

Abimelech: the anti-Judge **Judges 8:33-9:57**

Abimelech kills his brothers to become King. 8:33-9:6

- Killing family for the crown also occurs in II Chron. 20:11, 21:4. What obviously helped motivate Abimelech's animosity toward his brothers?
- Abimelech's speech was full of promises his people foolishly lap up. Ironically this area had a sacred past: Gen. 12:6,7, 35:4, Josh. 24:1ff.

Jotham confronts Abimelech to utter a curse. 9:7-21

- This fable is offered with a tone of objectivity--if kingship was gained properly, then rejoice— but if in the wrong way, then a curse on you.
- What are the possible implications here for us today?

God judges Shechem through Abimelech. 9:22-49

- God sends an evil spirit as in I Sam. 16:14, I Kgs. 22:22 in order to turn evil against itself for the purpose of judgment, cf. Rev. 17:16,17.
- Gaal is an opportunist whose arrival further alienates Shechem's people from Abimelech. The city's fiery destruction recalls the curse.

God judges Abimelech through a woman on a wall. 9:50-57

- The reason for the attack on Thebez isn't explained, but as he did at Shechem Abimelech chose to burn the folks out, which backfires!
- Again God uses an unlikely weapon (3:31, 4:21, 5:20, 7:19, 15:15), and for the 3rd time a woman is key. See the implications for us?

