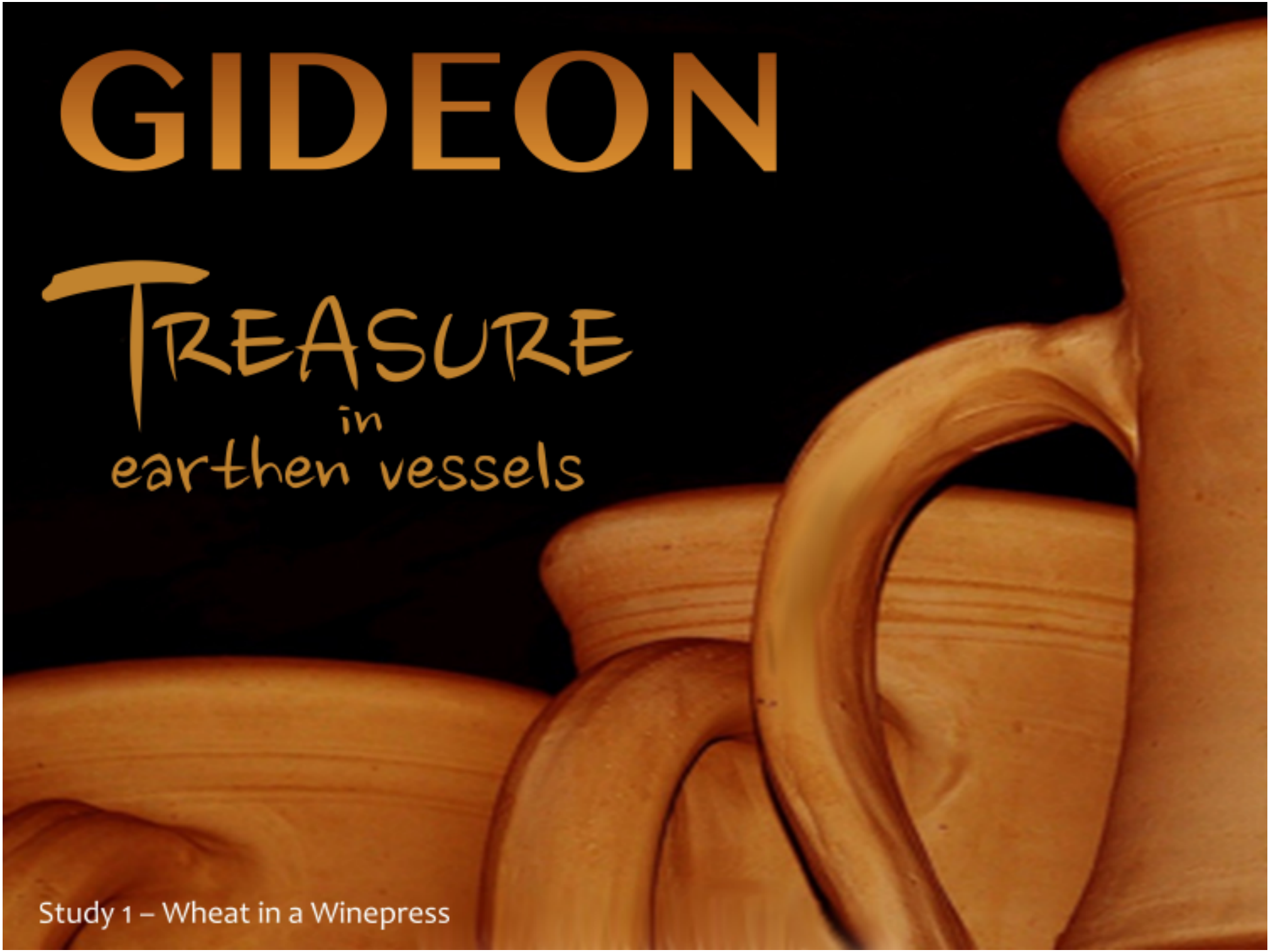
GIDEON

TREASURE in earthen vessels



Study 1 – Wheat in a Winepress

The Cycle in the book of Judges

Judges 2; 1 Sam. 12; Neh. 9; Psa. 106

1. The people **SINNED** against God
2. The people **SUFFERED** for it
3. The people made **SUPPLICATION** to God
4. God sent a **SAVIOUR**

...and...repeat.

Why the Midianites?

Jud. 6:5 – **without number** → Gen. 13:16; 16:10

Jud. 7:12 – as the **sand by the seaside**… → Gen. 22:17

Jud. 6:1 – for **seven years** → Gen. 22:16 "…by myself I have **sworn** (same word) = "sevened"

Taking their minds back to the Abrahamic covenant.

