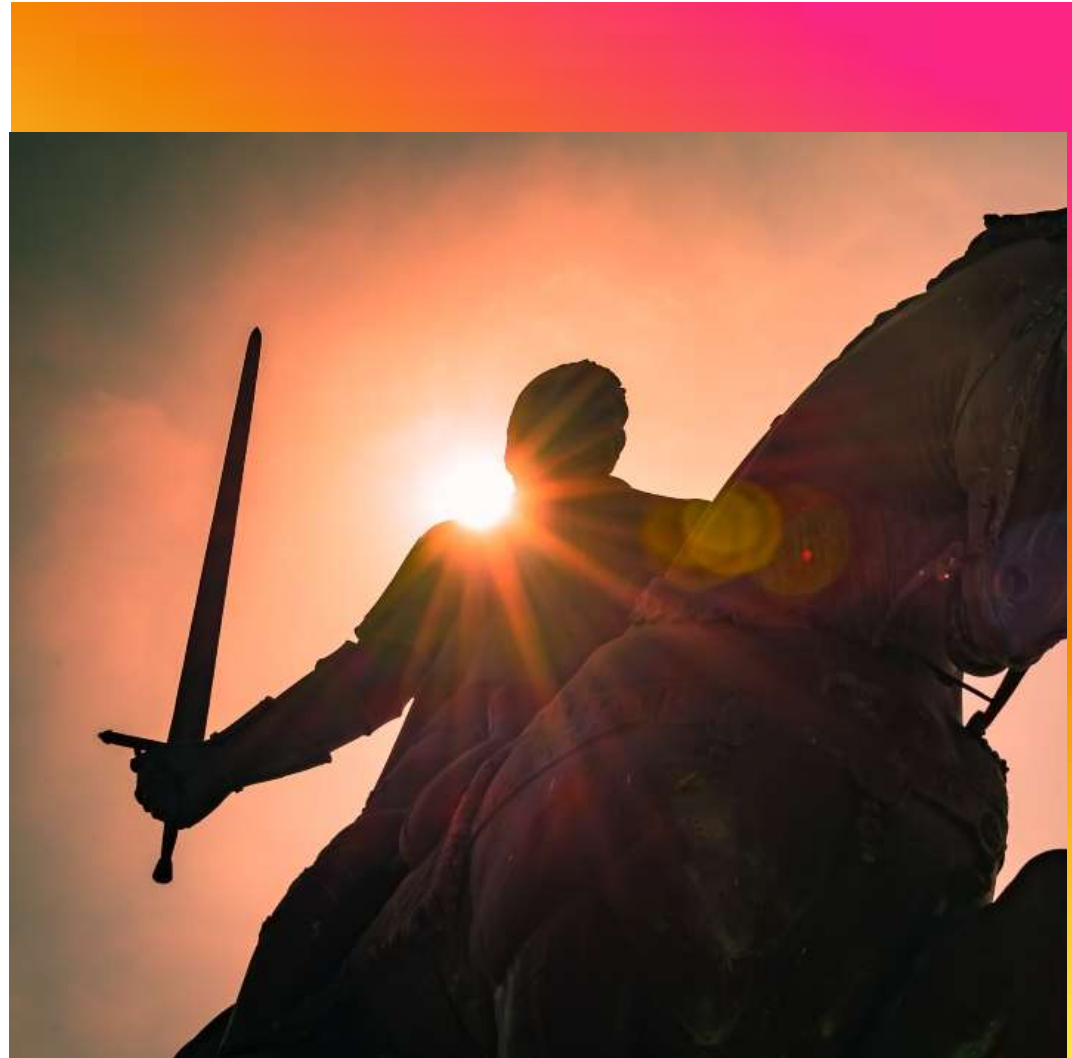


A close-up photograph of a person's hands tying the laces of a bright orange running shoe. The person is wearing black leggings. The background is blurred, showing a paved surface and a building in the distance. The image is framed by a colorful gradient border on the top and sides.

