

Chapter 7

Gedeon marching with thirtie two thousand men, al that are fearful, and that drinke water kneeling are dimised, & onlie three hundred that drinke litle remaine. 9. By a Madianites dreame Gedeon is encouraged. 16. By a stratageme the enemy is frighted & ouerthrowne. 24. The Ephraites kil Oreb and Zeb.

Therfore Ierobaal, which is also Gedeon, ryfing in the night, and al the people with him, came to the fountaine that is called Harad, and the campe of Madian was in the valley on the North side of the high hil. ² And our Lord said to Gedeon: There is much people with thee, neither shall Madian be deliuered into their hand: Left Israel glorie against me, and say: By myne owne force I am deliuered. ³ Speake to the people, and proclame in al their hearing: He that is fearful and timorous, let him returne. And they departed from mount Galaad, and there returned two and twentie thousand men, and onlie ten thousand remained. ⁴ And our Lord said to Gedeon: Yet there is a great multitude, leade them to the waters, and there I will proue them: and of whom I shall forbid to goe, let him returne. ⁵ And when the people were come downe to the waters, our Lord said to Gedeon: They that shall lappe the water with their tongues, as dogges are wont to lappe, thou shalt separate them apart: but they that shall drinke bowing downe their knees, shall be on the other part. ⁶ The number therefore of them that had lappe water, their hand casting it to their mouth, was three hundred men: and al the rest of the multitude had drunck kneeling. ⁷ And our Lord said to Gedeon: In the three hundred men, that lapped water, I will deliuer you, and geue Madian in thy hand: but let al the rest of the multitude returne into their place. ⁸ Taking therefore victuals and trumpettes according to the number, al the rest of the multitude he commanded to depart to their tabernacles: and him selfe with the three hundred gaue him selfe to the battel. And the campe of Madian

was beneath in the valley. ⁹ The same night our Lord said to him: Arise, and goe downe into the campe: because I haue deliuered them into thy hand. ¹⁰ But if thou be afraid to goe alone, let Phara thy seruant goe downe with thee. ¹¹ And when thou shalt heare what they speake, then shalt thy handes be strengthened, and thou shalt goe downe more secure to the enemies campe. He therefore went downe and Phara his seruant into part of the campe, where the watch was of men in armes. ¹² But Madian and Amalec, and al the East peoples lay scattered in the valley, as a multitude of locustes: their camels also were innumerable, as the sand that lieth in the sea shore. ¹³ And when Gedeon was come, one told his neighbour ^a) a dreame: & in this manner he reported that which he had seene: I saw a dreame, & there seemed to me as it were a hard loafe of barlie to roll, & to come into the campe of Madian: and when it was come to the tabernacle, it strooke it, and ouerthrew it, and beate it all flatte with the earth. ¹⁴ He to whom he spake, answered: This is no other thing, but the fword of Gedeon the sonne of Ioas the man of Ifrael. For the Lord hath deliuered Madian into his handes, and all their campe. ¹⁵ And when Gedeon had heard the dreame, and the interpretation therof, he adored: and turned to the campe of Ifrael, and said: Arise ye, for our Lord hath deliuered the campe of Madian into our handes. ¹⁶ And he diuided the three hundred men into three partes, and gaue them trumpettes in their handes, and ^b) emptie pitchers, and lampes in the middes of their pitchers. ¹⁷ And he said to them: What you shall see me doe, that doe ye: I will enter into part of the campe, and that which I shall doe follow you. ¹⁸ When the trumpet shall sound in my hand, doe you also sound and crie together round about the

^a Obseruation of dreames is generally forbid. *Leuit. 19. v. 26. Deut. 18. v. 10.* Yet here, and in other places, it is euident, God would haue some obserued. See *Annot. Gen. 40.*

^b These things were ridiculous (saith Venerab. Beda *c. 5. qq. in Iudic.* if they had not bene terrible to the enemies.

campe: To our Lord ^{a)}and to Gedeon. ¹⁹ And Gedeon went in, and the three hundred that were with him, into part of the campe, the watch of midnight beginning, and rayfing vp the watch men they began to found with their ^{b)}trumpettes, and to clappe the pitchers one againft an other. ²⁰ And when they founded in three places round about the campe, and had broken the pitchers, they held the lampes in the left handes, and with the right they founded the trumpettes, and cried: The fword of our Lord and of Gedeon: ²¹ ftanding euerie one in his place round about the enemies campe. Therefore the whole campe was trubled, and crying out and howling they fled: ²² and the three hundred men neuertheles perfifted founding with the trumpettes. And our Lord fent in the fword in al the campe, and they murdered one an other, ²³ fleeing as farre as Bethfetta, and the brinke of Abelmehula in Tebbath. But the men of Ifrael of Nepthali, and Afer shoutting together, and al Manaffes purfewed Madian. ²⁴ And Gedeon fent meffengers into al mount Ephraim, faying: Come downe to meete Madian, and take the waters before them to Bethbera and Iordan. And al Ephraim shouted, and tooke the waters before them and Iordan vnto Bethbera. ²⁵ And two men that were apprehended of Madian, Oreb, and Zeb: Oreb he flew in the Rocke of Oreb, Zeb in the Preffe of Zeb. And they purfewed Madian, carying the heades of Oreb and Zeb to Gedeon beyond the ftreames of Iordan.

^a It is no derogation to God, that honour is alfo geuen to his feruantes.

^b Trumpettes fignified preachers of Chrift, pitchers the bodies of Martyres, & lampes their vertues and miracles. *Vener. Beda. qq. in Iudic. c. 3.*