuss** the evidence of Christophany throughout Judges 6:11-24

**Discuss** the validity of Gideon's fleece, is that God honoring?

**Note** the ephod in Judges 8:27 – assumed to be a pagan corruption (divination) of the divine guidance provided through the Urim and Thummin, components of the ephod.

**Note** Gideon's establishment of divination, wealth, and the accumulation of wives, but only after his death (v. 33) did the nation go back in to the debasement of the worship of Baal.

### Open Question:

**Note** What happened to the worship of God in Israel, and how is the degradation of American Christians different? Or the same?