

Gideon, His Father, The Fleece

Or

His Signs of the Times

By Tom Taylor

Forty years of Prosperity – most all could say, “All’s well!”
Followed by 7 years of hassle’n heartache – and, yeah – there *is* a tale to
tell:

The ‘40’ happily came and stayed, as long as His Children walked with
their Father and Lord

But their focus, their faith, their loyalty and love quite simply got tossed
overboard

So, The Forty was gone, and here came the 7...
Much closer to ____ - well...s’just say’t was a far cry from heaven
The Midianites played havoc with all Israel, you see
‘Til His Children prayed as one: “Dear Father, Dear God, Dear Lord...
please - help me....”

And, did He? Oh, Brother – you KNOW that He did
And this’s one of those stories y’need to tell your each and ev’ry kid:
There was Gideon, threshing wheat...by a wine-press, ‘cause he was
scared
And, see yonder – ‘neath that ol’ Oak tree – that’s an angel sittin’ there!

The Lord’s angel greeted him with, “Mighty warrior, the Lord is with you!”
And Gideon turned, stared with narrowed eyes’n said, “You talkin’ t’me!?”
(. . . and, no – that’s not quite true)

But the Lord and His angel had to convince him, y’see, that yes, he was
‘the man.’

Gideon had a real tough time believing that he was part of God’s Plan

The Lord and His angel shared with Gideon that all of it was true

When Gideon understood he'd seen the Angel of the Lord face-to-face...he knew not what to do
But the Lord, Himself, said these words, "Peace. Fear not, you are not going to die."

So Gideon built an altar there...he called it *The Lord is Peace* – any wonder why?

Gideon just couldn't believe it, and he asked the Lord for a sign
The Lord came through, an' - next - what did Gideon do? Why Brother
Gideon did just fine

He did it at night, he did it just right, and he did not go to jail
He and 10 of his servants had demolished the altar to Baal!

Demolished, too, was the Asherah pole, as well as his Dad's 7-year-old bull

Gideon was scared – but pumped – he sensed his “plate” was getting’ full!
Town-folks learned who did it, and wanted Gideon to die!
But the Lord delivered him from the mob . . . can't you hear ol' Gideon
sighhhhhhh!

Even with God's commission, Gideon was still afraid
So the Lord filled him with His Spirit – that was the next step He made
Gideon then tooted his horn – actually, it was a 'trumpet' by name
In Israel a tootin' trumpet means war - and the warriors? Yes, they came!

And, Gideon . . . well, Gideon . . .

Well, . . . Gideon got 'cold feet'

He went back to the Lord with a plan, a proposition, a plea, a promise
(but, no, he wasn't thinkin' "retreat")

“Lord, if y'really meant what you said: Savin' Israel usin' me
Lemme put a fleece of wool on the ground – get it? Don't Y'see?
And the fleece gets wet but th' ground stays dry
Then I'll KNOW that You meant what You said, and You'll KNOW I'm Your
guy!”

Well, Guess what! GuessWhatGuessWhatGuessWhat! Come on , now,
can y'guess!??

Y'say he squeezed the fleece, the dew came out, filled a bowl –
‘S’at your guess? If that’s your guess, then I say Yes!”
And the other part? The other part – what about the ground!?
Dry as dirt . . . dry as dust . . . nary a ‘moist molecule’ was found!

Now, is Gideon ready?
Ready to fight?
Sorta. Kinda.
But, no, not quite.

He returns to the Lord: “Do not be angry with me . . . but, may I have one
more request?”

I have an idea. Just a thought...a challenge, an offer, a trial, a wager - a
test

Just to truly be certain, be sure, convinced without doubt
Not pullin’ th’ wool over Your eyes . . . it’s another “fleece test” – You can
opt out....

Bless the Lord, a Gentle King –
To grant fearful Gideon even one more thing
But, He did.

The Fleece Test – Part II: The ground gets wet, the fleece stays dry
I suspect Gideon, that night, tossed and turned, turned and tossed – and
never closed an eye....

Came the dawn and he was up – his night-clothes soaked with sweat
He found the fleece completely dry . . . and the ground completely wet....

What happened next, I’m sure you know - yet another account of our
Lord and His Glory
Not a fairy tale, nor a tall tale, and, no, not a legend – but another Chapter
in His Story

“Gideon, His Father, The Fleece” - told in non-Shakespearean rhymes
Still and all, shared in the hope that we may discern His Signs of the
Times....