

## I. Review

### ➤ The Buckler

The last time we were together, we looked at and laid out one of the unknown elements of the Christian life. We've talked a lot over the last couple of months in Psalms 18 about the church militant and the church triumphant. I'm sure you now know and understand the difference between the two. **Within the church militant, which is the local New Testament church and our spiritual warfare, is the warfare of the believer.** It's found in Ephesians 6, and we've looked many times at the seven pieces of armor that God gives us for that spiritual warfare. But **we've been coming through Psalms 18, and I showed you a new piece of the equipment or the armor for our warfare: the buckler.** The buckler is unknown to most Christians as far as what it was and what it was used for. I then explained the difference between the shield of faith found in Ephesians 6 and the buckler found in Psalms 18. **The buckler is much smaller and is used in close combat or hand-to-hand format.**

I laid out for you how God will prepare you to fight this spiritual warfare. All this physical armor, and we talked about Paul likening it to a first-century Roman soldier, will go together to show us the spiritual application in our own spiritual warfare. In dealing with people, and the ministry is people, you're going to meet people who are unsaved: caught up in the world and the flesh. They're good people who have gotten involved with the world and don't really care about church, the Bible, or God. They're just happy being lost and don't know the joy that they're missing in salvation. In most cases, as you probably know if you work with people, it's generally much easier dealing with the garden variety sins of an unsaved person.

### ➤ God has His Elite, and the Devil has his, too

I showed you a great principle within spiritual warfare. God wants His mighty men of valour—Christians who are head and shoulders above the rest, and I showed you examples of that within the Old Testament nation of Israel such as David's mighty men of valour. The devil has his elite, too. If you want to study history in the Old Testament, you'll get the foundation for it in Genesis. If you want to study history coming through the New Testament, you'll get the foundation for it in the book of Acts. You've heard me say it many times, and it is key to understanding everything. **All history is built around two movements: God's plan and His movement to accomplish what he wants and the devil moving to counter it.** That's what you see laid out around Genesis—God moving then the devil moving. You see it also in Acts. And just as God has his elite men and women who really know and understand not only their Bibles but how to use their Bibles and are really the “lynch pin” of God's plan, the devil has his, too. I showed you, particularly in America, the American cults that came into being during the Great

Awakenings in the first couple hundred years of history in America. This will be the ultimate test, truly, for any Christian—how you can handle yourself in situations like these.

*Ephesians 6:12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].*

### ➤ God's Seven Great Awakenings and the Devil's Seven American Cults

Most of God's people have no understanding of what the seven Great Awakenings were as God's Holy Spirit moved across America from 1700-1900. God's Spirit moves from East to West, and as America developed and moved westward, so did the Holy Spirit of God. At the same time, however, the devil had his elite. He began to counter what God was doing by bringing in the seven or eight American cults that really were designed to stop the Spirit of God and what God's people were doing. God's people today are totally unprepared to take these groups on and deal with them. It's a shameful state to be God's witness in this spiritual warfare and be up against these groups yet have no ability to deal with them.

Revelation chapter three talks about the Laodicean church period which we are part of (if you know your Bible). It's the last age of the church before Christ comes back. In this chapter, He talks about the true church of Jesus Christ which is at this point neither hot nor cold. He wishes they were one or the other. The church today is not hot; it's not on fire for the Lord (winning people to Christ, dealing with the cults, etc.), but they're not into apostasy either. They're lukewarm. If you continue to read that account, God spews the representative angel of this church out of his mouth. He's totally dissatisfied with it. Then He goes on and begins to tell you the real problems which we've been over many times.

### ➤ The Average Christian is Someone who has gotten Satisfied

You're going to find, and you'll find this through experience, that when you start to get into this level of warfare (that most of God's people never get into), that when you begin to deal with these cults (Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, even the Charismatics), you're going to find a mindset of superior confidence that they have. They have a boldness that God's people don't have anymore. The reason for that is they will have no real opposition to whatever heresy they are teaching. They know all about what we call Christianity or Bible believers, and they know that we don't know what we're doing for the most part. They know they can manipulate us and simply have their way with us. It's like the winner of the Super Bowl playing a junior high football team. The pro team would roll over and destroy them. And today, honestly, most Christians, spiritually speaking, couldn't make that junior high team. They don't understand what they're up against because they have chosen not to get involved in this spiritual warfare. The average Christian, and they're good people who I truly believe are saved, is someone who has gotten satisfied. They didn't want to move any further; they didn't want to learn anything; they didn't want to bring any discomfort into their lives. They simply found a church to go to, hear a nice message, listen to a pleasant song service, and all their Christian life they are satisfied with that. They never step outside of their comfort zone. They don't know

what it means to really take on Satan's elite and go hand-to-hand with them and understand how to defeat them.

