

## ~MIDIAN 2 (566)

(Mid'i-an)[Midianites, Mid'i-an-ites, Of, or belonging to, Midian]

.. Cause Israel To Sin

.. Crushing Defeat By Gideon

- The descendants of Abraham's son **Midian** are collectively designated as, **Midian** and **Midianites**.
- Take vengeance for the sons of Israel upon the **Midianites**. Afterward you will be gathered to your people. (**Numbers 31:2**)
- So Moses spoke to the people, saying; Equip men from among you for the army, that they may serve against **Midian** to execute Yehowah's vengeance upon **Midian**. (**Numbers 31:3**)
- At times the Bible seemingly refers to them as Ishmaelites.
- Then they sat down to eat bread. When they raised their eyes and took a look, why, here was a caravan of Ishmaelites that was coming from Gilead, and their camels were carrying labdanum and balsam and resinous bark, on their way to take it down to Egypt. (**Genesis 37:25**)
- Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and do not let our hand be upon him. After all, he is our brother, our flesh. So they listened to their brother. (**Genesis 37:27**)
- Now men, **Midianite** merchants, went passing by. Hence they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the water-pit and then sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty silver pieces. Eventually these brought Joseph into Egypt. (**Genesis 37:28**)
- However, the **Midianites** sold him into Egypt to Potiphar a court official of Pharaoh, the chief of the bodyguard. (**Genesis 37:36**)
- As for Joseph, he was brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, a court official of Pharaoh, the chief of the bodyguard, an Egyptian, got to buy him from the hand of the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. (**Genesis 39:1**)
- Later the men of Israel said to Gideon; Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson as well, for you have saved us out of

the hand of **Midian**. ([Judges 8:22](#))

- And Gideon went on to say to them; Let me make a request of you: Give me, each one of you, the nose ring of his booty. For they had nose rings of gold, because they were Ishmaelites. ([Judges 8:24](#))
- This may imply that the descendants of Abraham through his sons Ishmael and **Midian** were much alike in their way of life, and there may have been a further amalgamation through intermarriage among the two peoples.
- It also appears that at least some of the Kenites were known as **Midianites**. Since the Kenites are already mentioned as a people before **Midian's** birth, this may mean that Moses Kenite brother-in-law Hobab was a **Midianite** merely from a geographic standpoint.
- On that day Yehowah concluded with Abram a covenant, saying; To your seed I will give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates. ([Genesis 15:18](#))
- The Kenites and the Kenizzites and the Kadmonites. ([Genesis 15:19](#))
- Then Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the **Midianite**, the father-in-Law of Moses; We are pulling away for the place about which Yehowah said; I shall give it to you. Do come with us, and we shall certainly do good to you, because Yehowah has spoken good concerning Israel. ([Numbers 10:29](#))
- And the sons of the Kenite, whose son-in-law Moses was, came up out of the city of palm trees with the sons of Judah to the wilderness of Judah, which is to the south of Arad. Then they went and took up dwelling with the people. ([Judges 1:16](#))
- Incidentally Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the sons of Hobab, whose son-in-law Moses was, and he had his tent pitched near the big tree in Zaanannim, which is at Kedesh. ([Judges 4:11](#))

