

Abimelech – Like father... not like son

Intro & Recap – Judges 8:28-31

Gideon has _____ sons by his wives, but has another son he names Abimelech by a _____ in Shechem. "Abimelech" is a word used to designate _____ among the _____, but is also used as a _____. Abraham had dealings with a king Abimelech of Gerar in Genesis 20 and many years later his son, _____, followed his father's example with another Abimelech in Genesis 26. These events were over _____ years prior to the time of Gideon.

9:1-21 Abimelech's treachery

1. After getting agreement from his mother's _____ in Shechem, they spoke on his behalf to the city's _____ who funded his ambition with money from the house of _____-berith. He used the money to hire _____ men and then went to Gideon's house in _____ and killed _____ of his _____ brothers. The youngest brother, _____, hid himself and so escaped.
2. Abimelech returned to Shechem where the men of that city & Beth-millo made Abimelech _____. "Beth-millo" is the joining of the word for _____ and the word for _____ or _____ - _____ and is thought to be associated with the _____ of Shechem.
3. When Jotham was given the news that Abimelech had been made king, he went atop Mount _____ and spoke a _____. He said the _____ went forth to ask the _____ tree to reign over them, but it refused. So the trees went to the _____ tree, which also declined. Next to be asked was the _____. Finding no agreement here either, they finally went to the _____. The bramble essentially warned that if it were not followed, that _____ should come from it and consume the _____ of _____. Jotham then interpreted his own prophecy to mean that if what was done was with _____ & _____ that they should rejoice, but if not he allowed that _____ would come upon them from Abimelech but also that _____ fire from Shechem would consume _____. So this parable was a prophecy as well as a _____.

9:22-57 –

4. Abimelech ruled over Israel for _____ years. God sent an _____ between Abimelech & the men of Shechem so that _____ might be done regarding the _____ of his brothers. As Abimelech had

risen up against his brethren, a man named _____ came to Shechem and rise up against him. For whatever reason, the men of Shechem put their _____ in him just as they once had in Abimelech.

5. In the conflict that followed, Gaal was _____ and driven out of Shechem. Then Abimelech _____ Shechem itself, killing the people and _____ the city with _____. The leaders fled to the _____ of El-berith which is identified with the _____ of Shechem. Using his troops to gather _____, Abimelech ignited a _____ against the inner chamber, killing the leaders of Shechem, altogether about _____ people both _____ & _____.
6. From Shechem, Abimelech went to the city of Thebez and _____ it. Again, the _____ of the city fled to a _____ in the middle of the city. Apparently intending to _____ his success against the tower of Shechem, Abimelech brought _____ to the base of this tower also. This time, however, a certain _____ threw a part of a _____ and _____ Abimelech's skull. Rather than allowing it to be said that a woman _____ him, Abimelech ordered his _____ to pierce him through, and thus he died.
7. Verses 56-57 tell us that this is how _____ repaid the _____ of Abimelech as well as that of the _____ of Shechem. This makes it clear that though things may _____ to be happening as a matter of course, they could actually be happening as a result of the _____ of God the Almighty.