



THIEVES OF PROSPERITY

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Sunday 15th March 2026

Judges 6:2-6 TPT

*[2] The crushing power of the Midianites overwhelmed Israel, forcing the Israelites to make hiding places for themselves in caves and mountain strongholds. [3] Whenever the Israelites planted any crops, and before they could reap the harvest, the Midianites would come with the Amalekites and other desert tribes and invade the land. [4] They would camp in their fields and destroy their crops as far as Gaza. They would seize all their sheep, cattle, and donkeys. They left nothing for the Israelites to live on. [5] When they invaded the land with their livestock and camels and tents, they were as numerous as locusts, leaving the land desolate. [6] **Israel was impoverished** and helpless against them. Then the Israelites, with shattered hearts, cried out to Yahweh for mercy.*

Introduction – Part 1 Recap

Last Sunday we looked at Amalek.

This is not about ethnic hostility but a story that reveals spiritual powers that oppressed people & how that is still active today

Amalek represents a spiritual force that attacks identity and strength.

Amalek targets who you are. It tries to break confidence, courage, and identity.

But when we arrive at Judges 6 we see something very important. Israel is not only attacked by Amalek. They are attacked by Amalek and Midian together.

These two enemies represent a combined oppression model

First Amalek attacks vulnerability & wounds identity.

When identity is wounded, people begin to lose confidence in who they are, they lose vision, they begin to live smaller.

Midian attacks & takes harvest.

In Judges 6 the people still plant crops. They still work. But they never keep the harvest. So, the pattern becomes a cycle of poverty

Even Gideon is threshing wheat in a winepress instead of on the mountain.

But God does not leave His people trapped in that life.

God raises up Gideon to break it...and still raises men & women

Prosperity in Judges 6 is not just: More crops.



sermon notes

It is Freedom from fear that devours identity....and Freedom from systems & influences that devour harvest

People are impoverished in different forms: love & affection, spiritually, emotionally, financially

The Oppression of Midian

Judges 6 describes a devastating pattern. Whenever Israel planted crops, the Midianites invaded. They:

- destroyed produce
- seized livestock
- left nothing for Israel to live on

Israel still worked. Israel still produced. But they never kept the fruit of their labour..... Israel became impoverished.

Midian Creates Cyclical Poverty

Midian did not wipe Israel out. **Instead, they created a system where Israel was always just surviving. The people hid in caves. Fear shaped their entire way of life.**

This created:

- cyclical poverty
- fear-based living
- small thinking
- survival mentality

Midian represents an influence that consumes productivity. **People work hard, but the harvest disappears.**

Who Were the Midianites?

Midian was related to Israel. Midian was a son of Abraham through Keturah (Genesis 25:1–2). So, Midian is more complex than Amalek.

Throughout Scripture they appear in several ways:

- In Exodus Moses flees to Midian.
- In Numbers 22–25 they help seduce Israel.
- In Judges they economically oppress Israel.



Midian can be:

- hospitable
- corrupting
- oppressive

Midian represents:

- seduction
- assimilation
- compromise

If Amalek represents external hostility, **Midian often represents internal compromise.**
Midian does not always fight you; sometimes Midian entices you.

The Devourer of Harvest

Midian's strategy is very specific. They attack at harvest time.

Israel produces, but the increase is taken before it multiplies. Midian represents systems that:

- allow productivity
- prevent prosperity
- consume increase

This is how generational poverty develops. The issue is not always laziness. The issue is harvest leakage.

Midian = economic oppression – The Devourer of Increase

Midian's role in Judges 6 is **economic domination.**

Modern “Midian”

Modern Midian looks like anything that:

- Consumes increase before they compound or multiplies
- Keeps people working but never advancing
- Normalizes debt cycles
- Erodes inheritance

Examples could include:

- Exploitative financial structures



- Generational debt culture
- Systems that reward consumption over stewardship
- Institutional leakage of wealth

Midian represents influences, systems & ways that consume productivity.

The Camels of Midian

Judges tells us Midian arrived with large numbers of camels.

Camels represent trade and economic power in the ancient world.

There is a detail here that represents something significant

Judges 8:21 AMPC

[21] And Gideon arose... and took the [crescent-shaped] ornaments that were on their camels' necks.

In the ancient Near East, the crescent symbol was associated **with moon worship.**

Two cults/false gods both centred in modern day Yemen

This tells us Midian carried more than military power. They carried:

- trade networks
- wealth
- spiritual influence

Into Israel's territory. The oppression **also involved spiritual influence.** They were facing a mobile economic-religious culture that: - Controlled trade routes - Raided agricultural societies
- Brought foreign worship systems

The First Battle Was Not Against Midian

Before Gideon ever fights Midian, God gives him an unexpected instruction: He must tear down the altar of Baal. The order matters:

1. Destroy Baal
2. Restore proper worship
3. Then defeat Midian

Why? Because Israel had turned to Baal hoping he would bring fertility and prosperity.

They were looking to the wrong source for blessing...who or where do you look?



Systems that exploit people almost always have spiritual roots.

The spiritual alignment had to change in the home before the economic oppression could break.

The Kingdom Solution

Jesus speaks directly into this

John 10:10 He says: "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly."

This includes:

- spiritual life
- emotional life
- restored human flourishing

In Luke 4 Jesus announces His mission:

- good news to the poor
- freedom to captives
- release to the oppressed

The Kingdom of God addresses both spiritual bondage and systems of oppression.

Both passages emphasize that the deepest battle is spiritual, but its effects reach into everyday life. Spiritual alignment and social restoration work together in a powerful way.

The Pattern Still Exists

Midian represents systems that:

- consume productivity
- trap people in survival cycles
- drain harvest before it multiplies

These systems often look appealing to struggling people, but they are quietly:

- keep people dependent
- prevent advancement
- erode inheritance

Conclusion

Be careful who you vote for



sermon notes

There are parties that introduce policies & laws that look appealing to people who are struggling but they will

- keep them enslaved
- steal the harvest...drain productivity...people who are producers

The pattern in Judges is very clear:

Amalek attack's identity. Midian devours harvest. **But God restores both.**

Starts in our own hearts & homes...first

- Men...we can't remain hiding in our cave...hiding from being a husband, father
- No matter what comes to oppress, we need to be present. **Present spiritually, emotionally, relationally, financially**
- Proud to see men who front up even when difficult
- Maybe that's a family pattern or stronghold that needs to come down