Manasseh's Territory

- 2 huge portions
- Bashan (**Deut. 32:14; Psa. 22:12; Eze. 39:18; Mic. 7:14**)
- Jezreel ("the breadbasket of Israel")

Num. 32:

v34 – Gad "built"
v37 – Reuben "built"
v39 – Manasseh "TOOK"
v41 – "…TOOK"
v42 – "…TOOK"

Deut. 11:24 – from Euphrates to the Mediterranean!

Manasseh
|
Machir a man of war (Josh. 17:1)
|
Gilead
|
Abiezer
|
Joash
|
Gideon

Who has the upper hand?

6:1 – delivered into the **hand of Midian**

6:2 – the **hand of Midian** prevailed

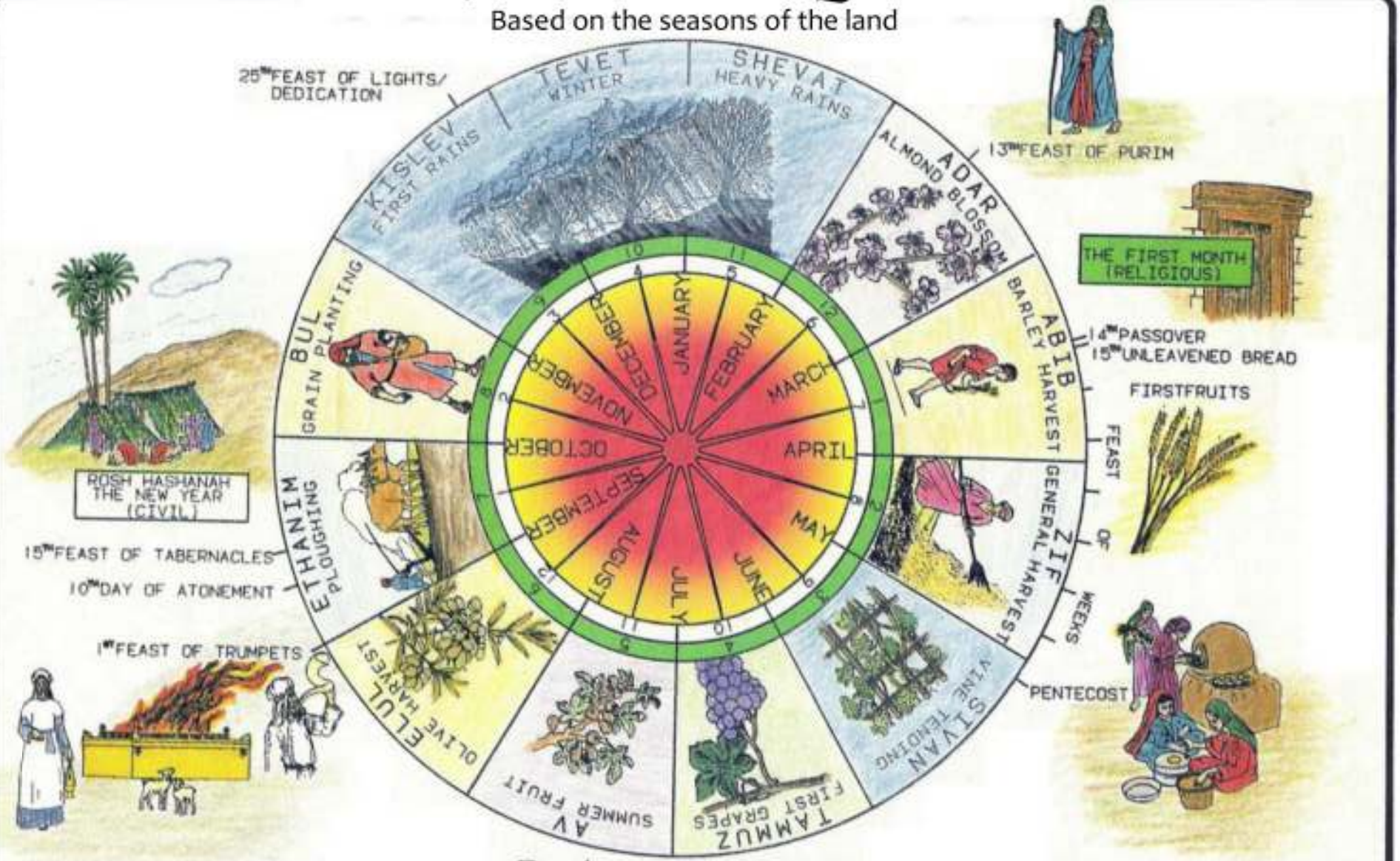
2:14 - [**God**] delivered them into the **hands of spoilers**…

