



## Judges Chapter 9

- Review/Intro
  - After the death of Gideon, one of his sons by a concubine, Abimelech tries to take control.
  - Remember Gideon refused to be a king, but he acted as a king by taking many wives, having 70 sons, and expecting that his sons would have power after him
  - Samuel calls Gideon by his name Jerubaal in an almost ironic way. Jerubaal means one who contends with Baal, but in chapter 9, it is Baal who is prevailing over Israel
- Abimelech assumes power
  - He convinces his home city of Shechem to follow him against the 70 sons of Gideon
  - We will see in this chapter, how the people suffer greatly when choosing a leader that is not fitting or worthy of the position
  - In the Church, we should seek servant's who truly have God's will in their heart to lead His people or else we end up suffering
  - Abimelech then goes to Ophrah and kills all his brothers except for Jotham. He is the youngest and survived because he hid himself
  - He calls himself king, but he never becomes king over more than Shechem and a couple of the surrounding towns so he is not counted in the Kings of Israel
- Jotham's Parable
  - Jotham tells a parable about what it's like to have an unfit leader ruling over people and that it will end in their destruction
  - He says if Abimelech is from God, then be happy, but if not, it will end in



their destruction

- Abimelech's reign
  - Abimelech is only in power for 3 years
  - The people of Shechem revolt when they are treated badly by him
  - A man named Gaal leads an army against Abimelech and although they are defeated, when Abimelech attacks another city and was eventually killed when a woman threw a millstone on his head, injuring him severely
  - He then asked one of his soldiers to kill him
- The fact that God is sovereign is on clear display in this chapter
  - Although evil people had evil intentions God used them to bring about His will
    - He allows Abimelech to rise to power to show the evil in the hearts of the people
    - He allows Abimelech to kill Gideon's sons to show that Gideon's actions to keep many wives was wrong
    - He allowed one son to live, in order to prophecy about the fate of Abimelech
    - He allows Abimelech to rule harshly for 3 years so that the people see their mistake in asking for a king besides God
    - He allows enmity between Abimelech and the people of Shechem to remove Abimelech
  - While all these things are happening and the world seems out of control, God is using all of these events to enact His will. He does the same in our lives. So when we feel that our lives are swirling out of control or that they are in the hands of evil people, know that God is almighty and His will will be accomplished