**See Also ISHMAELITE**

**See Also KENITE**

- Being descendants of Abraham, the **Midianites** likely spoke a language that closely resembled **Hebrew**. Gideon, for instance, apparently had no difficulty in understanding the **Midianites**.
- Gideon now came, and, look! There was a man relating a dream to his companion, and he went on to say; Here is a dream that I have dreamed. And, look! There was a round cake of barley bread turning over and over into the camp of **Midian**. Then it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell, and it went turning it upside down, and the tent fell flat. (**Judges 7:13**)
- At this his companion answered and said; This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel. The true God has given **Midian** and all the camp into his hand. (**Judges 7:14**)
- And it came about that as soon as Gideon heard the relating of the dream and its explanation, he began to worship. After that he returned to the camp of Israel and said; Get up, for Yehowah has given the camp of **Midian** into your hand. (**Judges 7:15**)
- He now said to Zebah and Zalmunna; What sort of men were they whom you killed in Tabor? To this they said; As you are, so were they, each one, like the sons of a king in form. (**Judges 8:18**)
- At that he said; They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As Yehowah lives, if you had preserved them alive, I would not have to kill you. (**Judges 8:19**)
- There is also a possibility, however, that Gideon learned the tongue of the **Midianites**, Israel having been under their domination for seven years.
- Then the sons of Israel began to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah. So Yehowah gave them into the hand of **Midian** for seven years. (**Judges 6:1**)
- The **Midianites** were primarily nomadic tent dwellers.
- For they and their livestock would come up with their tents. They would come as numerous as the locusts, and they and their camels were without number, and they would come into the land to ruin it. (**Judges 6:5**)

- And Israel became greatly impoverished due to **Midian**, and the sons of Israel began to call to Yehowah for aid. (**Judges 6:6**)
- Under what is hurtful I saw the tents of Cushan. The tent cloths of the land of **Midian** began to be agitated. (**Habakkuk 3:7**)
- But in Moses day they are also reported as residing in cities.
- But the sons of Israel carried off the women of **Midian** and their little ones captive, and all their domestic animals and all their livestock and all their means of maintenance they plundered. (**Numbers 31:9**)
- And all their cities in which they had settled and all their walled camps they burned with fire. (**Numbers 31:10**)
- At that time they were quite prosperous, having asses and animals of the flock and the herd numbering into the tens of thousands.
- And the booty, the rest of the plunder that the people of the expedition had taken as plunder, amounted to six hundred and seventy-five thousand of the flock. (**Numbers 31:32**)
- And seventy-two thousand of the herd. (**Numbers 31:33**)
- And sixty-one thousand asses. (**Numbers 31:34**)
- Their riches included gold ornaments having a total weight of more than 191 kilograms (512 pounds troy, valued now at over \$2,150,000).
- So let us present each one what he has found as Yehowah's offering, articles of gold, ankle chainlets, and bracelets, signet rings, earrings, and female ornaments, in order to make atonement for our souls before Yehowah. (**Numbers 31:50**)
- Accordingly Moses and Eleazar the priest accepted the gold from them, all the jewelry. (**Numbers 31:51**)
- And all the gold of the contribution that they contributed to Yehowah amounted to sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels, from the chiefs of the thousands and the chiefs of the

hundreds. (**Numbers 31:52**)

- Apparently both men and women adorned themselves with gold ornaments, including nose rings and earrings. **Midianite** kings were arrayed in garments of wool dyed reddish purple, and even their camels had necklaces, evidently with moon-shaped ornaments attached.
- So let us present each one what he has found as Yehowah's offering, articles of gold, ankle chainlets, and bracelets, signet rings, earrings, and female ornaments, in order to make atonement for our souls before Yehowah. (**Numbers 31:50**)
- So Zebah and Zalmunna said; Get up yourself and assault us, for as a man is, so is his mightiness. Accordingly Gideon got up and killed Zebah and Zalmunna and took the moon-shaped ornaments that were on the necks of their camels. (**Judges 8:21**)
- And the weight of the nose rings of gold that he had requested amounted to one thousand seven hundred gold shekels, besides the moon-shaped ornaments and the eardrops and the garments of wool dyed reddish purple that were upon the kings of **Midian** and besides the necklaces that were on the necks of the camels. (**Judges 8:26**)
- Doubtless the **Midianites** acquired much of their wealth through trade and plunder.
- Now men, **Midianite** merchants, went passing by. Hence they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the water-pit and then sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty silver pieces. Eventually these brought Joseph into Egypt. (**Genesis 37:28**)
- For they and their livestock would come up with their tents. They would come as numerous as the locusts, and they and their camels were without number, and they would come into the land to ruin it. (**Judges 6:5**)
- And Israel became greatly impoverished due to **Midian**, and the sons of Israel began to call to Yehowah for aid. (**Judges 6:6**)
- As early as the time of Joseph, caravans of **Midianite** merchants traveled to Egypt. It was to such a caravan bound for Egypt and carrying aromatic resins that Joseph was sold by his half brothers.