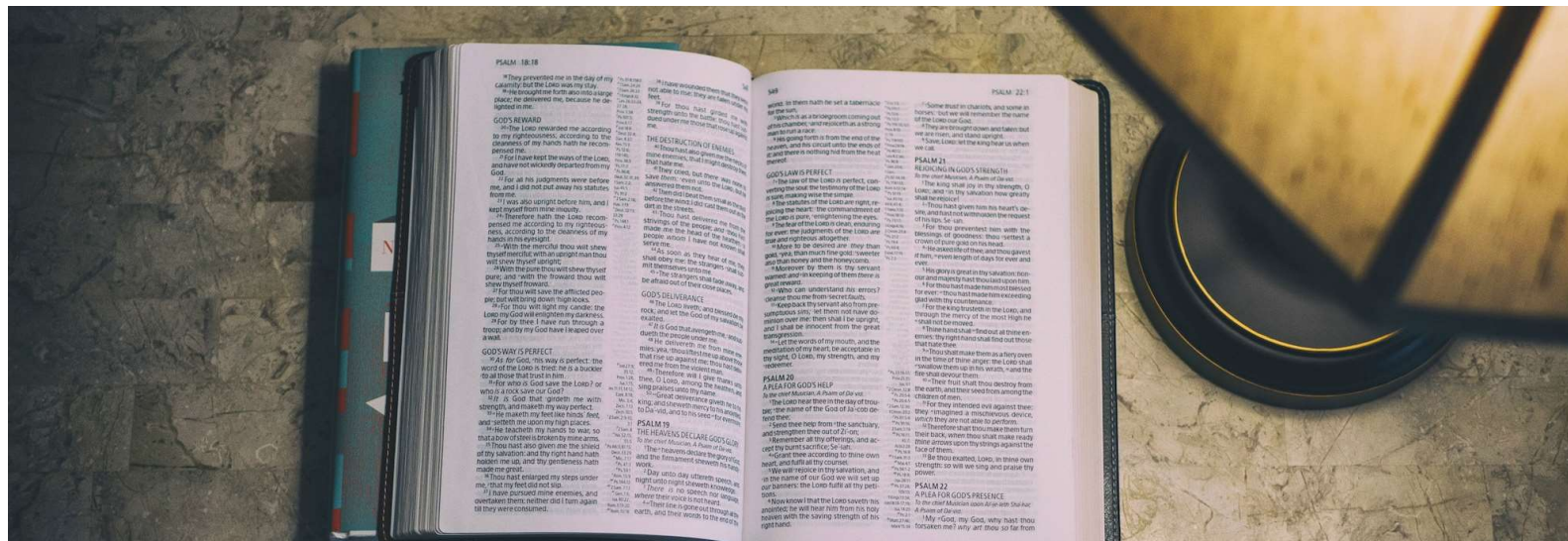
Surviving a Slow Start Sermon Review

A Bible Webinar by
Bishop Andy C. Lewter,
D. Min.

This webinar follows up on the sermon of this past week that examines the life of Gideon who was called to fight the Midianites who were oppressing the Israelites

