



And They Stood
EVERY MAN
In His Place
Judges 7:21

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EVERY MAN In His Place

The Setting

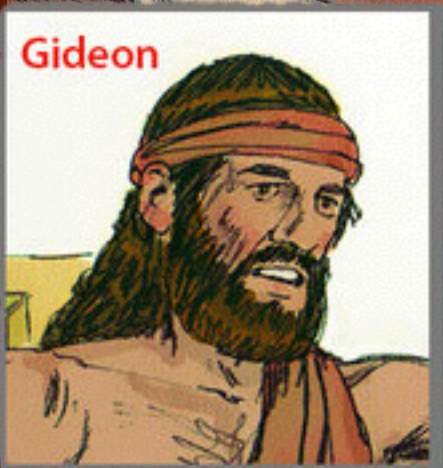
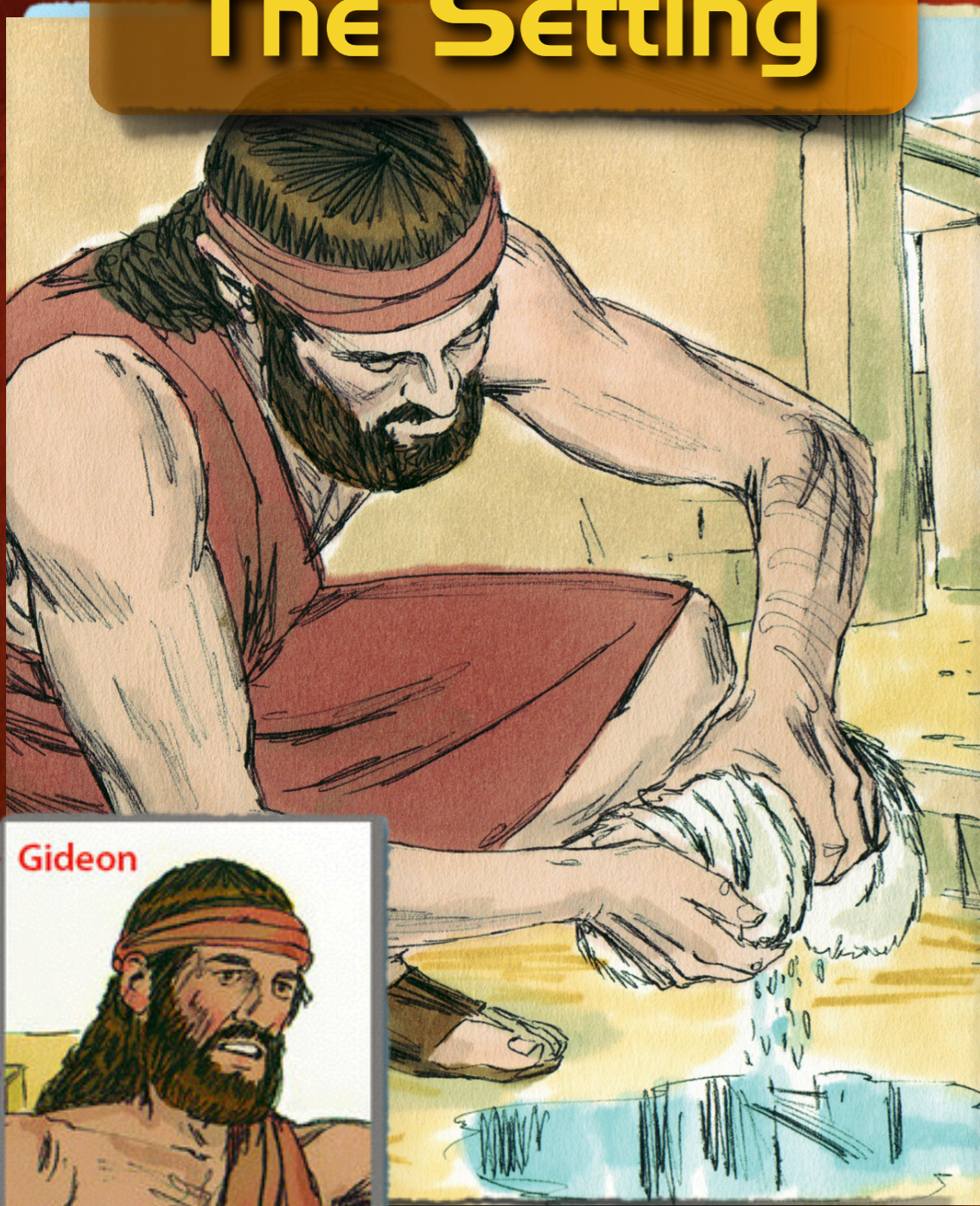