- Then they sat down to eat bread. When they raised their eyes and took a look, why, here was a caravan of Ishmaelites that was coming from Gilead, and their camels were carrying labdanum and balsam and resinous bark, on their way to take it down to Egypt. (**Genesis 37:25**)
- Now men, **Midianite** merchants, went passing by. Hence they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the water-pit and then sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty silver pieces. Eventually these brought Joseph into Egypt. (**Genesis 37:28**)
- Probably sometime before Israel's entry into the Promised Land, Edomite King Hadad, son of Bedad, gained the victory over the **Midianites** in the field of Moab.
- When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated the **Midianites** in the field of Moab, began to reign instead of him, and the name of his city was Avith. (**Genesis 36:35**)
- Eventually Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated **Midian** in the field of Moab, began to reign in place of him. And the name of his city was Avith. (**1 Chronicles 1:46**)

## .. Cause Israel To Sin

- Later, the **Midianites** manifested hostility toward the Israelites. They cooperated with the Moabites in hiring the prophet Balaam to curse Israel.
- And Moab proceeded to say to the older men of **Midian**; Now this congregation will lick up all our surroundings like the bull licking up the green growth of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that particular time. (**Numbers 22:4**)
- He now sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the River of the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying; Look! A people has come out of Egypt. Look! They have covered the earth as far as one can see, and they are dwelling right in front of me. (**Numbers 22:5**)
- And now do come, please, do curse this people for me, for they are mightier than I am. Perhaps I may be able to strike them and I may drive them out of the land, for I well know that the

one whom you bless is a blessed one and the one whom you curse is cursed. (**Numbers 22:6**)

- So the older men of Moab and the older men of **Midian** traveled with the payments for divination in their hands and went to Balaam and spoke to him Balak's words. (**Numbers 22:7**)
- When this failed, the **Midianites** and Moabites, at Balaam's advice, cunningly used their women to induce thousands of Israelite males to become involved in sexual immorality and idolatry in connection with Baal of Peor.
- Now Israel was dwelling in Shittim. Then the people started to have immoral relations with the daughters of Moab. (**Numbers 25:1**)
- And the women came calling the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people began to eat and to bow down to their gods. (**Numbers 25:2**)
- So Israel attached itself to the Baal of Peor, and the anger of Yehowah began to blaze against Israel. (**Numbers 25:3**)
- Hence Yehowah said to Moses; Take all the head ones of the people and expose them to Yehowah toward the sun, that the burning anger of Yehowah may turn back from Israel. (**Numbers 25:4**)
- Then Moses said to the judges of Israel; Each one of you kill his men who have an attachment with the Baal of Peor. (**Numbers 25:5**)
- But, look! A man of the sons of Israel came, and he was bringing near to his brothers a **Midianite** woman before Moses eyes and before the eyes of all the assembly of the sons of Israel, while they were weeping at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 25:6**)
- When Phinehas the son of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest caught sight of it, he at once got up from the midst of the assembly and took a lance in his hand. (**Numbers 25:7**)
- Then he went after the man of Israel into the vaulted tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman

through her genital parts. At that the scourge was halted from upon the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 25:8**)

- And those who died from the scourge amounted to twenty-four thousand. (**Numbers 25:9**)
- Incidentally the name of the fatally struck Israelite man who was fatally struck with the **Midianite** was Zimri the son of Salu, a chieftain of a paternal house of the Simeonites. (**Numbers 25:14**)
- And the name of the **Midianite** woman fatally struck was Cozbi the daughter of Zur, he was a head one of the clans of a paternal house in **Midian**. (**Numbers 25:15**)
- Later Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 25:16**)
- Let there be a harassing of the **Midianites**, and you men must strike them. (**Numbers 25:17**)
- Because they are harassing you with their deeds of cunning that they committed against you cunningly in the affair of Peor and in the affair of Cozbi the daughter of a chieftain of **Midian**, their sister who was fatally struck in the day of the scourge over the affair of Peor. (**Numbers 25:18**)
- So Moses said to them; Have you preserved alive every female? (**Numbers 31:15**)
- Look! They are the ones who, by Balaam's word, served to induce the sons of Israel to commit unfaithfulness toward Yehowah over the affair of Peor, so that the scourge came upon the assembly of Yehowah. (**Numbers 31:16**)
- Neither let us practice fornication, as some of them committed fornication, only to fall, twenty-three thousand of them in one day. (**1 Corinthians 10:8**)
- Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, that you have there those holding fast the teaching of Balaam, who went teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication. (**Revelation 2:14**)