### ➤ Stories in the Bible Illustrate Principles

I don't care where you go in the Bible or what principle we lay out, you're going to find stories in the Bible which God has put in there to illustrate the principle to help show us better. That is really what we're doing in Patterns class. I'm laying out a problem that somebody has, but I'm showing you in the Bible a scenario with people in the Bible from history. What they went through is a perfect picture of what you've got to deal with today in people's lives.

Last week I showed you the difference between the shield of Ephesians 6 and the buckler of Psalms 18. Now you have a better understanding of what the difference is and, in a spiritual application, how to be able to use them in your own spiritual warfare. We've been coming through Psalms 18, and with today's message, as well as the message next week, we now begin to see the end result of doing the things I have already shown you in Psalms 18.

### ➤ Six Things We've Looked at in Psalms 18 to Build into your Christian Life

We saw the rock, building a foundation on that rock, the fortress you build on that foundation, and understanding that God is in the delivery business—He's going to take care of you; you get into the battle for Him, and He's going to have your back and deliver you. We saw how you must have the true God because Israel got the wrong god. We saw how this battle must be fought trusting in God's strength and not your own, and then last week I showed you the buckler.

## II. Psalms 18:1-2 – The Horn of my Salvation

*Psalms 18:1-2. I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.*

*2. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and **the horn of my salvation**, [and] my high tower.*

**For you and me, the horn of my salvation will be our witness for Christ.** A horn is what you use to get a message out. When we go to camp or have activities with a large group of people, somebody has a bullhorn. Someone speaks through it to amplify their voice. This morning, even though it's not a horn as we think of it, my voice is being amplified through the sound system so you can hear it. **What you build your Christian life to be by putting these six things that we've looked at into your life will really bring you to the point where God wants you to be His witness: a horn of His salvation to a lost world.** Before I get into that, I want you to completely understand this concept.

I want to first lay out the different ways the Bible talks about horns so you can have a complete understanding on it. We're going to have a little Bible study this morning, and actually, we're going to have about 6 Bible studies in one lesson. You need to get these in your Bibles. I'm not going to get into great detail, but I'm going to give you enough that you can see this and realize that you need to understand it better.

### ➤ The Horn Represents a Message

First off, let's look at the concept or idea of the horn when he says *the horn of my salvation*. In the Bible, the horn represents a message. It's a message of power; however, it's going to be a message of power from not only God but also from the devil. When Paul was writing to the church in Corinth, they were all messed up on tongues and were using them in a way that God never intended. He told them in I Corinthians 14:8 that by somebody speaking in an unknown jibber jabber tongue, which was never authorized in the Bible, people cannot understand what is being said. When they come to church, they need to be edified. The only way you can edify people is to teach the Bible, and they understand what you're saying. But these people are going on and on (*Fe-Fi-Fo-Fum—I smell the blood of an Englishman*) and nobody can understand it. Then Paul says:

*I Corinthians 14:8. For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*

The trumpet is a horn. When someone gives a message that is confusing, it's an uncertain sound. **God's message and God's horn are never uncertain.** The devil's will always be uncertain.

## III. Six Bible Studies About Horns

### ➤ Bible Study #1 – Horns that are Symbolic—They represent a nation, they represent a king, or they represent power of a message

*I Samuel 16:13. Then Samuel took the **horn of oil**, and **anointed him in the midst of his brethren**: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.*

In I Samuel 16:13, it talks about the *horn of oil*, and I want to explain that briefly. Where you find the *horn of oil*, it was olive oil that they kept in a horn (like a cow's horn). When they anointed a king, the priest came with the horn of oil. He took that oil, which is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God, and anointed the man who was going to be king—symbolically saying that he now had the Holy Spirit of God to be God's king and to be God's prophet.