- The Midianites were oppressing Israel – 6:1-10
- Gideon chosen to deliver them – 6:11-24
- Gideon told to destroy his father's altar of Baal & wooden image - 6:25-32
- The Midianites & Amalekites gathered together & camped in the Valley of Jezreel - 6:33;7:12

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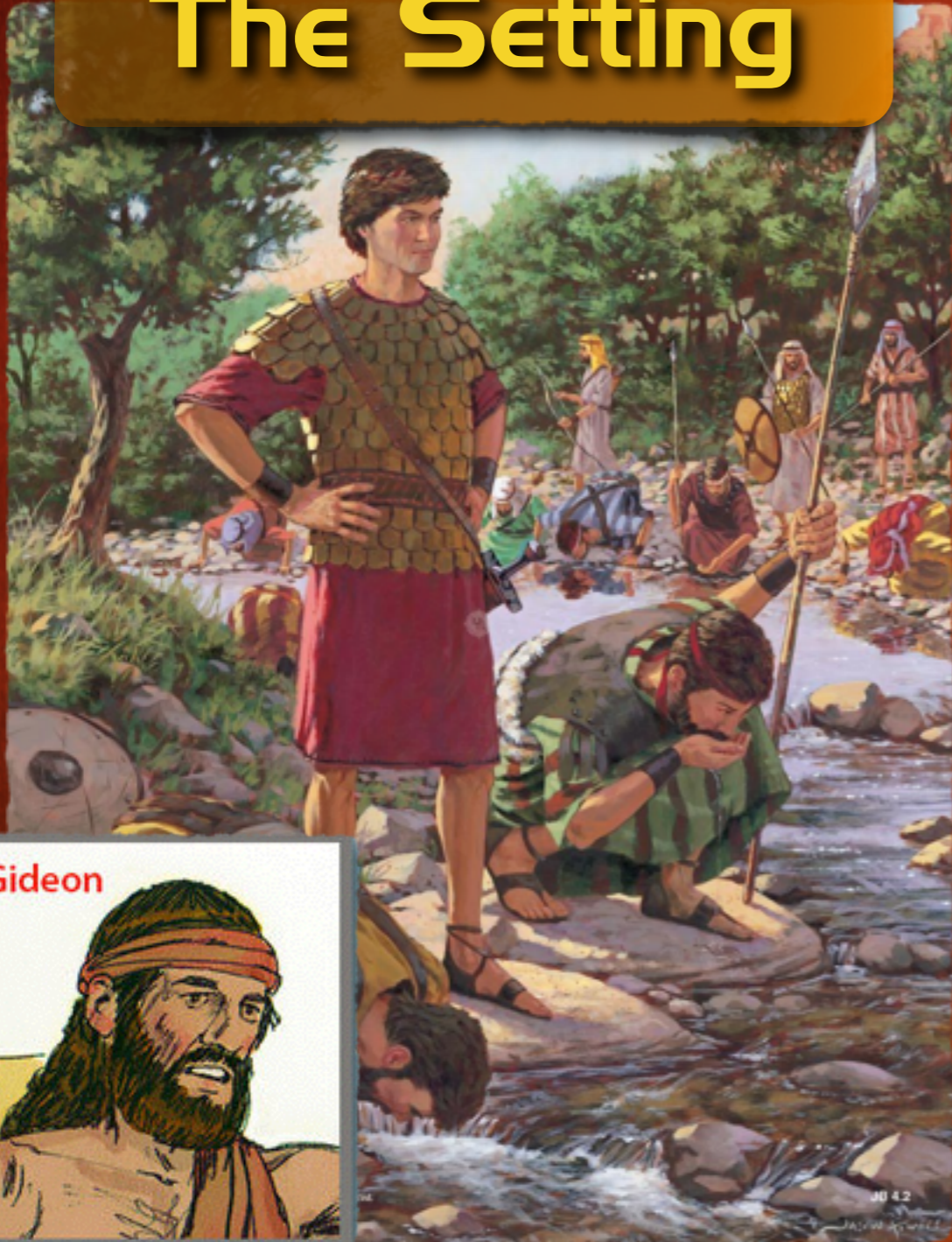


