

"So, Israel was brought very low (*reduced to starvation, impoverished*) because of Midian, and the sons of Israel cried to the LORD." Judges 6:6

We may lay blame for our present condition at the feet of our parents, a husband or wife, a job or employer, the lack of our education or a myriad of other circumstances of life." "We are struggling in life because we never received the opportunities others were afforded." "If only this or that had been different."

The Midianites were only the symptoms of a much deeper issue that the Israelites faced. The truth was that the LORD had only allowed the Midianites to bring the Israelites low because of the evil that they had done in the sight of the LORD. "Again the Israelites did what was evil in the Lord's sight. So the LORD handed them over to the Midianites for seven years." (Judges 6:1). Had they walked upright before the LORD they would have been divinely protected and blessed of the LORD. And so it is in our own lives. When we are walking in a manner pleasing to the LORD we can expect His divine approval and blessing. "And to him that orders his conversation *and manner of living* aright, will I show the salvation of God." (Psalm 50:23).

When we walk uprightly before the LORD we can expect Him to cause even our enemies to be at peace with us. (Proverbs 16:7). Men would rather blame others for their bad circumstances than look at the real reasons for their troubles – their own sins! To quickly and completely confess our sin before the LORD will bring us to the place of His blessing and abundance. "For the eyes of the LORD look to and fro to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are perfect toward Him!" (2 Chronicles 16:9)

