

**SEVEN SERMONS ON THE  
CHARACTER OF GIDEON;  
PREACHED AT THE TEMPLE  
CHURCH, BRISTOL; AND AT THE  
OCTAGON CHAPEL, BATH.**

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Seven Sermons on the Character of Gideon; Preached at the Temple Church, Bristol; And at the Octagon Chapel, Bath. by Fountain Elwin

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**FOUNTAIN ELWIN**

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# SEVEN SERMONS

ON THE

## CHARACTER OF GIDEON;

PREACHED AT

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, BRISTOL;

AND AT THE

OCTAGON CHAPEL, BATH.

BY

THE REV. FOUNTAIN ELWIN,

VICAR OF TEMPLE,

AND ONE OF THE MINISTERS OF THE OCTAGON.

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# SERMONS.

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## SERMON I.

### GIDEON'S INTERVIEW WITH THE ANGEL.

JUDGES vi. 11—16.

*And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my lord, if the Lord be with*

*us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.*

No method of preaching, I believe, has been found more instructive and edifying than that which brings before a congregation historical facts, remarkable transactions, and the various characters of those who were engaged in them, as set forth in the holy Scriptures. They answer the

purpose of leading our minds to the contemplation of the higher matters of doctrine, by a reference to practice. They hold out warning in some cases, and encouragement in others; and show how God will deal with us in our earthly pilgrimage, by telling us how he has dealt with others in past ages. With this view, it is my intention to deliver a course of sermons on the history and character of Gideon.

Amongst the various important lessons which the history of Israel sets before us, none are more plainly marked than this, viz. "Sin carries its own punishment." In the first verse of this chapter we read thus: "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord;" that was the sin: "And the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian;" that was the punishment. It is remarkable how completely this punishment was the execution of a former threat, which you will find in Leviticus xxvi., viz. that if they would not hearken to the commandments