- Gideon summons his Abiezrite clan (*cf.* 6:11, 24) & the rest of the tribe of Manasseh along with - Asher, Zebulun & Naphtali - 6:34,35
- Signs concerning the fleece - (*God reassures Gideon that He will be with him*) - 6:36-40.

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- Gideon's Army Dwindled From 32,000 To 10,000 To 300 - Judges 7:1-8

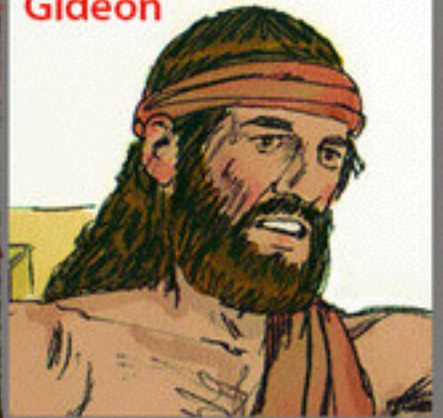
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- Gideon given further encouragement in overhearing a dream & its interpretation by Midianites - 7:9-15a
- Gideon divides the 300 men into 3 groups - they surround the Midianite camp, then defeat them with trumpets, empty pitchers & torches - crying - “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!” - 7:15-22

Gideon



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Started With Gideon



- Gideon was a man of humble origins - victory is NOT predicated upon our strength, but God's - 6:15,16; Eph 6:10-18; Phil 4:13
- We cannot fully serve God until we first destroy our Baal's - 6:25-32; Col. 3:5-17; Gal 5:24; Rom 6:2-13, 16-18

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Started With Gideon



- The armies amassed against the people of God will ultimately lose - 6:33-35; 8:28
- We should be trusting of God's word - but God is patient with us, desiring that our hearts be assured before Him - 6:17-20; 36-40; 1 Thes 3:13; 1 John 3:19-21

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A Small Army



- The Midianite force of 135k camped at the foot of Moreh's hill, at the eastern entrance to Jezreel Valley. (6:33; 7:1,12; 8:10)
- Gideon's forces numbered only 32k - but the LORD tells Gideon - "The people who *are* with you *are* too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself" (7:2)

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A Small Army



- Those afraid were told to leave, reducing the number to 22k - 7:3
- Lord said “still too many” - so a test was given, reducing # to 300 - 7:4-8
- Numbers, Size, Human Strength, etc. are not important factors in fighting God’s battles - (cf. Ps. 33:16; 1 Sam 14:6), but humility, faith, courage, obedience, zeal & endurance - 1 Sam 17:26-51, (esp, vs. 47); Rom 8:31

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Gideon Encouraged



- God gives Gideon more assurance - 7:9-15a -
- ◆ God has given us sufficient evidence to believe, (Rom 1:18ff; 10:17), but as we continue to believe, obey & serve - God grants more evidence - our faith grows - our service grows - our usefulness grows - Mat 13:12; 25:29; John 15:2-5; 2 Pet 1:5-15

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God Gives Victory



- 300 men against 135,000 -
- Weapons - trumpets / jars / torches / “A THEME” to shout
- God’s ways are often unconventional, contrary to human wisdom! - Is 55:8,9; 2 Kings 5; Mark 16:16; Rom 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; 2 Cor 10:4 - *[Salvation / the church (work, organization, / Spiritual warfare etc.)]*

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And They Stood . . .



