

# THE BOOK OF JUDGES

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

## JUDGES CHAPTER 9:50-57

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### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## "KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT" – PART 3

*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 9:50-57**

The dangers of human effort vs. God's eternal plans.  
the flesh of every human being is contrary to the will of God.

the human being, alienated from God, is self-willed and self-reliant.

It Comes Down To The Battle of The Wills.  
the authority, the control, the lordship of;

" Who Will Run My Life? "

### 1 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior  
and the **Lord** Jesus Christ, our hope,

### 2 Peter 1:11

for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting  
kingdom of our **Lord** and Savior Jesus Christ.

## 2 Peter 2:20

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the **Lord** and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

## 2 Peter 3:2

that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the **Lord** and Savior,

## 2 Peter 3:18

but grow in the grace and knowledge of our **Lord** and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

And You Can't Forget The Christmas Story

## Luke 2:11

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the **Lord**.

## “KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT”

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**

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**

## “KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT”

### 3.) *the* Losing of the Kingdom

v.30-57

#### 3a.) Losing the provision of God

v.30-38

:30 When Zebul, the ruler of the city, (he was the ruler of Shechem under Abimelech) heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was aroused. :31 And he sent messengers to Abimelech secretly, saying, “Take note! Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and here they are, fortifying the city against you. :32 Now therefore, get up by night, you and the people who *are* with you, and lie in wait in the field. :33 And it shall be, as soon as the sun is up in the morning, *that* you shall rise early and rush upon the city; and *when* he and the people who are with him come out against you, you may then do to them as you find opportunity.”

#### Abimelech is Informed of an Impending Attack.

terrorists were seeking to come down against Abimelech and the people of Shechem. It was At Shechem, that Abraham "built an altar to the Lord who had appeared to him . . . and had given that land to his descendants" (Gen 12:6-7). This Biblical account, considered by some to be the first place Abraham stopped when Abraham, Sarah, Lot, and their party entered the land of Canaan. The Bible states that on this occasion, God confirmed the covenant He had first made with Abraham in Haran, regarding the possession of the land of Canaan. It was at Shechem that Joshua assembled the Israelites and encouraged them to reaffirm their adherence to the Torah. It was at Shechem that Abimelech was crowned king.

#### But It Was Done So By Man's Efforts and Devices.

there's always a danger of “copying” what God is doing or what God has done.

If You're "Copying" what God did,  
how will you ever Know if God is in What  
You're Doing?

#### The Ministry of the Holy Spirit is Diverse.

(God cannot fit in a box)

Abimelech was Running on Fumes

But Pastor Jack ;  
isn't the Lord in this? look Abimelech is  
Looking Good Right Now !

Until Now Abimelech Has Been Running On His Own Manipulation and Ambition. He's  
Leading in the Popular Opinion Polls and He's Looking Good.

**Job 8:3**

Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice?

**Deuteronomy 30:17-20**

But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, **:18** I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. **:19** I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; **:20** that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

## The Justice of God is Never in a Hurry

we can go a long way on our own.  
we can sin a sin that seems to be O.K. with the Lord,  
"after all, he hasn't stopped me from doing it – it must be o.k."

A man might say;  
"I've lived fine without Jesus Christ in my life,  
Everything has been Great."

**2 Peter 3:8-9**

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **:9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**Proverbs 16:25**

There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

No Where Along The Route  
do You See The Lord Consulted in This.

God Would Not Have Led Abimelech Anyway!  
(because there was no repentance on his part, he had not turned from  
his evil actions and murderous heart)

## THE LOSING OF THE KINGDOM

### 3a.) Losing the provision of God

v.34

:34 So Abimelech and all the people who *were* with him rose by night, and lay in wait against Shechem in four companies. :35 When Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood in the entrance to the city gate, Abimelech and the people who *were* with him rose from lying in wait. :36 And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Look, people are coming down from the tops of the mountains!" But Zebul said to him, "You see the shadows of the mountains as *if they were* men." :37 So Gaal spoke again and said, "See, people are coming down from the center of the land, and another company is coming from the Diviners' Terebinth Tree." :38 Then Zebul said to him, "Where indeed *is* your mouth now, with which you said, '**Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him?**' Are not these the people whom you despised? Go out, if you will, and fight with them now."

## "The Provision of The Lord"

The LORD desires to supply us all that we need (not want)  
He desires that we walk with Him and live with Him in a  
real and dynamic relationship.

the provision of God had been Willfully Lost, Given Up in Abimelech's Day.

