

# **Joshua 24:14-15, 21-24 (NIV)**

**14 "Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.**

**15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.**

**But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”**

**21 But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the Lord."**

**22 Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord."**



**“Yes, we are witnesses,”  
they replied.**

**23 “Now then,” said Joshua,  
“throw away the foreign  
gods that are among you  
and yield your hearts to  
the Lord, the God of Israel.”**

**24 And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey Him."**

# **Judges 6:1-24 (NIV)**

**The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years He gave them into the hands of the Midianites.**

**2 Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds.**



**3 Whenever the Israelites  
planted their crops, the  
Midianites, Amalekites and  
other eastern  
peoples invaded the  
country.**

**4 They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys.**

**5 They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it.**

**6 Midian so impoverished  
the Israelites that they  
cried out to the Lord for  
help.**



**7 When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, 8 He sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.**

**9 I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land.**

**10 I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to Me."**

**11 The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.**



**12 When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, He said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."**

13 “Pardon me, My lord,”  
Gideon replied, “but if  
the Lord is with us, why has  
all this happened to us?  
Where are all His  
wonders that our ancestors  
told us about when they  
said, ‘Did not the Lord bring  
us up out of Egypt?’

**But** now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

**14** The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

**15 “Pardon me, my lord,”  
Gideon replied, “but how  
can I save Israel? My clan is  
the weakest in Manasseh,  
and I am the least in my  
family.”**



**16 The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."**

**17 Gideon replied, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really You talking to me.**

**18 Please do not go away  
until I come back and bring  
my offering and set it  
before You.”**

**And the Lord said, “I will  
wait until you return.”**

**19 Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to Him under the oak.**



**20 The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so.**

**21 Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in His hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared.**

**22 When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!"**

23 **But** the Lord said to him,  
“Peace! Do not be afraid.  
You are not going to die.”



**24 So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.**