*Psalms 148:14. **He also exalteth the horn of his people**, the praise of all his saints; [even] of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.*

In Psalms 148:14, it says that Christ is the exalted horn of His people—the nation of Israel. So now we begin to see that the horn of oil is the power that is put upon that man who is going to be king...so it's a horn. In Psalms 148, Christ is the exalted horn; He's going to be the leader with the message and the power of the nation of Israel.

In Daniel 8 and Rev 17, you'll find the antichrist is connected to horns. **Remember one of the ways that horns are used in the Bible: a message, a position of power, a nation of power**

**with a message.** In Daniel 8, when it talks about the antichrist, he's called the little horn. In Revelation 13, you'll find that the antichrist has 10 kingdoms that are represented by 10 horns. **You see, it's the nations that he has that are called horns because they have a message that they give to the people with power.** So, you'll want to remember how he uses these.

**These horns will be symbolic** in the aspect that they represent a nation, they represent a king, or they represent power of a message—whether it's God's or the devil's, but they are symbolic. You need to understand that. This is really the key to understanding and unlocking history. You'll want to get these into your Bible in these 3-4 places that I gave you so that you'll understand how it begins to be used.

### ➤ Bible Study #2 – Literal Horns (Trumpets) that God uses to Send a Message

In the Bible you will find literal horns, and this is where our message in Psalms 18 really is—trumpets that God uses to send a message. Before our modern military, everything went by a bugle call. To this day in the army, at wake-up over the loudspeaker, they will have *Reveille*. They had a bugle call for chow, a bugle call for mail call, a bugle call for pay day, a bugle call for everything. Before PA systems, that's how they assembled everybody. **You knew the message they were giving by what you heard from the bugle or trumpet call.**

Wherever you're at on a fort, the fort will have a headquarters with an American flag. That will be the central American flag of that fort. Every day at 5:00PM, or whenever they quit for the day, you will hear over the loudspeaker the trumpet playing "To the Colors." Everybody in the fort will stop and face the flag, come to attention and salute while the trumpet/horn plays, and the flag comes down. Everybody stops and pays attention because the horn gave the message so you knew exactly what was going on.

For Israel, God uses literal horns four ways:

1. An Assembly—Calling everybody together.
2. A Warning—That somebody is attacking.
3. A charge or a fight.
4. When the victory has been won.

Now all this stuff happened historically; that's why it's in your Bible. These are all things that He had the nation of Israel do and the stories actually happened. At the same time, we know there's a prophetic aspect in each one of these passages that deals with the second coming of Christ for the nation of Israel.

*Numbers 10:1-6. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

*2. Make thee **two trumpets of silver**; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the **calling of the assembly**, and for the **journeying of the camps**.*

Now right out of the chute, you learn three things. There are two trumpets that are used separately. They are also made out of silver which in the Bible is the price of redemption. So,

you're going to have two trumpets made of silver that are going to deal with Israel's redemption. One trumpet for the calling of the assembly and the other trumpet for them to move out.

As you get into your Bible, these are the things you mark. They will lead you to not only a historical reference but lead you to a futuristic doctrinal reference that's dealing with Israel and the second coming of Christ.

*3. And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.*

*4. And if they blow [but] with one [trumpet], then the princes, [which are] heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee.*

*5. When ye blow an alarm, then the camps that lie on the east parts shall go forward.*

*6. When ye blow an alarm the second time (**there's your second trumpet**), then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys.*

### ○ The Historical Application

The first trumpet sound (horn) is for the assembly of the nation of Israel. The second trumpet sound will be for them to get ready and get together once they're assembled, and now they're going to move out.

Historically, Israel did this for the 40 years they were wandering. You must understand the problem. Two million people camped on more than 40 acres, and you want to communicate to them that you want the elders to gather at the door of the tabernacle and get everybody on a certain side and get ready to move. How do they do it? They do it with horns. The first trumpet they hear, they know that they're going to be assembled or gathered together. The second horn means they're going to move out. They did that for 40 years for the assembling and the moving of the nation of Israel.