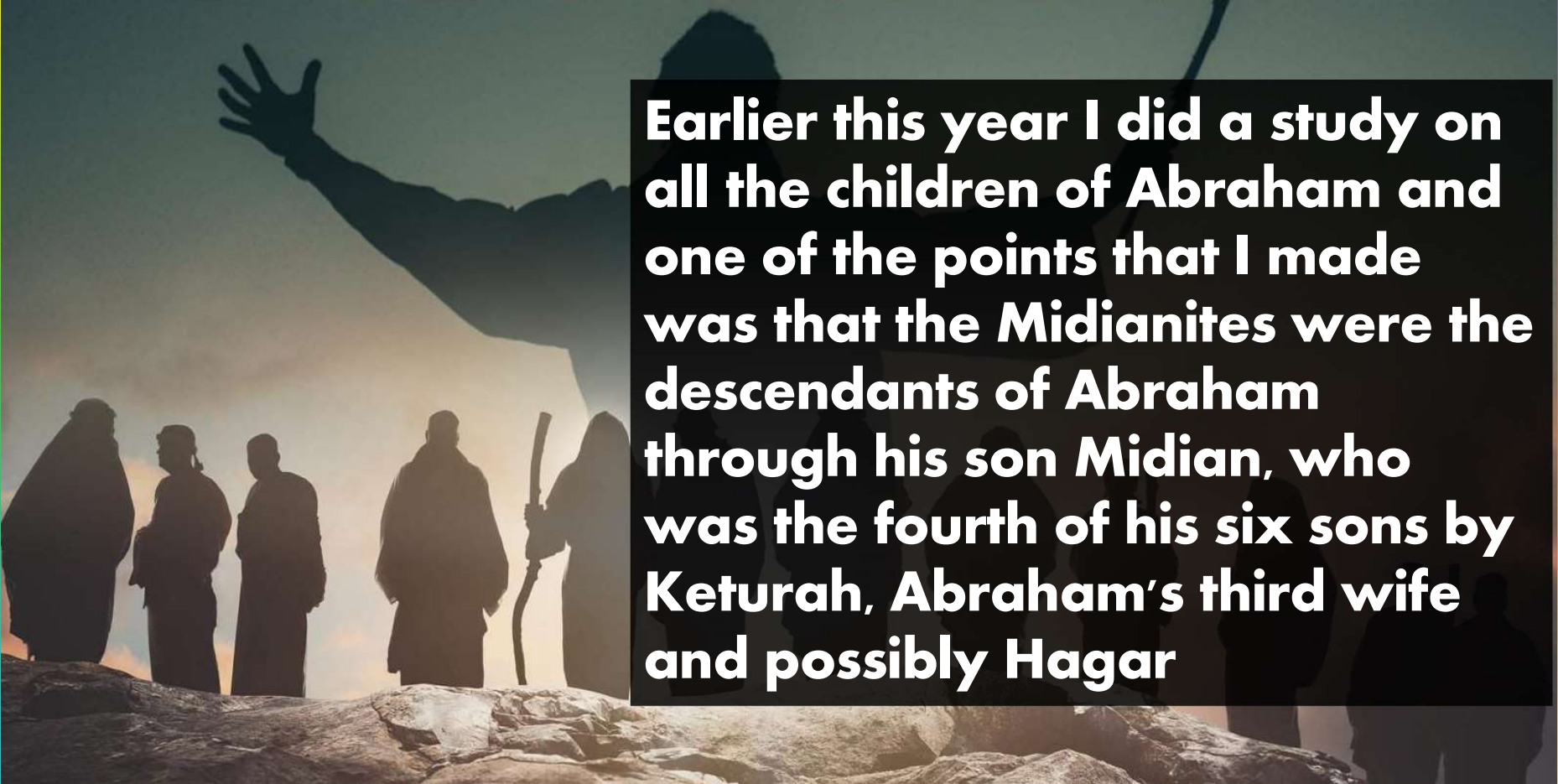


First we are told that at the outset of Chapter 6 that Israel repeated their former behavior by doing evil in the eyes of God again





