

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: Judges – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Judges 9 – Cycle #5 – Abimelech and the enemy within; God’s judgment

Today’s Message:

“Evil Men”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we concluded the 4th of 7 cycles of sin found in Judges. Gideon found opposing forces from several groups of men as he was *faint yet pursuing* the 2 kings of Midian. The big test of his character, however, seemed to come down to everyday living and obedience to God. Today, we come to the 5th cycle of sin, and we will be reminded that there is no king in Israel and everyone is doing that which is right in their own eyes! A wicked, self-proclaimed deliverer will rise up, but God will not be with him. This time, the enemy will come from **WITHIN**. There will be great confusion and internal struggles as we watch evil men campaign for **POWER** and cause great confusion and harm to the people. This cycle of sin will have a unique difference: there will be no crying out of Israel and no **REST** for God’s people.

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text Judges 9:1-57

#1. The Rebellion – the children of Israel did evil again in God’s sight. (8:33-34)

#2. The Retribution – Israel’s sin led to great **CONFUSION** and death. (9:1-57)

- **God allowed the enemy to oppress them from WITHIN for 3 years.**
 - ✓ Abimelech pridefully **campaign**ed for kingly **POWER**. *Isa 14:4-14*; “I” **problem**
 - ✓ His campaign was **launched** by **FAMILY** “connections.” *1Ki 16:31*
 - ✓ His campaign **financing** was provided by **SATAN** – hired **vain** thugs. *2Chr 13:7*
 - ✓ His began by **eliminating** the **COMPETITION** – 70 sons (-1). *Jn 8:44; 1Jo 3:15*

NOTE Unfortunately, Gideon’s sins brought about a son who wanted to reign as a king!

- **God gave the men and people of Shechem a stern WARNING from Jotham.**
 - ✓ Jotham was moved to **PREACH** at Mt. Gerizim – place of blessing! *Deut 27:12*
 - ✓ He was **preaching** from Joshua’s **PULPIT** – wicked short memories! *Josh 8:30-35*
 - ✓ He was **preaching** near Joshua’s **TREE** – the word of God a witness! *Josh 24:24-28*
 - ✓ He was **preaching** a **PARABLE** – the thorny bramble bush has no shade! *Isa 30:3*

NOTE The bramble warning: *I am an oppressive ruler and will destroy all who disagree!*

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- ***They chose the tyrannical RULER in spite of prophetic consequences.***
 - ✓ Their **HEARTS** inclined to follow Abimelech – who was just like them! **2 Tim 4:3**
 - ✓ God sent an evil **SPIRIT** – allowing Satan to trouble both. **1Sam16:14; Acts19:15**
 - ✓ God was executing **JUDGMENT** for their evil ways and sin. **Micah 2:1-13; 3:1-12**
 - ✓ The men of Shechem ***turned on Abimelech*** and followed Gaal. **2 Tim 3:13**
 - ✓ Abimelech overcame ***the evil treachery*** with Zebul's help. **Isa 21:2; 33:1; 48:8**
 - ✓ Abimelech ***destroyed Shechem*** – city, people, and tower – a ***bramble FIRE!***
 - ✓ The men of ***the tower of Shechem*** put their ***trust*** in the wrong **TOWER!** **Pr18:10**

NOTE CONFUSION! Ugh! Power, money, sin, corruption, wickedness, destruction, death!

- ***God put an end to Abimelech's LIFE when He had seen enough destruction.***
 - ✓ Proudful Abimelech was on a destructive roll and wanted Thebez. **Prov 27:20**
 - ✓ A ***certain woman*** cast a piece of mill-**STONE** and crushed his head. **2Sam 11:21**
 - ✓ He was proud, ***even in death***; he then had to **ANSWER** to God. **Ecc 12:14**
 - ✓ God ***rendered the wickedness*** of Abimelech – 1 stone = 1 **STONE**. **Rom 12:19-21**
 - ✓ God ***rendered the wickedness*** of evil men – for rejecting His warnings! **Col 1:28**

NOTE We can be sure that God will repay the wickedness of evil people in this life or hell!

#3. The Restoration – The children of Israel did NOT cry unto the Lord.

- By God's grace, He ***intervened Himself*** to liberate His people from these evil men!

#4. The Rest – The children of Israel did NOT get rest while the usurper reigned.

- The next 2 judges who will defend Israel will be **Tola** (23 years) and **Jair** (22 years).

B. The Lessons (How can you apply this message to your life?)

1. Religious compromisers quickly FORGET God when the man they follow departs.

❖ **Question:** *Are you a religious compromiser? Do you follow God or men? Deut 6:1-15*

2. Instead of choosing to follow God, they chose to follow a WICKED, evil man.

❖ **Question:** *Are you cleaving to God? Pray for America! Ps 12:8; 75:6-7; Dan 2:20-21; 4:17*

3. Those that devise iniquity and corruption will reap CONFUSION and destruction.

❖ **Question:** *Are you tired of living in the land of confusion? 1Cor 14:33; James 4:1-17*

4. Without godly repentance, there can be no salvation; no PEACE unto the wicked.

❖ **Question:** *Are you repentant? Do you have peace? Job 20:4-29; Isa 48:22; Lk 13:3, 5*

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