### ○ The Doctrinal Application

Doctrinally, you'll have two aspects of this trumpet for the nation of Israel. The first time the trumpet is blown in verse three, it's for the gathering together of the nation of Israel. That will represent God gathering Israel from 1917 to 1948. What did God do during that time period? The Gentile world was going crazy and doing everything that they were doing, but God's focus was on the nation of Israel that had been lost for 2,000 plus years. Suddenly, around 1900, God begins to gather the nation of Israel back. You'll find this in the books of Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah where He calls them back and gathers them together. In 1948, that gathering is complete and they become a nation. There's your first trumpet.

Then the second trumpet they hear, historically, they move out. Doctrinally, it will be a picture of Israel going out at the second coming of Christ. What you have here is that through these trumpets, you have the trumpet/horn of Israel's salvation. Historically, it's the trumpet to get them together and then move them out. Doctrinally, it's a time period in our life where God regathers the nation of Israel that is scattered all over the world. In 1917, God begins to regather

them. World War I got the land ready for the Jew, and World War II got the Jew ready for the land; the regathering is complete in 1948 when they become a nation. And the next trumpet that they're going to hear is when God takes them out in the tribulation period. They take their journey.

➤ Bible Study #3 – The People Prepared Against the Third Day: Israel's Horn of their Salvation

Let me show it to you again. You're going to notice that these are all in the Old Testament, they are all literal trumpets and horns, you see how they were made (silver), and now we're going to see again how God uses them. Historically, this absolutely happened. Doctrinally, again, I want to show you a picture of the second coming of Christ, and you can't miss this one.

*Exodus 19:14-20. And **Moses** went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; **and they washed their clothes.***

*15. And he said unto the people, Be ready against **the third day: come not at [your] wives.***

*16. And it came to pass on the third day **in the morning**, that there were **thunders and lightnings**, and **a thick cloud** upon the mount, and **the voice of the trumpet** (**Now we get another thing: the trumpet is a VOICE**) **exceeding loud**; so that all the people that [was] in the camp trembled.*

*17. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp **to meet with God**; and they stood at the nether (Old English for the bottom) part of the mount.*

*18. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.*

*19. And when **the voice of the trumpet** (He tells you again that the trumpet is a voice) **sounded long, and waxed louder and louder**, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.*

*20. And the LORD came down upon **mount Sinai**, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses [up] to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.*

If I'm reading this and I know anything about my Bible (and this is what I try to teach you), what unlocks the Bible are the **key words**. If you been here 3, 4, or 5 years and you get in your Bible, you're probably already ahead of me. Historically, we know what is happening here. I want you to notice what you should have picked up, and most of you probably did.

The first thing I notice here is that the story is centered around Moses. Moses is one of the two witnesses that come back in the tribulation period in Revelation Chapter 11. That would have caught my attention right out of the box. The next thing I would have noticed is that this all happens on the third day. That's the second coming of Christ. Next, it says in the morning and a thick cloud; that is Joel Chapter 2—the second coming of Christ. The next thing I would have caught would be the thunder and lightning. Then the trumpet is a voice.

Notice in verse 14, and this is where you've really got to put your spiritual perception glasses on, where it says *and they washed their clothes*. Now why do you need to know that? Is the third day laundry day? Why would God put that in there? It's because this is a picture of God dealing with Israel at the end of the tribulation at the second coming of Christ, and you're told in Revelation 7:14 that the tribulations saints, right before the second coming of Christ, have to wash their own clothes.

Then in verse 15, it says *come not at your wives*. In other words, don't be with them in an intimate way. Really? What does that represent? Well in Revelation 7 when the tribulation saints, the Jews, are out evangelizing, the Bible says in Revelation 14:4 and in Matthew 25 that they are virgins. So here in the story, historically but picturing something prophetically, they're told not to come at their wives.

In verse 20, all of this takes place around Mount Sinai which is where the Lord comes back at the second coming of Christ. It begins the route in Exodus 3:5 where the Lord comes back at Sinai, goes up the wilderness, across Jordan, and into Jerusalem which is the route that the nation of Israel takes in their wilderness journey.

