

Abimelech's Tyranny Over Israel

(Judges 9:1-57)

I. The treachery of Abimelech and Shechem (vv. 1-6)

- A. He secured the support of his mother's relatives
- B. He used them to secure the support of the leaders in Shechem
- C. He hired worthless and reckless fellows to kill his brothers
- D. He was coronated as king by the people of Shechem

II. The Curse on Abimelech and Shechem (vv. 7-21)

- A. Jotham's Fable (7-15)
- B. Jotham's Curse (16-20)
- C. Jotham's Escape (21)

III. The Judgment on Abimelech and Shechem (vv. 22-57)

- A. Theological Introduction (23-24)
- B. "Fire" from the men of Shechem (25-29)
 - 1. Ambushers (25)
 - 2. Revolt of Gaal (26-29)
- C. "Fire" from Abimelech (30-49)
 - 1. Against Gaal and his followers (30-41)
 - 2. Against the populace of Shechem (42-45)
 - 3. Against the aristocracy (46-49)
- D. "Fire" from Thebez (50-55)
- E. Theological Conclusion (56-57)

Lessons:

1. Just as Israel became more and more like the Canaanites, the church has a tendency to become more and more like the world.
2. When selecting leaders within the church, we must be careful and selective, keeping in mind the Biblical qualifications, such as those in 1 Timothy Ch. 3 and Titus Ch. 1.
3. Evil intentions do not bode well for alliances. (*cf* Rev 17:16-17)
4. Sooner or later, God will have justice upon those who shed the blood of others or otherwise violate His law.
5. The gospel, or good news, is that Jesus has come to save us from our sin.
6. God is the protector of His people. (1 Cor 3:16-17)