- Thereafter the Israelites, in obedience to divine command, took vengeance upon **Midian**. The **Midianite** cities and walled camps in the area were consigned to the fire.
- Thousands of domestic animals and many gold articles were taken as spoils. With the exception of the virgins, all, including the five kings of **Midian**, Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba were put to death. (Numbers Chapter 31)
- Less than three centuries later, the **Midianites** had recovered from this blow sufficiently to be able to oppress the Israelites for seven years.
- Then the sons of Israel began to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah. So Yehowah gave them into the hand of **Midian** for seven years. (Judges 6:1)
- And now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, the king of Moab? Did he ever contend with Israel, or did he ever fight against them? (Judges 11:25)
- While Israel was dwelling in Heshbon and its dependent towns and in Aroer and its dependent towns and in all the cities that are by the banks of Arnon for three hundred years, why, then, did you never snatch them away during that time? (Judges 11:26)
- Along with the Amalekites and Easterners, these tent-dwelling nomads, with their livestock and innumerable camels, penetrated Israel's land all the way to Gaza, plundering the domestic animals of the Israelites and also consuming their harvests.
- And the hand of **Midian** came to prevail over Israel. Due to Midian the sons of Israel made for themselves the underground store places that were in the mountains, and the caves and the places difficult to approach. (Judges 6:2)
- And it occurred that, if Israel sowed seed, **Midian** and Amalek and the Easterners came up, yes, they came up against them. (Judges 6:3)
- And they would camp against them and would ruin the yield of the earth all the way to Gaza, and they would not let any sustenance or sheep or bull or ass remain in Israel. (Judges 6:4)

- For they and their livestock would come up with their tents. They would come as numerous as the locusts, and they and their camels were without number, and they would come into the land to ruin it. (**Judges 6:5**)
- And Israel became greatly impoverished due to **Midian**, and the sons of Israel began to call to Yehowah for aid. (**Judges 6:6**)

### •• **Crushing Defeat By Gideon**

- Finally, when Israel called to Yehowah for aid, he raised up Gideon to deliver them.
- And it came about that because the sons of Israel called to Yehowah for aid on account of **Midian**. (**Judges 6:7**)
- Yehowah proceeded to send a man, a prophet, to the sons of Israel and to say to them; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; It was I who brought you up from Egypt and thus brought you out of the house of slaves. (**Judges 6:8**)
- So I delivered you out of the hand of Egypt and out of the hand of all your oppressors and drove them out from before you and gave you their land. (**Judges 6:9**)
- Furthermore, I said to you; I am Yehowah your God. You must not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are dwelling. And you did not listen to my voice. (**Judges 6:10**)
- Later Yehowah's angel came and sat under the big tree that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abi-ezrite, while Gideon his son was beating out wheat in the winepress so as to get it quickly out of the sight of **Midian**. (**Judges 6:11**)
- Then Yehowah's angel appeared to him and said to him; Yehowah is with you, you valiant, mighty one. (**Judges 6:12**)
- At this Gideon said to him; Excuse me, my lord, but if Yehowah is with us, then why has all this come upon us, and where are all his wonderful acts that our fathers related to us, saying; Was it not out of Egypt that Yehowah brought us up? And now Yehowah has deserted us, and he gives us into the palm of **Midian**. (**Judges 6:13**)