In verse 16, we have the voice of a trumpet. In verse 17, we're told that when they hear the voice of the trumpet, the people are going to meet God. Now I want you to notice these two trumpets and their two horn blasts. Verses 16-17 say that when the trumpet sounded long, they came up. That's a picture of the rapture of the tribulation saints—Revelation 11. In verses 19-20, the voice of the trumpet sounded long and waxed louder and louder. Then God came down—the second coming. Do you see what you have here? By the trumpets and the illustration of what God is doing with the nation of Israel and all the elements that actually happened historically, when you take those pieces that don't matter historically but look at them in the book of Revelation, you see what you have here doctrinally is a picture of the rapture of the tribulation saints with one horn blast with them going up, and then with the other horn blast God coming down on Sinai at the second coming. Israel's horn of their salvation.

#### ➤ Bible Study #4 – The Battle of Jericho: A picture of the Second Coming of Christ and God's Horn of Israel's Salvation

Looking at the horn, or the trumpet in this particular case, with God dealing with the nation of Israel, all built around the doctrine of the second coming, is one of the greatest studies you're going to take anywhere in the Bible. This is why I'm trying to give these to you today or at least give you enough that you can begin to start with it. In some of these, I'm giving you what you need to know.

*Joshua 6:1-5. Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.*

*2. And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, [and] the **mighty men of valour** (Do you see that right there? Jericho was of the devil. The wicked people of Jericho are against Israel. I want you to notice that the devil has his mighty men of valour, too).*



3. And ye shall compass the city, all [ye] men of war, [and] **go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.**

4. And seven priests shall bear before the ark **seven trumpets** of rams' horns: and the **seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.**

5. And it shall come to pass, that when they make **a long [blast]** with the ram's horn, [and] when ye hear **the sound of the trumpet**, all the people shall **shout with a great shout**; and **the wall of the city shall fall down flat**, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

This is called the Battle of Jericho, and here again we see a picture of the second coming of Christ and God's horn for Israel's salvation. There are a couple of things that I want you to see here if you read the whole chapter. The city of Jericho will be a type of Babylon during the tribulation period and the second coming of Christ. The battle here is a picture of what you have taking place in Revelation 17-18 with the battle of Armageddon and the defeat of the antichrist.

Let's look at some things here. First, you have Joshua. Joshua is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Acts 7:45, it talks about what God is doing in the Old Testament, and it's talking about something that Joshua did; however, the Holy Spirit of God took out the word *Joshua* and put in the word *Jesus*. Every scholar on the planet will tell you that it's a mistranslation. They will say it should not be Jesus but Joshua, and when they do that and you are dumb enough to believe them, you miss the greatest illustration that Joshua is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ and that everything in Joshua is a picture of the second coming of Christ. So, all the way over in Acts 7, the Holy Spirit of God said to take out Joshua and put in Jesus because:

1. I want to really tick off the scholars.
2. I want guys like Bob Alexander to be able to see that when you go back to the book of Joshua, he is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ and every battle he fights is a picture of the second coming, doctrinally.

In Joshua 6:26, it says that Jericho is called the accursed city just like Babylon in Revelation 17. You will find that they are told to march around seven times. Why seven? It's because it is a picture of the second coming of Christ, and there are seven years of tribulation.

You're going to find throughout the chapter the phrases *the day* and *this day* over and over again. You should know that is the second coming. You're going to find that there are seven trumpets here just like there are in Revelation 8 at the second coming of Christ. You're going to find that the route here is across Jordan and to attack Jericho just like they're going to do at the second coming of Christ.

Everything here is a picture of the battle at the second coming of Christ that shows you historically an actual battle that happened. It shows you prophetically (doctrinally) that what you have here is a picture of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. They march around the city seven times, then on the dawning of the seventh day, they blow the trumpet and shout. The walls of Jericho fall down, and they take the city. Every bit of this can be found in Joel 2:1-20 which gives you the insight of the great battle that takes place when they take the city at the second coming of Christ. Again, the horn of Israel's salvation.

