

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES
1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 9:22-29

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT” – PART 2

*ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Flesh, Kingdoms, Ambition, Satan, Cults

Introduction to the Text;

Judges 9:22-29

The Bible Challenges Us Over and Over Again
to do what we do for God “by” or “through” the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah 4:6

So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.

Our Great Example Is;

That on the day of Pentecost, when the church was born

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. :3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. :4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

and from that moment on they went out and witnessed, preached, taught, served, loved, and did what they did “by” and “in” and “through” the power of the Holy Spirit.

But The Bible Also Warns Us Over and Over Again
to be on guard against what is called the work of the flesh !

in contrast, the work of the flesh produces
death...

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are these: immorality, impurity, sensuality, :20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, :21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

To Better Understand the Chapter
we need to recognize that the chapter is divided into three sections.

1.) *the* **Seizing** of the Kingdom v.1-21

1a.) Seizing The Kingdom by **Ambition**

1b.) Seizing The Kingdom by **Deception**

1c.) Seizing The Kingdom by **Manipulation**

“KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT”

2.) *the* **Defending** of the Kingdom v.22-29

2a.) Defending **what is not yours**

:22 After **Abimelech** had reigned over Israel three years, :23 God sent **a spirit of ill** will between **Abimelech** and **the men of Shechem**; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech, :24 that the crime *done* to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might be settled and their blood be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who aided him in the killing of his brothers. :25 And the men of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who passed by them along that way; and it was told Abimelech.

Remember This;
Abimelech, Because of Ambition,
he used Deceit
to Bring About the Manipulation of the Kingdom -
translation = He Stole It

**Defending what's not yours to defend
is a losing battle...**

Christian, *When someone sins, does wrong, it will in some way,
eventually affect others.*

but some people will say
"as long as what he does doesn't affect me, it's O.K. with me"

when someone drinks in private
and then goes out in public and kills your son
– it affects all of us.

if a pervert is watching pornography in his room,
and then goes outside filled with lust and rapes your daughter
– it affects all of us.

Romans 14:7

For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.

Abimelech **Stole** the Kingdom
now he has to defend what was gotten outside God's
will.

**He Stole It for Himself
but his sin affected everyone**

Christians Can Steal All The Time

when we take our own lives into our own hands and begin to call the shots, we are, in a very real way – stealing from God’s authority, from God’s will.

Christian, we’re to **pray** about everything,

then **wait** and then get the Lord’s word on it from the His **Bible**.

and then **do** what He is telling you to do...

Psalm 1:1-4

Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; :2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. :3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. :4 The ungodly *are* not so, But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; :6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Verse 23

God sent **a spirit of ill-will** (demon) between **Abimelech** and **the men of Shechem**; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

Abimelech had murdered Gideon’s 70 sons and took the kingdom by deceit and violence?

“God sent *a spirit of ill-will* between *Abimelech* and *the men of Shechem*”

**Every Minute of Every Hour
The Lord is Holding Back Evil From Taking Over.**

the LORD can remove His protection at any **time** and for any **reason**.

This “spirit of Ill” was a Demon Power. we can all understand how “Angel’s” are under the Lord’s Direction, but what about demons?

Hebrews 1:14

Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Though Demons work for Satan,
Everything Is Under God's
Watchful Eye.

1 Samuel 16:14

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

Even a Believer, for Good Reasons
can be Afflicted by Demonic Powers.

2 Corinthians 12:7

And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me — to keep me from exalting myself!

a Christian can be **oppressed** (intimidated).

a Christian can be **suppressed** (silenced).

but a Christian can never be **possessed** (controlled)

The Lord is a **Very Jealous** God Over the Those He Loves.

