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Loving, Building, And Serving In Hard Times: If The Lord Is With Us, Why Has All This Happened To Us?

Judges 6:1-2 - *The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight. So the Lord handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. ² The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds.*

1. **We Can Blame Everything On The Devil, Culture, And Others.**
2. **We Can Blame God.**
3. **We Can Look Inward, And Ask God If Our Suffering Is A Consequence Of Our Actions.**

2 Timothy 3:1-2 - *...in the last days there will be very difficult times. ² people...will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God...They will consider nothing sacred.*

Luke 21:11 - *There will be great earthquakes, and there will be famines and plagues in many lands...*

Matthew 24:6 - *And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately.*

- **Tribulations Will Usher In God's Kingdom**
- **God Always Provides A Way Out**

Judges 6:11-12 - *Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. ¹² The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"*

- **God Often Goes Beyond What We Expect**

Judges 6:13 - *“Sir,” Gideon replied, “if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The Lord brought us up out of Egypt’? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.”*

(1) God’s Abandoned Israel.

(2) God’s Delivered The Nation Into The Enemy’s Hands.

- **Our Stories Of Past Deliverances, Provisions, And Miracles Are Significant To Our Present Hardships**
 - **Gideon Was Living By What He Was Going Through, Not By What God Was Doing**
 - **Unless Our Suffering Leads To Repentance, There’s No Lasting Good**
- 1. When We’re Hiding From What Scares Us Most, God Compels Us To Face It Head On.**
 - 2. We Can Only Hide For So Long Before God Pulls Us Out Of Our Comfort Zones To Do His Work.**
 - 3. God Will Reduce Our “Numbers” If It’ll Cause Us To Rely On Him To Do The Impossible.**