➤ Bible Study #5 – We as God’s Mighty Men of Valour with the Horn  
Proclaiming God’s Salvation to a Lost World

○ God’s Faithful Few Will Always be a Remnant

I have been showing you all about the different aspects of our relationship with Christ out of Psalms 18. Last week, we saw the heart of our spiritual warfare and our being God’s mighty men of valour (2 Samuel 23) and how we are greatly outnumbered. God’s faithful few will always be a remnant, and you’re going to see it incredibly laid out for you in this next story. It doesn’t matter that we’re greatly outnumbered, because as I showed you with David’s mighty men of valour, they were outnumbered in every battle these guys fought (800 to 1, 300 to 1). **It was God’s strength and their trust in it that gave them the basis for their victory.** Our foundation is built on a rock, and we’ve built a fortress on that foundation that’s a rock, then we understand that God is going to be our deliverer. **Now we are ready for the battle of close combat with a sword in one hand and a buckler in the other.**

Here is the story in the Bible that represents everything I’ve given you so far in Psalms 18. I told you when we started that these final two parts are the end result of you doing the other six things. **This is for our horn of salvation: our taking and sounding the alarm of God, God’s voice (the horn, the trumpet), to a lost world in the face of overwhelming odds that are going to stand to stop you, defeat you, make you fearful, and make you run home.**

*Judges 7:1-7. Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that [were] with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.*

*2. And the LORD said unto Gideon, **The people that [are] with thee [are] too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.***

Now that is a beautiful picture right there of where most of God’s people are at. You see, God is not going to let you take credit for the victories that He gives you. Sometimes because we’re so strong, we know so much Bible, and we have all this ability that it’s easy for us to get the idea that we did it instead of God doing it. That’s the picture we have right here.

○ He’s Going to Try Them with the Water (Picture of the Word of God)

*3. Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, **Whosoever [is] fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand;** and there remained ten thousand.*

*4. 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:** and it shall be, [that] of whom I say unto thee, **This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee;** and of whomsoever I say unto thee, **This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.***

5. *So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.*
6. *And the number of them that lapped, [putting] their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.*
7. *And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the [other] people go every man unto his place.*

Now this is a story that you probably remember from Sunday School. Well, you're going to get it today like you missed it at Sunday School. **Here is a total and complete picture of our warfare today as New Testament Christians, and how God looks at us and how we should fight.** I don't have to say anything to anybody, but by the time I'm done with this, you'll know exactly where you fit.

The first thing I want you to see is this. In Judges 8:10, we see that the Midianites have 135,000 men. Gideon starts out with 32,000; therefore, he's already outnumbered more than 4 to 1. That shows you that no matter where or when it's at, **God's people are always going to be outnumbered by the world system.**

Then we see in verses 2-3 that God says they have too many. He tells all the cowards and fearful to go home, and immediately 22,000 leave. Now there are 10,000 left. He says in verse 4 that it's still too many, and he says to take them down to the water. **He is going to try them with the water, and the water is a picture of the word of God.**

#### ○ Two Ways the People Drink the Water (The Word of God)

There are now 10,000 left up against 135,000, and he says that he is going to try them with the word of God. When you read on down through here, there are two ways that they drink it. **One is a true soldier who is diligent with the word of God and the other one is a wannabe.** Then 9,700 get down on their knees and stick their faces down in the water. They splash it up and are oblivious to what's going on around them—no diligence when it comes to the water. Meanwhile, 300 of them know that they are in enemy territory and know they're going to be in a battle, so they take it from the water to their mouth always looking around knowing they could be attacked at any moment. They know they've got to have both eyes open even though they're in the water.

**You're going to find two kinds of people when it comes to the word of God that God has given us. One is going to be diligent with the water while the other one is going to be slothful with the water.** You'll find one who knows that they're in a war and understands the art of warfare; they understand that they've got to get the word of God, but they've got to be vigilant all the time. Then there are those who don't care. They get in their Bible; they just stick their face down in it and are not worried about any battle, any enemy, or any warfare. Now, this is what God looks for when He looks at us. It's also what I look for. The end result is that 9,700 get sent home, and now we have 300 men up against 135,000.

With this being a picture inspirationally of our lives and the spiritual warfare that we're in, you may understand a little better now when I tell you that God has a remnant of men and women who really want to serve God and be in this battle in the church age. From what's he's saying here, you could find me today 32,000 Christians who claimed to be saved (go to every church you want and get them in a stadium someplace), but according to the water (word of God) you could only get 300 who are diligent with the word of God out of that 32,000. Most of God's people don't care about church, they don't care about the ministry, and they don't really care about getting into the word of God.