The Lord Loves to Provide

### Genesis 22:6-8

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. :7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?" :8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will **provide** for Himself (Jahovah-jirah) the lamb for a burnt offering."

### Philippians 4:19

And my God shall **supply** all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

## THE LOSING OF THE KINGDOM

### 3b.) Losing the power of God

v.39-45

:39 So Ga'al went out, leading the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech. :40 And Abimelech chased him, and Ga'al fled from him; and many fell wounded, to the very entrance of the gate. :41 Then Abimelech dwelt at A-ru-mah, and Zebul drove out Ga'al and his brothers, so that they would not dwell in Shechem :42 And it came about on the next day that the people went out into the field, and they told Abimelech. :43 So he took his people, divided them into three companies, and lay in wait in the field. And he looked, and there were the people, coming out of the city; and he rose against them and attacked them. :44 Then Abimelech and the company that was with him rushed forward and stood at the entrance of the gate of the city; and the *other* two companies rushed upon all who *were* in the fields and killed them. :45 So Abimelech fought against the city all that day; he took the city and killed the people who *were* in it; and he **demolished** the city and **sowed it with salt**.

### Verse 45

he **demolished** the city and **sowed it with salt**.

But Wait - Doesn't the Victory Prove That God is With Abimelech !

- not at all

Abimelech's Sin is Making It's Way Toward Him

## THE LOSING OF THE KINGDOM

### 3c.) Losing the protection of God

v.46-57

:46 Now when all the men of **the tower of Shechem** had heard *that*, they entered the stronghold of **the temple of the god Berith**. :47 And it was told Abimelech that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

### Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower;  
The righteous run to it and are safe.

**Baal Berith was “the lord of gathering or community or covenant” .**

It was the name of the chief god worshipped in Shechem. He was worshipped in Canaan, Philistia, and Shechem. He was the protector of the covenant between Shechem and the neighboring Canaanite villagers

### Verse 48-49

Then Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who *were* with him. And Abimelech took an ax in his hand and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it and laid *it* on his shoulder; then he said to the people who were with him, “What you have seen me do, make haste *and* do as I *have done*.” :49 So each of the people likewise cut down his own bough and followed Abimelech, put *them* against the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire above them, so that all the people of the tower of Shechem died, about a thousand men and women.

**in Babylonia worship, it was taught that an evergreen tree (fir) was chopped down but a serpent embraced the tree and caused it to grow again.**

**In Babylon, this Chief-god was Tamuz in connection Nimrod and the Yule - Pagan worship of/at the winter solstice. This worship was offered to him on dates of dec 22-25 in connection with the Worship of the Queen of Heaven and Tamuz her son.**

### Jeremiah 7:18-19

The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and *they* pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger. :19 Do they provoke Me to anger?” says the LORD. “*Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?*”

### Ezekiel 8:12-16

Then the LORD said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the leaders of Israel are doing with their idols in dark rooms? They are saying, ‘The LORD doesn’t see us; he has deserted our land!’” :13 Then he added, “Come, and I will show you greater sins than these!” :14 He brought me to the north gate of the LORD’s Temple, and some women were sitting there, weeping for the god Tammuz. :15 “Have you seen this?” he asked. “But I will show you even greater sins than these!” :16 Then he brought me into the inner courtyard of the LORD’s Temple. At the entrance, between the foyer and the bronze altar, about twenty-five men were standing with their backs to the LORD’s Temple. They were facing eastward, (from Jerusalem) worshiping the sun!

## Verse 50-57

**:50** Then Abimelech went to **Thebez**, and he encamped against Thebez and took it. **:51 But there was a strong tower in the city**, and all the men and women—all the people of the city—fled there and shut themselves in; then they went up to the top of the tower. **:52** So Abimelech came as far as the tower and fought against it; and he drew near the door of the tower to burn it with fire. **:53** But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull. **:54** Then he called quickly to the young man, his armorbearer, and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, lest men say of me, 'A woman killed him.' " So his young man thrust him through, and he died. **:55** And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed, every man to his place. **:56** Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by killing his seventy brothers. **:57** And all the evil of the men of Shechem God returned on their own heads, and on them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

What Was The Curse of Jotham ?

### Judges 9:19-20

if then YOU (Abimelech & Men) have acted in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, *then* rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you. **:20** But if not, let fire come from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and Beth Millo; and let fire come from the men of Shechem and from Beth Millo and devour Abimelech!"

### Psalm 34:21

Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.

*End of Study*