



defence cutbacks



99%
will go
today!

Gideon – the man for the moment



state of the nation

“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.”

Judges 21 v 25

state of the nation

- so oppressed
- so impoverished
- so desperate

God's surprising strategy

"The LORD said to Gideon,
"You have too many men"

Judges 7 v 2

God's surprising strategy

“With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands.”

(Judges 7 v 7)

God's surprising strategy

$32000 - 31700 = 300 + \text{God}$

against 135000

God's surprising strategy

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.

"As the heavens are higher than the
earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your
thoughts...."

Isa. 55 vv 8-9

God's surprising strategy

"The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'"

Judges 7 v 2

God's surprising strategy

"I will be with you, and
you will strike down all
the Midianites together."

Judges 6 v 16

David facing Goliath

“You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands...”

I Sam. 17 v 45-46

David facing Goliath

“.....All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's...”

1 Sam. 17 v 47

alertness

“With this in mind, ***be alert***” Eph. 6 v 18

“We must always be ready to meet at our average moment anything that any possible enemy might hurl against us at his selected moment.”

What is God calling us
to lay aside, so that we
rely not on our own
strength and abilities,
but on Him?