### ○ The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon

*Judges 7:18. 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.*

I've already told you that Gideon is a type of Christ. **So the key to this is the word of God in one hand, you being diligent with that Book, and having the Lord Jesus Christ in the other hand.** Then after he sent home all those people (out of 32,000, he's got 300 left), God said in verse 9:

*Judges 7:9. 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.*

**They're not even in the battle, yet here is God's deliverance before the battle even started.** You see, when you're diligent with the word of God and you're part of the 300, God is going to give you the victory before you even get in the fight. What follows here will be a picture of a battle of overwhelming odds: 300 against 135,000; that's 450 to 1. It's a picture today, in this Laodicean lukewarm Christianity, of our overwhelming odds and our spiritual warfare of the New Testament church. Notice this battle takes place at night which is a picture of the church age (Mark 13).

You must answer for yourself where you're at today, but if you want to know where God's people are at, here it is:

The two problems that God's people have today are very simple. God's people are:

1. Fearful and afraid or
2. Slothful when it comes to the word of God

And God's work will always get done by the minority.

### ○ The Battle Plan

Let's look at the battle plan for a moment. This is a great strategy. We're going up against the devil's mighty men of valor. Israel is going up against the elite of the Midianites into a battle where they are greatly outnumbered, but Joshua has a plan. I asked you about this last week. What is your plan to reach these people? How much time have you spent understanding your enemy—understanding what they believe and why they believe it? Do you know why Jehovah's

Witnesses churches never have any windows in them? It wasn't because they didn't have enough money to finish the building!

This is a great strategy to taking the devil's elite on and getting the victory, but it's done with men and women who are skillful in the word of God. They are not slothful with the word of God; they have the sword in one hand and the Lord Jesus Christ in the other. It's no wonder why God's people fail today and get their rear ends kicked by all these elite cult groups that belong to the devil. We have no battle plan. They've got a better plan to defeat you than you've got to win them to Christ.

Here is Joshua's plan. They've only got 300 people, and in verse 16, he divides them into three companies. Then he issues each man three things:

1. A Trumpet
2. A Pitcher which is an earthen vessel
3. A Light or Lamp

They are told to put the light in the pitcher, and they march toward the Midianites. Keep in mind that it's pitch black. They cannot see anything because they put the light in the pitcher. In verse 18, when Gideon blows his trumpet, all 300 blow their trumpets, break the earthen vessels, and let the Midianites see 300 lights. In the dark, all of a sudden, they see 300 lights and think there are 300,000 men out there instead of 300. I cannot tell you how unnerving this is in a battle. They hear 300 trumpets then out of the darkness lights show up—300 of them everywhere. They didn't realize that each light only represented one man, and God struck fear in the Midianites' hearts. They ran, and Israel slaughtered them. What's your battle plan?

#### ○ The Promise of the True God to Deliver Us

We see here historically, God's horn of salvation for the nation of Israel. Inspirationally, the picture will come together with what we've learned out of Psalms 18—the promise of the true God to deliver us. I want you to notice the three things they have to win this battle, being greatly outnumbered, what they picture for us in our battle, and what you must have in your life.

- They had a **trumpet** in their right hand—that's the message of God through the word of God to the lost world.
- They had a **pitcher** with a **light** inside in their left hand—that's a picture of your body (earthen vessel) and the light of God, the Holy Spirit of God, being inside you because you're saved. It shows a picture of I Corinthians 6:19 of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God but also shows Ephesians 5:18 about the daily filling of the Holy Spirit of God.

Now here is the key to this battle, for them as well as for you and me. Notice that when it was time and they heard the trumpet, they had to break that earthen vessel, hold their light up, then blow their trumpet. **To fight this battle and for you to be effective, you've got the trumpet (word of God), the light of God inside of you (The Holy Spirit of God), but they had to break that pitcher before anybody could see the light.** It's a picture for you and me that we have to come to the end of self. We have to be broken first before God's light will shine to a lost

world. It's just that simple. **The message of God will only sound clearly through the child of God who has yielded himself to God and become that broken vessel.**

➤ Bible Study #6 Two Sets of Trumpets in the Bible: The Old Testament (Second Coming) and The New Testament (Rapture)

In the Bible, you're going to find two sets of trumpets. You will find one set in the Old Testament—trumpet horns for the Old Testament nation of Israel that are always dealing with the second coming of Christ. In the New Testament, you will find the trump of God which is going to deal with the rapture of the church.

