

The Book of Judges: Chapter 9

Sunday, November 3 – Wednesday, November 6

(1 – 2) What request did Abimelech make to his relatives in Shechem? What points did he make to convince them to support his plot?
(Judges 8: 30 – 31)

(3 – 6) What action did Abimelech take against his brothers? From what source was this action financed, and who did Abimelech recruit to help him take action against his brothers? Which of Abimelech's brothers survived?

(7 – 15) Describe the parable that Jotham tells. Who did the trees represent, and what did they seek? How did the olive tree, the fig tree, and the vine respond to the trees' request that they become king? Who did the bramble represent, and how did it respond to the trees' request for him to become king? What threat did the bramble make to the trees?

(16 – 21) What points did Jotham make in his explanation of his parable? What warning did Jotham give to the people of Shechem in putting their trust in Abimelech and supporting his bid to become king? What did Jotham do after giving this explanation and warning?

(22 – 25) What action did God take against Abimelech and his supporters in Shechem? What was the intent of God's actions toward Abimelech and his supporters, and how did the men of Shechem respond?

(26 – 29) What was Gaal's intention upon gaining the confidence of the men of Shechem? What points did he make to solidify his influence among the people, and what challenge did he present to Abimelech and Zebul?

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(30 – 33) When Zebul heard of Gaal's plot, what actions did he take? Describe Zebul's plan from the message that he sent to Abimelech.

(34 – 36) What did Abimelech do in response to Zebul's message? How did Zebul respond when Gaal observed Abimelech's men approaching?

(37 – 38) How did Zebul respond to Gaal's continued observations of Abimelech's men coming toward the city? What comment did Zebul make regarding Gaal's prior disparaging remarks about Abimelech and his followers?

(39 – 41) What was the result of the battle between Gaal and Abimelech?

(42 – 45) Following the defeat of Gaal, what action did Abimelech take against the people of Shechem? What was the outcome of the battle?

(46 – 49) What did Abimelech do against the people of Shechem who had sought refuge in the city's stronghold? What was the outcome of Abimelech's actions? (*Proverbs 18: 10*)

(50 – 55) What happened to Abimelech when he attacked the people of Thebez who had gathered in that city's stronghold? What concern did Abimelech express as he was dying, and what subsequent request did he make? (*Judges 4: 8 – 9; 2 Samuel 11: 21*)

(56 – 57) What was the result of Abimelech's rebellion against God? How did these events and their outcome relate to the parable that Gideon's son Jotham had told earlier? (*Judges 9: 19 – 20*)