

## **Judges 9 - Abimelech.**

### **vs. 1-6 - They went and made Abimelech king.**

- Abimelech - name means “father is king.”
  - interesting name since Gideon said he would not be a king of Israel, nor would his sons (Judges 8:22-23).
  - did Gideon change his mind or did his wife choose this name?
  - remember that Jerubbaal is Gideon’s other name.
- they paid him from the house of Baal-berith.
  - Baal-berith - “Lord of the covenant” possibly a local covenant that was between the people of Shechem and their surrounding neighbors.
- Abimelech killed 69 of his half brothers.
- Abimelech was made the regional king of Shechem,
  - sadly his swearing in took place at the same place where Joshua had put a copy of the Law so that the people would not deny God.
  - This is ironic, because as they appointed Abimelech king, they were rejecting God as their king.

### **vs. 7-21 - Jotham.**

- Mount Gerizim - the mount of blessing (Deuteronomy 11:29).
- Jotham, the one remaining of Gideon’s 71 sons, speaks a parable to the people of Shechem.
  - parables often have multiple meanings (typically a meaning for the time it was told as well as some prophetic element).
  - Parables can also be used as a non-confrontational way of pointing out the sin of others (see Nathan and David, Jesus and the Pharisees, etc.).
  - I would like to focus mainly on the meaning for this time, but would like to point out that you could see the end times in this:
    - trees: Shechem.
    - olive tree: produces the oil for temple sacrifice and anointing men.
    - fig tree: produces fruit to feed people.
    - vine: produces wine for worshipping God in the temple and for different parts of the feast.
    - bramble: Abimelech.
    - Notice that those that the people originally wanted to be king were too busy being useful.
    - This ends with a curse on Shechem and Abimelech.

### **vs. 22-25 - God sent an evil spirit.**

- Abimelech’s local kingship led to him having some national leadership over Israel for 3 years.
- God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and Shechem.
  - this is actually a common tactic of God (Saul, 1Samuel 16:14; Ahab, 1Kings 22:19-23).

### **vs. 26-41 - Gaal.**

- Gaal gets drunk and mouthy at a party.
  - Gaal is upset that one of the men of Hamor was not the king, and threatens, “If I were king, I would challenge Abimelech.”
  - Zebul (Abimelech’s lieutenant) overhears it and expands on those words to make it sound like Gaal has started a rebellion.
- Abimelech and Zebul chase Gaal and his relatives out of Shechem.

### **vs. 42-49 - Shechem.**

- Abimelech destroys the city of Shechem.
  - He sowed the city with salt so nothing would grow.
  - He burnt the temple of El-berith, killing one thousand people, all leaders of the city.

### **vs. 50-55 - Thebez.**

- Abimelech captures Thebez.
  - the leaders shut themselves inside the tower.
  - a woman drops a millstone on Abimelech, cracking his skull, and he has his armor bearer kill him.

### **vs. 56-57 - God repaid the wickedness.**

- File this under you reap what you sow (Galatians 6:7-9).