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. **But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.***

*14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

*15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

*16. or the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout (here it comes), **with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God:** and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17. Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

*18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

Now this is where the church gets delivered by the trumpet of God at the rapture of the church. Notice in verse 16 the voice of the archangel—that voice says *come up hither*. Look at Revelation 4:1-2, which covers the same event.

*Revelation 4:1-2. After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice (notice it's a voice) which I heard [was] **as it were of a trumpet talking with me;** which said, **Come up hither,** and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*

*2. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and [one] sat on the throne.*

Not only is this a great picture of Israel's deliverance, but it also shows you the picture of the battle that you and I are in where we are greatly outnumbered. It shows what it's going to take for us to have the message of God, the horn of God's salvation, and proclaim it to a lost world with the courage and the fortitude and the steadfastness to get into a church, be trained, get everything you need, and then get turned loose on the devil's elite.

I also want to show you the connecting part to this. This is probably the greatest passage in the Bible on the rapture of the church (along with I Thessalonians 4).

*I Corinthians 15:51-57. **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,***

*52. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

*53. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.*

*54. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

*55. O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?*

*56. The sting of death [is] sin; and the strength of sin [is] the law.*

*57. **But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

In I Thessalonians 4, you are told that you're not to be ignorant of the rapture. You will find in your Bible that there are seven things that the New Testament Christian is told not to be ignorant of. If you take any of the 32,000 Christians, outside of the 300, they couldn't tell you those seven things if their lives depended on it. Then we come over here in 1 Corinthians 15, and you're told that the rapture is a mystery. It's one of the seven mysteries found in the Bible that are given to the church—may I add the true church. You'll find many Christians today in many circles who now are propagating the idea that there is no rapture.

In verse 52 it says *at the last trump*. That's not Donald Trump; well, maybe it is...I don't know! Now we've been told all through our study today that the trumpet will be the voice of God Himself. **So when it says *the last trump*, this will be the last time God speaks to the church.**

I've got a question for you, and I'm not going to give you the answer. In the New Testament, God speaks to the church three times. This is the third and final time. Where are the first two? Do you know?

I have been asked many times what it's going to be like when the rapture comes. The Bible tells you when the rapture comes, it's going to come in the middle of a terrible rainstorm of lightning and thunder, and when the voice of God (the last trump) says *come up hither*—I hear my name and I'm gone; however, the whole unsaved world just hears a clack of thunder. People ask me what the next sign is for Christ's coming. I tell them, "I ain't looking for a sign, brother, I'm listening for a sound!" *Come up hither*. His voice as it were of a trumpet (Revelation 4:1).

You'll find the phrase *come up hither* three times in your bible:

1. One for the Old Testament saints when they go up.
2. One for me when I go up.
3. One for the tribulation saints in Revelation 11 when they go up.

This is what I want to leave you with:

*I Corinthians 15:55. O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?*

You see, once you get saved, there is no sting of death, and the grave will never have victory over you. The sting of death is sin. God took that out of your life the day you got saved—put you under the blood. The strength of sin is in the law. Colossians 2 says that He nailed that to the cross and took it out of the way.

*I Corinthians 15:57. But thanks [be] to God, **which giveth us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

There is the final victory and the horn of our salvation. God will put everything in your life to get you toward that day and give you victory after victory after victory after victory...no matter what the circumstances or no matter how much you're overwhelmed. But He took death out of it, and He took sin out of it, and when you have the word of God in one hand and the Lord Jesus Christ in the other—*thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*. There is no reason for God's people not to have the victory every day in our lives.

## IV. Summary

Now you have the seventh key out of Psalms 18—the horn of my salvation. Next week I'm going to put an end to this thing. I have brought you through this point, and I've given you now a picture of everything that I've taught you to be able to stand. Next week I'm going to put the icing on the cake as they say, and I'm going to show you how you keep that thing going.