…[**God**] sold them into the **hands of their enemies**…

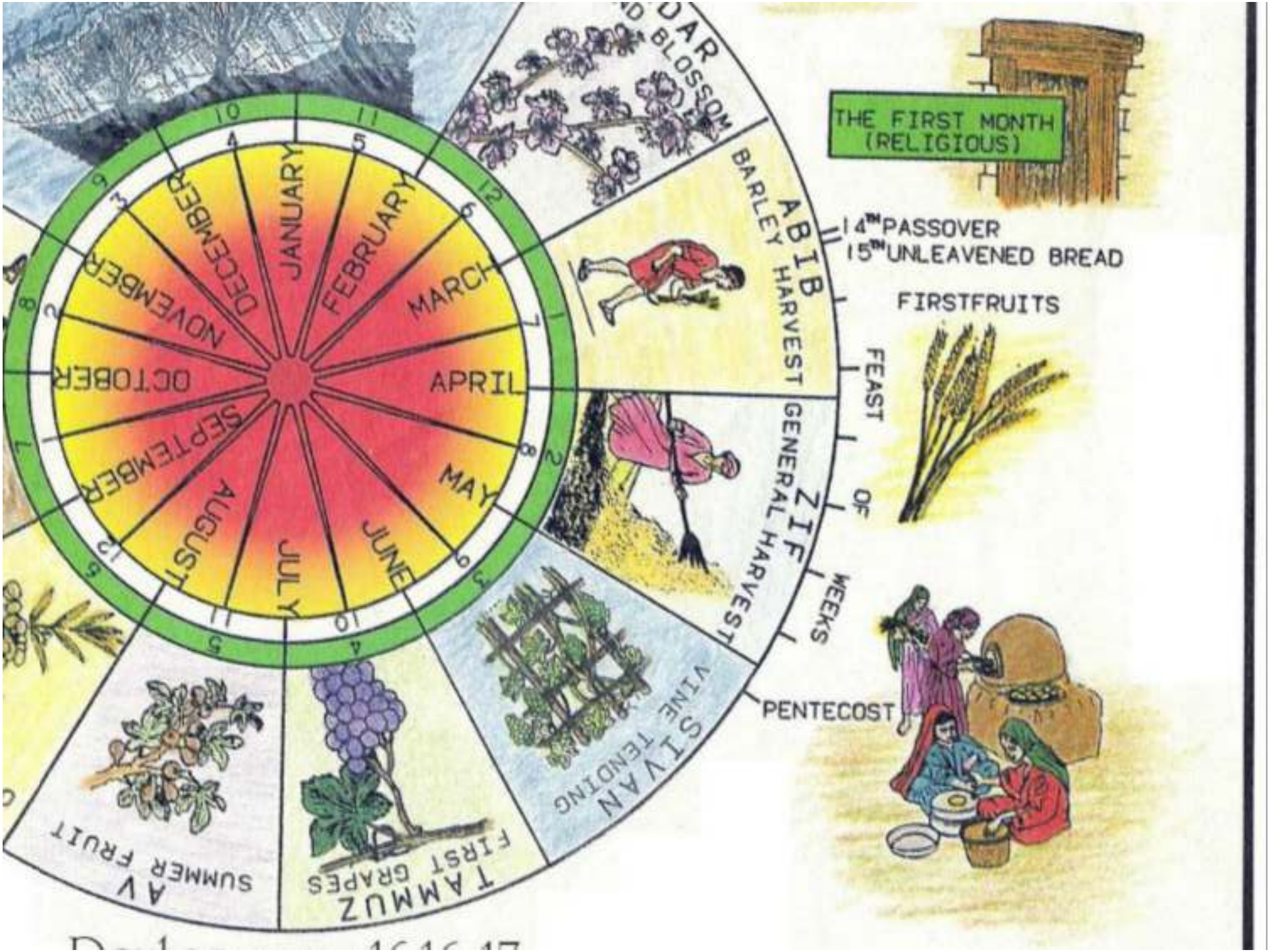
Whose hand is Israel in, and whose hand is stronger?

The Festivals of Yahweh

Based on the seasons of the land



Deuteronomy 16:16-17


JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
ABIB
BARLEY HARVEST
ZIF
GENERAL HARVEST
SIVAN
VINE TENDING
TAMMUZ
FIRST GRAPES
AV
SUMMER FRUIT
THE FIRST MONTH
(RELIGIOUS)
14TH PASSOVER
15TH UNLEAVENED BREAD
FIRSTFRUITS
FEAST
OF
WEEKS
PENTECOST

Psa. 83:9-12 Do unto them **as unto the Midianites**; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth. Make their nobles **like Oreb, and like Zeeb**: yea, all their princes **as Zebah, and as Zalmunna**: **Who said, "Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession."**

How WE view our flesh
How GOD sees flesh
An untamable WILD ANIMAL

Psa. 83:12 – "let us take to ourselves the houses (lit. 'pastures') of God in possession."

