

GOD'S LEADERS, GOD'S PEOPLE

ABIMELECH

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Judges 8:33–9:55

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Judges 8

8:33 Then it came about, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the sons of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-berith their god.

8:34 Thus the sons of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side

Judges 9

9:1 And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's relatives, and spoke to them and to the whole clan of the household of his mother's father, saying,

9:2 "Speak, now, in the hearing of all the lords of Shechem, 'Which is good for you, that seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, rule over you, or that one man rule over you?' Also, remember that I am your bone and your flesh."

9:3 And his mother's relatives spoke all these words on his behalf in the hearing of all the lords of Shechem; and they were inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our relative."

9:4 They gave him seventy pieces of silver from the house of Baal-berith with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless fellows, and they followed him.

9:5 Then he went to his father's house at Ophrah and slew his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, on one stone. ...

9:6 All the lords of Shechem ... assembled together, and they went and crowned Abimelech king

9:22 Now Abimelech ruled over Israel three years.

9:23 Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the lords of Shechem; and the lords of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech ...

9:24 so that the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood might be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the lords of Shechem, who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers.

9:25 The lords of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who might pass by them along the road; and it was told to Abimelech.

9:26 Now Gaal the son of Ebed came with his relatives, and crossed over into Shechem; and the lords of Shechem put their trust in him.

9:27 And they went out into the field and they gathered the grapes of their vineyards and they trod them, and they held a festival; and they went into the house of their god, and they ate and they drank and they cursed Abimelech.

9:28 Then Gaal the son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal ...? ... Why should we serve him?"

9:29 Would, therefore, that this people were under my authority! Then I would remove Abimelech." And he said to Abimelech, "Increase your army and come out."

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9:39 So Gaal went out before the lords of Shechem and fought with Abimelech.

9:40 Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him; and many fell wounded up to the entrance of the gate.

9:42 Now it came about the next day, that the people went out to the field, and it was told to Abimelech.

9:43 So he took his people and divided them into three companies, and ambushed them in the field; when he looked and saw the people coming out from the city, he arose against them and slew them.

9:44 Then Abimelech and the company who was with him dashed forward and stood in the entrance of the city gate; the other two companies then dashed against all who were in the field and smote them to death.

9:45 Abimelech fought against the city all that day, and he captured the city and slew the people who were in it; then he razed the city and sowed it with salt.

9:46 When all the lords of the tower of Shechem heard of it, they entered the inner chamber of the temple of El-berith.

9:47 It was told Abimelech that all the lords of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

9:48 So Abimelech went up ...

9:49 ... and set the inner chamber on fire over those inside, so that all the men of the tower of Shechem also died, about a thousand men and women.

9:50 Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and he camped against Thebez and captured it.

9:51 But there was a strong tower in the center of the city, and all the men and women with all the lords of the city fled there and shut themselves in; and they went up on the roof of the tower.

9:52 So Abimelech came to the tower and fought against it, and approached the entrance of the tower to burn it with fire.

9:53 But one woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech's head, crushing his skull.

9:55 When the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, each departed to his home.

9:56 Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father in slaying his seventy brothers.

Judges 7

7:2 The LORD said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, for Israel would become boastful, saying, ‘My own hand has delivered me.’”

7:3 Now therefore come, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, “Whoever is afraid and trembling, let him return and depart”

7:9 Now the same night it came about that the LORD said to him, “Arise, go down against the [enemy] camp, for I have given it into your hand.”

7:16 He [Gideon] divided the 300 men into three companies, and he put trumpets and empty pitchers into the hands of all of them, with torches inside the pitchers.

7:20 When the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers, they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing, and cried, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!”

7:21 Each stood in his place around the camp; and all the [Midianite] army ran, crying out as they fled.

7:22 When the 300 trumpets blew, the LORD set the sword of one against another even throughout the whole army

7:23 The men of Israel were summoned from Naphtali and Asher and all Manasseh, and they pursued Midian.

7:24 Gideon sent messengers throughout all the hill country of Ephraim, saying, “Come down against Midian”

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Judges 8

8:2 But he said to them [the Ephraimites], “What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleanings of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?”

8:3 “God has given the leaders of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb into your hands; and what was I able to do in comparison with you?” Then their anger toward him subsided

8:5 ... ‘I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian.’”

8:21 ... So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments which were on their camels’ necks.

8:22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, even you, even your son, even your son’s son, for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.”

8:23 But Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you.”

8:24 Yet Gideon said to them, “I would request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his spoil [of war against Midian].” ...

8:25 ... So they spread out a garment, and every one of them threw an earring there from his spoil.

8:26 The weight of the gold earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and besides the neck bands that were on their camels’ necks.

8:27 Gideon made it into an ephod ... and all Israel played the harlot with it there, so that it became a snare to Gideon and his household.

8:31 His concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech.

8:33 Then it came about, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the sons of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-berith their god.

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