- Upon that Yehowah faced him and said; Go in this power of yours, and you will certainly save Israel out of **Midian's** palm. Do I not send you? (**Judges 6:14**)
- In turn he said to him; Excuse me, Yehowah. With what shall I save Israel? Look! My thousand is the least in Manasseh, and I am the smallest in my father's house. (**Judges 6:15**)
- But Yehowah said to him; Because I shall prove to be with you, and you will certainly strike down **Midian** as if one man. (**Judges 6:16**)
- The rout that Yehowah effected by means of him was so complete that there is no record of any further harassment from the **Midianites**.
- Thus **Midian** was subdued before the sons of Israel, and they did not lift up their head anymore, and the land had no further disturbance for forty years in the days of Gideon. (**Judges 8:28**)
- Their princes Oreb and Zeeb were slain, as were their kings Zebah and Zalmunna.
- They also got to capture the two princes of **Midian**, namely, Oreb and Zeeb, and they proceeded to kill Oreb on the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the wine vat of Zeeb. And they kept on pursuing Midian, and they brought the head of Oreb and that of Zeeb to Gideon in the region of the Jordan. (**Judges 7:25**)
- Later he said to the men of Succoth; Please give round loaves of bread to the people that are following my steps, for they are tired and I am chasing after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of **Midian**. (**Judges 8:5**)
- So Zebah and Zalmunna said; Get up yourself and assault us, for as a man is, so is his mightiness. Accordingly Gideon got up and killed Zebah and Zalmunna and took the moon-shaped ornaments that were on the necks of their camels. (**Judges 8:21**)
- Centuries later the victory over **Midian** was still alluded to when illustrating the smashing of enemy power.
- For the yoke of their load and the rod upon their shoulders, the staff of the one driving them to work, you have shattered to

pieces as in the day of **Midian**. (**Isaiah 9:4**)

- Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord, Yehowah of armies, has said; Do not be afraid, O my people who are dwelling in Zion, because of the Assyrian, who with the rod used to strike you and who used to lift up his own staff against you in the way that Egypt did. (**Isaiah 10:24**)
- For yet a very little while, and the denunciation will have come to an end, and my anger, in their wearing away. (**Isaiah 10:25**)
- And Yehowah of armies will certainly brandish against him a whip as at the defeat of **Midian** by the rock Oreb, and his staff will be upon the sea, and he will certainly lift it up in the way that he did with Egypt. (**Isaiah 10:26**)
- Do to them as to **Midian**, as to Sisera, as to Jabin at the torrent valley of Kishon. (**Psalms 83:9**)
- They were annihilated at En-dor, they became manure for the ground. (**Psalms 83:10**)
- As for their nobles, make these like Oreb and like Zeeb, and like Zebah and like Zalmunna all their dukes. (**Psalms 83:11**)

### See Also **GIDEON**

- In contrast with the earlier enmity of the **Midianites**, a restoration prophecy pointed to the time when young male camels of **Midian** and of Ephah would bring gifts to Zion.
- At that time you will see and certainly become radiant, and your heart will actually quiver and expand, because to you the wealthiness of the sea will direct itself, the very resources of the nations will come to you. (**Isaiah 60:5**)
- The heaving mass of camels itself will cover you, the young male camels of **Midian** and of Ephah. All those from Sheba, they will come. Gold and frankincense they will carry. And the praises of Yehowah they will announce. (**Isaiah 60:6**)
- And your gates will actually be kept open constantly, they will not be closed even by day or by night, in order to bring to you the resources of the nations, and their kings will be taking the lead.

**(Isaiah 60:11)**

- **For any nation and any kingdom that will not serve you will perish, and the nations themselves will without fail come to devastation. (Isaiah 60:12)**
- **To you the very glory of Lebanon will come, the juniper tree, the ash tree and the cypress at the same time, in order to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I shall glorify the very place of my feet. (Isaiah 60:13)**
- **And to you the sons of those afflicting you must go, bowing down, and all those treating you disrespectfully must bend down at the very soles of your feet, and they will have to call you the city of Yehowah, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 60:14)**