Midian's 'forces'

6:4 – destroyed **the increase**…
6:4 – left no **sustenance**
6:5 – came up with **cattle** & **tents**
6:5 – **they** & their **camels**
6:5 – as **grasshoppers** (cp. Deut. 28:38)
6:6 – Israel **greatly impoverished**

same word

Deut. 28:38 – Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for **the locust** shall consume it.

The real crisis is not their enemies,

it's

themselves.

They forsook the covenant

Judges 6	Joshua & the Prophet	Joshua 24
v8	Thus saith Yahweh Elohim of Israel	v2
v8	I brought you up from Egypt the house of bondage	v17
v9	I delivered you out of the hand of Egypt and all your oppressors	v5-12
v9	drave them out before you, gave you their land	v18

Same time of year (Passover – Jud. 6:3-4)
Same place (~Shechem – cp. Jud. 9:1, 5)
Same message
Same problem (idolatry – v10)

They had forgotten the covenant of their fathers.

Sitting under the oak tree

The Oak –

- **Gen. 35:4** – Jacob hid the idols under the oak
- **1 Sam. 17:2** – David slew Goliath in the valley of 'elah' (same word)
- **2 Sam. 18:9** – Absalom was caught in a great oak
- **1 Kin. 13:14** – Disobedient man of God was sitting under an oak
- **1 Chr. 10:12** – Saul and his sons' bones buried under an oak
- **Gen. 12; Josh 24** – used as monuments (grew solitarily)

Joash the Abiezrite

- Abiezer – son of Gilead (Josh. 17:1)
  - great g'son of Joseph (Num. 26:28-30; 1 Chr. 7:14-19)
- Gideon… "son of Joash" – 8x! (6:11, 29, 30; 7:14; 8:13, 29, 32 (2x)

He was a man who was connected to his family

'in' a winepress

?

- Why was he doing it there?
  - "to hide it from the Midianites"
  - Threshing floors were often robbed (Ruth 3:7; 1 Sam. 23:1)
- Yet, he is a "mighty man of valour"! v12
  - Boaz (Ruth 2:1)
  - Jephthah (Jud. 11:1)
  - Kish (1 Sam. 9:1)
  - David (1 Sam. 16:18)
  - Men of Manasseh - Gideon's tribe! (Josh. 1:14)

Gideon's deepest concern

- If Yahweh be with **us**
- Why is all this befallen **us**
- **Our** fathers
- Yahweh has forsaken **us**
- Delivered **us** into the hands of Midian

His greatness begins with caring about the spiritual condition of God's people.

A 2nd exodus from idolatry

Judges	Gideon & Moses	The Exodus
6:1	Midian the enemy	Num. 31:2
6:3-4	Time of Passover	12:18
6:6	The people cried out	2:23
6:8	Prophet mentions exodus	
6:11	Working when called	3:1
6:11	Commissioned by an angel	3:2
6:11, 34-35	Began alone, but was not	4:14
6:13	Gideon mentions exodus	
6:14	Looked upon him	2:23-25, 4:1
6:14	Sent to Israel	3:10
6:15	Questions his ability	3:11

A 2nd exodus from idolatry

Judges	Gideon & Moses	The Exodus
6:12, 16	I will be with thee	3:12
6:17	If I have found grace	33:13
6:21	Manifestation of fire	3:2
6:22	Face to face	33:11
6:17, 37-39	Receives 3 signs	3:1-9
6:25-27	Confronting idolatry	32:8
6:25	At night	12:12
7:7	Impossible odds	Deut. 4:20
7:15	Yahweh fights for you	14:14
8:24	Plundered the enemy	3:21-22
8:30	70 elders / 70 sons	24:1

Israel had left Egypt, but had not left idolatry.

There is a critical difference between

unbelief

that refuses to act,

and

weak faith

that asks for reassurance

while continuing to act.

The 3 keys to success (v16)

1. God will be with you
2. Midian needs to be slain
3. It must be done in a unified way

Take Away Points

Sin wants it all, and will stop at nothing to get it. The flesh is never satisfied.

Don't let your assessment of your own weakness become the limit of God's ability to use you.

When God shows us a problem, don't wait for perfect circumstances before doing the next thing He has put in front of us.