Judges 7:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

- **WILLINGLY** - what **courage!** - Each one had to have tremendous faith - they were out numbered 450-1 - Heb 11:32; Rom 8:31
- How many of us would have volunteered for this ???
- It takes courage to stand up for the truth in an ungodly world! - Josh. 1:6-9,18; Acts 5:20; cf. Acts 4:13; 20:20,27; 1 Cor 16:13.

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Judges 7:21 (NKJV)

21 And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

- TOGETHER - There is strength in unity! - Ecc 4:12; John 17:20,21
- The devil knows the power of unity - and that we are vulnerable when divided! - Mark 3:24,25;
- It's not JUST UNITY that is of GREAT importance - but WE MUST BE united with God - upon His Word - Phili 1:27; 2:1-5; Eph 4:1-6; 1 Cor 1:10-13

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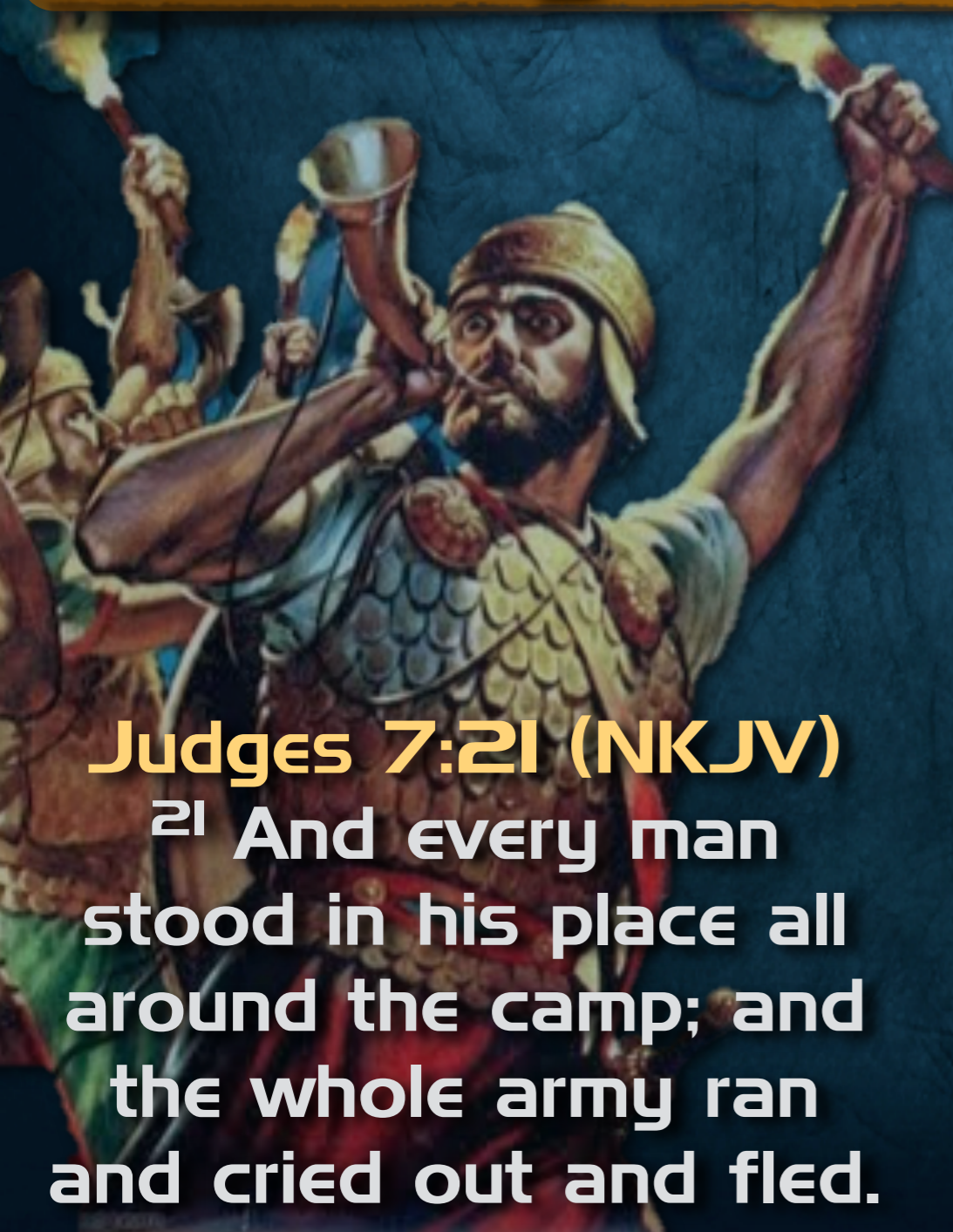
- Gideon and the 300 ALL submitted to the same authority - 120,000 fell & 15,000 fled! – (Jud 7:17-22)
- Submission to Christ's authority results in unity – (1 Cor. 1:10; Eph 4:1-6; Col. 2:19; 3:17)
- ONLY standing on the doctrine of Christ brings REAL success! – (2 Jn 1:9; Mt 7:24-27; Eph 6:10-18)

