

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

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

JUDGES CHAPTER 9:1-57

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT" – PART 1

*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 9:1-21

Statement of Textual Summation and Theme

When the Continental Army under the Command of General George Washington had beaten General Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown, That marked the beginning of the end of the war.

But There Were Great Troubles
as the American army was bankrupt and congress was slow to assist,
that one of Washington's colonel's told him,
"become king and we will take what we need"

Thank God, Washington Said "No" to that Temptation

Unfortunately The Lesson Before Us is About a Man Who didn't need any help from anyone to think such a thought, he was evil enough on his own... the man was **Abimelech**

Judges 8:29-30

Then Jerubbaal (Gideon) the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house. :30 Gideon had seventy sons who were his own offspring, for he had many wives. (not to take wives) :31 And his **concubine** who was in Shechem also bore him a son, whose name he called **Abimelech**.

Abimelech is more of a title than it is a name.

It does mean (*My Father is (a) King*)
like the pharaohs, czars, presidents, they are titles

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

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

3.) *the* **Losing** of the Kingdom v.30-57

This is not only the Longest Chapter in the Book of Judges,
It the most depressing.

It's To Familiar to Us All.
the ambition of man and his quest to control and lord over people.

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

THE SEIZING OF THE KINGDOM

1a.) **Seizing The Kingdom by Ambition** v.1-2

Judges 9:1-2

Then Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his mother's brothers, and spoke with them and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, :2 "Please speak in the hearing of all the men of Shechem: 'Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or that one reign over you?' Remember that I *am* your own flesh and bone."

“ Remember that I am your own flesh and bone. ”

Selfish **Ambition** is Ruinous

The desire of preferment, honor, and superiority over others.
An inordinate desire of and for power, or eminence, often accompanied with illegal means to obtain the object.

It's a Satanic Characteristic

Isaiah 14:12-16

(note the five pillars of satan)

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! :13 For you have said in your heart: (1) “**I will** ascend into heaven, (2) **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; (3) **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; :14 (4) **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds,(5) **I will** be like the Most High.’ :15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. :16 “Those who see you will gaze at you, *And* consider you, *saying*: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,

did you know that when a Muslim shouts

Allah-Auk Bar

they're saying, allah is greater... greater than Who ?

Philippians 2:3

Let nothing *be done* through selfish **ambition** or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Remember The Meaning of His Name;
(*My Father is (a) King*)

Jesus is King of Kings

Rather, The Christian is to Yield to The Lord & Trust Him

Jeremiah 45:5

seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not:

Psalm 75:6

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

Verse 3

And his mother's brothers spoke all these words concerning him in the hearing of all the men of Shechem; and their heart was inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother."

John 8:39-44

They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. :40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. :41 You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God." :42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. :43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. :44 You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

here these guys are saying
"**he's one of your own**"

the origins of racism against any ethnic group
is demonic and satanically rooted.

Anti-Semitism is Of course Satan Greatest Hatred.

Verse 4-5a

So they gave him seventy *shekels* of silver from the temple of Baal-berith, with which **Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men**; and they followed him. :5 Then he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, on one **stone**. (pagan **altar**)

worldly ambition

will always result in murder of some sort.
either by verbal attacks or radical suicidal pagans.

Verse 5b-6

But Jotham the youngest son of (Gideon) Jerubbaal was left, because he hid himself. :6 And all the men of Shechem gathered together, all of Beth Millo, and they went and made Abimelech king beside the terebinth tree at the pillar that was in Shechem.

THE SEIZING OF THE KINGDOM

1b.) Seizing The Kingdom by Deception

v.7-15

Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and cried out. And he said to them: "Listen to me, you men of Shechem, That God may listen to you! :8 "The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them. And they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us!' :9 But the olive tree said to them, "Should I cease giving my oil, With which they honor God and men, And go to sway over trees?' :10 "Then the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come *and* reign over us!' :11 But the fig tree said to them, "Should I cease my sweetness and my good fruit, And go to sway over trees?' :12 "Then the trees said to the vine, 'You come *and* reign over us!' :13 But the vine said to them, "Should I cease my new wine, Which cheers *both* God and men, And go to sway over trees?' :14 "Then all the trees said to the **bramble**, 'You come *and* reign over us!' :15 And *the bramble said to the trees, "If in truth you anoint me as king over you, Then come and take shelter in my shade; But if not, let fire come out of the bramble And devour the cedars of Lebanon!"*

THE SEIZING OF THE KINGDOM

1c.) Seizing The Kingdom by Manipulation

v.16-22

“Now therefore, **if you** have acted in truth and sincerity in making Abimelech king, **and if you** have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him as he deserves :**17** for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian; :**18** but you have risen up against my father’s house this day, and killed his seventy sons on one stone, and made Abimelech, the son of his female servant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother— :**19** **if then you** 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!” :**21** And Jotham ran away and fled; and he went to Beer and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother

- **Manipulation will employ Infiltration**

if you cannot conquer a kingdom physically,
then get inside of it and change it.

- **Manipulation will result in Exploitation**

if you cannot defeat it militarily,
then get to where it can be weakened.

- **Manipulation will end with Domination**

if you cannot overthrow a power,
then get inside of it and devour it.

End of Study