2 Corinthians 6:16

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?
For you are the temple of the living God.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? :20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's

Amplified Bible - - Ephesians 4:29-30

Let no foul *or* polluting language, *nor* evil word *nor* unwholesome *or* worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good *and* beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need *and* the occasion, that it may be a blessing *and* give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it. :30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [do not offend or vex or sadden Him], by Whom you were sealed (marked, branded as God's own, secured)

“KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT”

2.) *the* **Defending** of the Kingdom

v.22-29

2a.) Defending **what's not yours**

2b.) Defending **what will never last**

:26 Now **Ga'al** the son of Ebed came with his brothers and went over to Shechem; **and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.** :27 So they went out into the fields, and gathered *grapes* from their vineyards and trod *them*, and made merry (got drunk). And they went into the house of their god, and **ate** and **drank**, and **cursed** Abimelech.

these “Men of Shechem” go from one man to another looking for a leader - to lead them into success, prosperity, peace...

I am personally convinced that every Christian should pray, vote and pray (in that order) in every election

but always with the understanding that we're not voting for a deliverer, a savior, an answer - I'm voting for the person who may best be led by the Lord.

Tonight the world out there
is

prepping, grooming, spinning their candidate for the presidential election.

**Without the Lord,
Americans will look to a man
(or in our case Hillary) to solve the problems...**

Never Put Your Trust in Human Beings

For Years I Have Told You
*that something is going to cause America to become weakened and that our
might would weaken, that our blessings would fade and that our economy would
have to suffer.*

When America Decided to forsake the Lord,

He began to Withdraw His Blessings from Us as a Nation and Soon His judgment will
Begin to arrive... what will become of the united states of America is not good unless
she turns back to the Lord

Psalm 20:7
Some *trust* in **chariots**, (tanks) and some in **horses**; (transports)
But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

The Lord Strips Away The Things That Keep Us From Him

The End is Near for God's People Whenever
They Begin to Trust in Things more than Him.

This man Ga'al is good example for us.
he comes on the scene and introduces his own form of;
ambition // deceit // and manipulation

first Abimelech's Campaign, Now it's Ga'al's Campaign
who's next?

Psalm 94:21-22

They gather together against the life of the righteous, And condemn innocent blood.
:22 **But the LORD has been my defense, And my God the rock of my refuge.**

Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on **the rock**: :25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. :26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on **the sand**: :27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

“KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT”

2.) *the* **Defending** of the Kingdom

v.22-29

2a.) Defending **what is not yours**

2b.) Defending **what will never last**

2c.) Defending **what has no value**

: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, and is not Zebul his officer? Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem; but why should we serve him (Abimelech)? :29 If only this people were under my authority! Then I would remove Abimelech.” So he said to Abimelech, “Increase your army and come out!”

The Demon Influence put it into the Heart of Ga'al
to challenge Abimelech

Under Gideon,

Israel had had peace for 40 years

Even the godless will only go so far
to defend something they “claim” to believe in.

with a humanistic worldview

there are very few that will defend to the death

No one will willingly die
for an empty ideology or man-centered
pursuit.

Verse 29a

*"If only this people were under my authority!
Then I would remove Abimelech...."*

"then (I) would remove Abimelech" really? - -

Because Defending What Has No Value is Empty

Verse 29a

....So he said to Abimelech,
"Increase your army and come out!"

that would be fine if Ga'al was going out to fight Abimelech
at the MGM or Madison Square Garden...

have you caught on to the fact
that cult leaders like Za-Cow-Wee, or Bin Laden and the rest

*They peach "There is no Greater Act for Allah but
Martyrdom"*

*"we'll even give your family 25,000 dollars if you do
it. and we'll supply the drugs to dope you up before
you do it,
and if you chicken out, we'll have a remote device
to blow you up."*

If It's Such an Honor

then why hasn't Za-Cow-Wee, or Bin Laden or the others
blown themselves up yet ?

**What Is It That You Value That is
“Beyond” You, Bigger Than You ?**

if you don't have anything but you - -
you're in trouble
you're an idolater, you're lord, you're in
your own powerless, defenseless, fading
kingdom...

_____ *End of Study* _____