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- All 300 Were Involved! - They, each and every one, had a role in gaining the victory -
- This Is NOT A Spectator Sport! - Each member needs to be involved - 1 Cor. 12:12-26
- The growth and success of this congregation is directly related to each and every member getting actively involved - Eph 4:11-16

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- Our responsibilities cannot be shifted to others - each was equipped to do his part - Heb 10:24,25; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Cor 12
- If every member of this church attended, worked, served & was as involved as I am, what kind of church would this church be? - Phil 2:1-5

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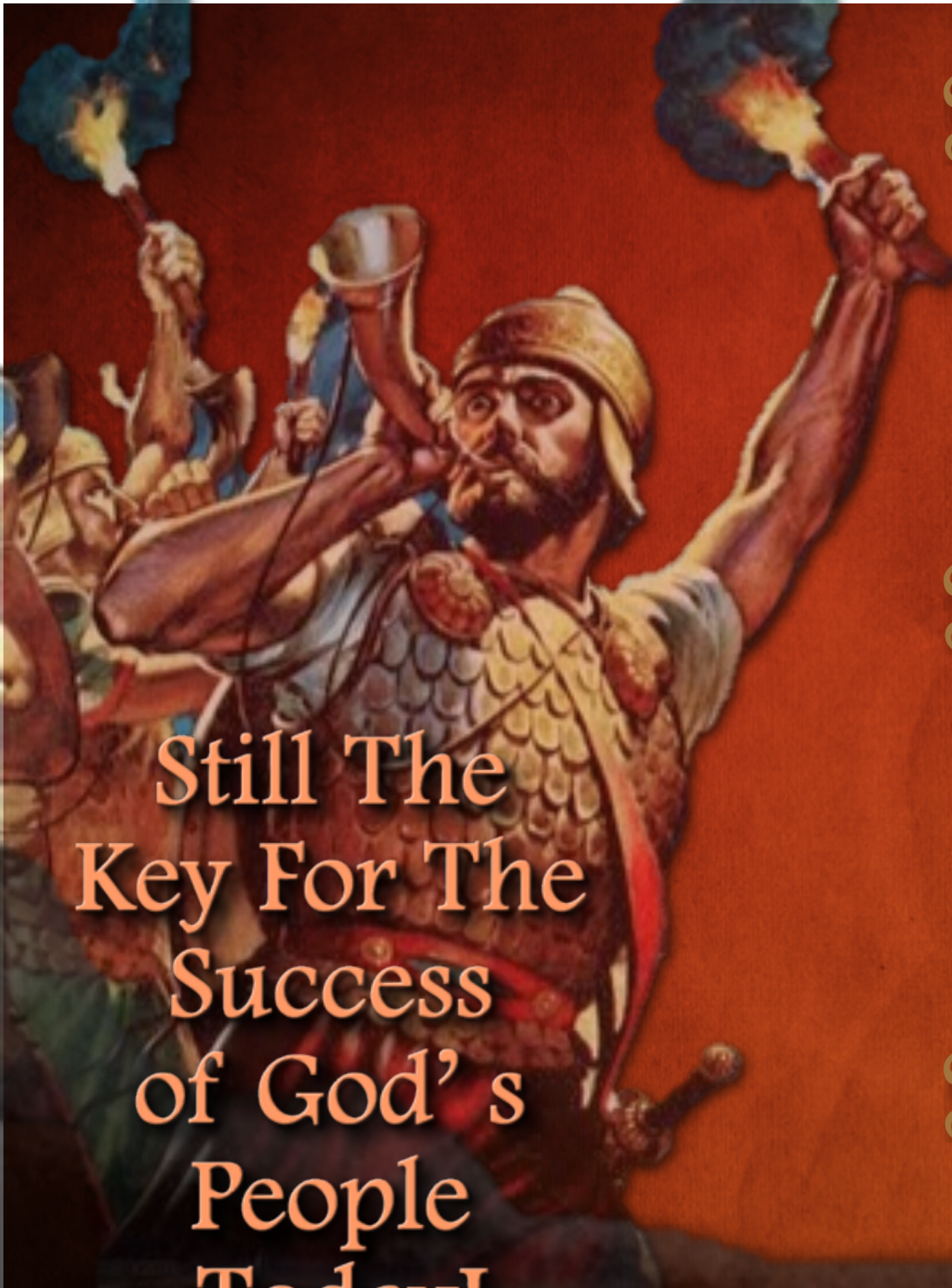
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²¹ And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

- Every man **knew** his place - Are you doing all you can to learn your place & how to use your talents? - Mat 25:14-30
- Every man **was in** his place - It is one thing to know and another to do! - James 1:21-25
- Every man **stayed** in his place - Too many start with zeal, but - Mat 13:20-23; 1 Cor. 15:58



Still The
Key For The
Success
of God's
People
Today!

- **And They Stood**
– Required
Courage,
submission & unity
- **Every Man** –
Accepted
Individual
Responsibility
- **In His Place** –
Each Dedicated To
His Purpose



Still The
Key For The
Success
of God's
People
Today!

➤ They Overcame By Faith - Heb 11:32

- Believed God – 7:13-15
- Obeyed instructions – 7:16-21
- Gained the victory – 7:22-8:12

➤ Are You A Christian?

- Believe – John 8:24
- Obey instructions – Acts 2:38;
Rom 10:8-17
- Gain the victory – Acts 2:41,42



➤ **If You Are A Christian**

Still The
Key For The
Success
of God's
People
Today!

- Will you be standing in your place tonight?
- Will you be standing in your place Wednesday night?
- Will you be standing in your place each day this week doing what you can to serve the Lord?
- What about in your family? -
At work? - In Society?

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Charts by Don McClain

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Hebrews 11:30-40 (NKJV)

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. ³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

Hebrews 11:30-40 (NKJV)

³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Hebrews 11:30-40 (NKJV)

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

Hebrews 11:30-40 (NKJV)

³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰

God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.