**In the sermon I
tried to point out
that this story
illustrates the
difference
between regret
and repentance**

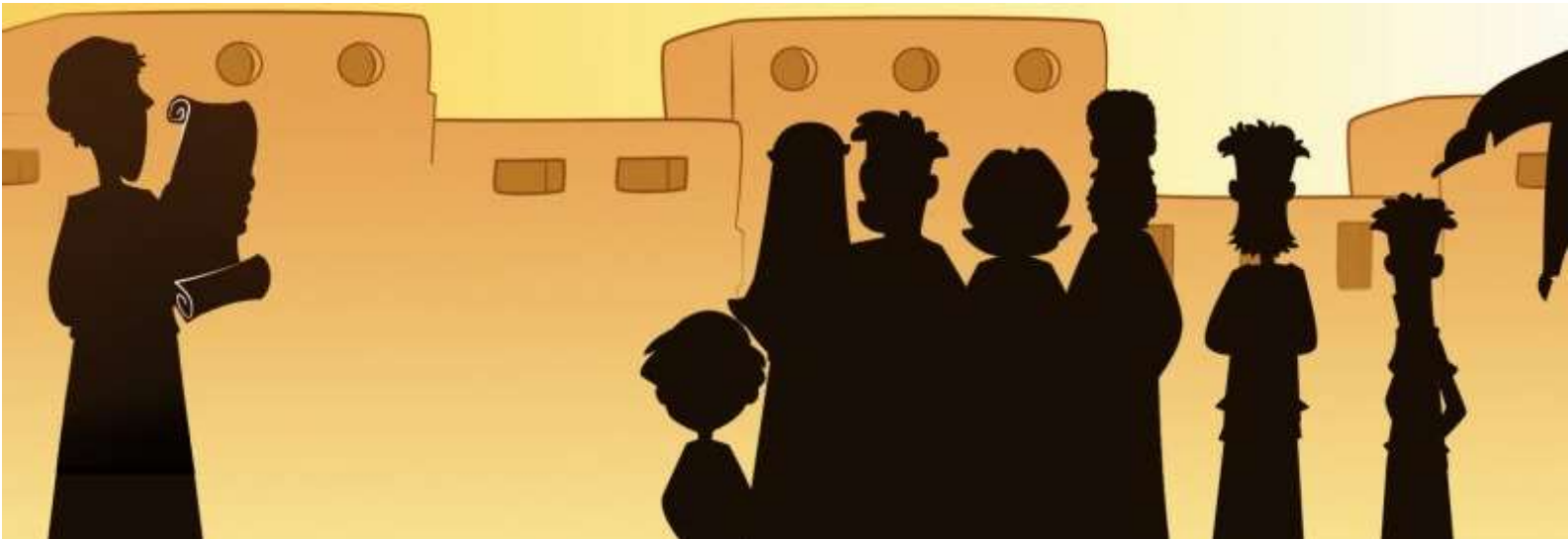
The background image shows several silhouetted figures standing on a rocky ledge, looking out over a landscape at sunset or sunrise. One figure in the foreground has their right arm raised in a gesture. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The text is overlaid on a black rectangular area in the center-right of the image.

Earlier this year I did a study on all the children of Abraham and one of the points that I made was that the Midianites were the descendants of Abraham through his son Midian, who was the fourth of his six sons by Keturah, Abraham's third wife and possibly Hagar

Like Israel, the Midianites were nomadic which meant that they constantly moved around. This was time before Israel became settled and made Jerusalem their capital



Let us not forget that the story starts out with the nameless prophet reminding the people all that God had done but the people had not listened





I also want to point out again that the prophet that God initially sends to Israel is not Gideon, the deliverer that God would use to save Israel

A glass bottle lies on a sandy beach at sunset. The bottle is tilted, and a rolled-up message is visible inside. The background shows the ocean and a colorful sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Perhaps this will
help us to see that
the message is
more important
than the messenger**



Gideon threshing wheat in the winepress is evidence that what Gideon was doing was being done in hiding because the Bible says that Gideon did not want the Midianites to know what he was doing



**Even though
Gideon was in
hiding, he could
not hide from God
or the assignment
that God had on
his life**

**When God
wants you he is
able to find you
wherever you
happen to be**



Gideon starts his conversation with the angel by asking the classic question of why bad things happen to good people



A hand is shown holding a camera lens, with the lens's opening framing a bright sun setting over a cityscape. The sun is positioned in the center of the lens, creating a lens flare effect. The background shows a city with buildings and a clear sky with some clouds. The overall scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset.

**Gideon had
conveniently
forgotten the evil
that his people had
done that caused
God to allow the
Midianites to
oppress Israel in
the first place.
People see what
they want to see**



Thank
You

**...for
Watching**