

Judges 9

King James Version (KJV)

(Abimelech was a type for antichrist. He serves as an example to the people of the end days; as to how antichrist will act, concerning Christians)

9 And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, (She was not an Israelite. Abimelech's mother was one of Gideon's concubines; and a Gentile of Canaan – the Philistines. Jerubbaal is Gideon's honorary title. He was of the tribe of Manasseh)

NOTE: (Much later, Jeroboam will make his capital in Shechem – the first capital of the 10 northern tribes; after the separation of the ten northern tribes from Judah & Benjamin)

²Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, Whether is better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, which are threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you? remember also that I am your bone and your flesh. (Gideon didn't agree for him or any his sons to rule over Israel. He said that God will rule over Israel. Abimelech is a liar. He is also not pure Israelite. His mother was a Canaanite)

NOTES: (Abimelech was not really a judge. God didn't raise him up. He was an egomaniac who wanted to be a king)

(Shechem was allotted to Ephraim when the Israelites arrived. It was one of the 6 cities named as a city of refuge)

³And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, He is our brother. (He is a self-promoter, not set up by God. Abimelech is a type for antichrist in the end times)

NOTE: (Although he is in the Book of Judges, he was no judge. He was a murderer and a con man – Just like the modern day presidents of the US: Bush, Clinton, Obama and Biden)

Isaiah-14 (Antichrist will also be a self promoter. He will declare himself to be messiah and most people will follow him, in ignorance)

⁴And they gave him threescore and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baalberith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light persons, which followed him. (Baalberith = god of the covenant, the false god Baal. The Canaanites were idol worshippers) (vain and light persons = scum bags, morally bankrupt, worthless thugs)

Joshua-24:1 -> on (Shechem is the place where Joshua assembled the 12 tribes together to renew the covenant with God, as they entered the Promised Land)

⁵And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself. (Jotham = Yah is upright)

NOTE: (It's difficult to understand how 70 men would allow themselves to be executed on one rock. You would expect them to band together to defend themselves)

⁶And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that was in Shechem. (plain = oak tree – bad translation) (Millo = a fortified place or a castle – better translation)

⁷And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto them, Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you. (Gerizim is a plateau 800 feet above Shechem. There is a cliff on the side facing Shechem. It's a safe place for him to speak to them)

NOTE: This is the first parable in the Bible. It is also a prophesy)

⁸The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. (The parable of Jotham) (The trees are symbolic for people)

Also see Zechariah-9:6 (A bastard shall rule in Ashdod & I shall cut off the pride of the Philistines)

⁹But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? (fatness = prosperity – better translation)

(Olive oil was a main healthy staple of these people. It is also used in the Bible as symbolic of God's Word)

¹⁰ And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us.

¹¹ But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees? (These are the good figs – God's children)

Jeremiah-24 (The parable of the fig tree: There were good figs <God's people>, and bad figs <the Kenites>. The Kenites are the descendants of Cain <Satan and Eve's son>)

¹² Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us.

¹³ And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? (Wine was another healthy staple of the people. It is also symbolic for the blood of Christ, when we take communion)

NOTE: (The three good trees didn't want to be king. They knew that God should be our King)

¹⁴ Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us. (Bramble <a worthless thorn bush> is symbolic of Satan. It's not good for anything)

(Abimelech is also a type for antichrist. He will also be a self-appointed dictator. Abimelech was a murderer of men; antichrist will be a murderer of souls – through his false religion)

¹⁵ And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon. (Brambles or thorn bushes, give no shade for rest. They cast no shadow. The bramble is a liar – a type for Abimelech and for antichrist in the future. Cedars of Lebanon are symbolic for God's children)

NOTE: (Join me and rest in my <non-existent> shadow, or die. It sounds like Muslims today when they outvote the population of the countries they have invaded. They then make Islam the national religion – Join us or die. They did this all over the Middle East, North Africa and parts of Asia. Today they have invaded the Christian nations of Western Europe and the Americas)

Also see 2Thessalonians-2 (Antichrist, pretending to be Messiah. He will deceive the whole world. Those who refuse to worship him will be persecuted and killed)

¹⁶ Now therefore, if ye have done truly and sincerely, in that ye have made Abimelech king, and if ye have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done unto him according to the deserving of his hands; (You will all get exactly what you deserve – good or bad)

¹⁷ (For my father fought for you, and adventured his life far, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian: (God appointed Gideon to save Israel from the Midianites)

¹⁸ And ye are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, threescore and ten persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother;) (They are Canaanites. They have blood on their hands, just like Abimelech)

¹⁹ If ye then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice ye in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you: (You deserve each other; if you believe that murdering Gideon's 70 sons was a righteous act)

²⁰ But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech. (Let you eventually turn on each other and destroy each other. Co-conspirators in evil deeds usually do turn on each other)

(These prophecies will come true. The murderer and the people who paid him to do it will end up destroying each other. God will see to it that that happens to both parties)

NOTE: (Satan was condemned to death for his rebellion against God in the First Age. He is only allowed to live today, because God is using him to test us. We are all born innocent, once in the flesh, ignorant of what happened in the First Age. Will we choose to follow the ways of God, or will we choose to follow the ways of the world, and Satan? Satan is called the prince of the air – the prince of nothingness and vanity)

²¹ And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother. (No doubt that Abimelech would be looking to murder him as well)

²² When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel, (He didn't rule over all of Israel. He ruled only over ½ Manasseh and Ephraim. There was a true judge over the rest of Israel named Tolah, the 7th judge)

²³ Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech: (Judgment time for the murderers. God sent them an evil spirit to divide them, and turn them against each other)

²⁴ That the cruelty done to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren. (The murderers and their backers will all get what they deserve)

²⁵ And the men of Shechem set liars in wait for him in the top of the mountains, and they robbed all that came along that way by them: and it was told Abimelech. (The citizens who have been robbed will start to blame the king for not getting rid of the robbers. Unknown to them, the robbers were hired by their own city leaders, to turn the people against Abimelech, their king)

²⁶ And Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brethren, and went over to Shechem: and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him. (his brethren = his gang of thugs – better translation) (Abimelech is out; Gaal and his gang are in)

²⁷ And they went out into the fields, and gathered their vineyards, and trode the grapes, and made merry, and went into the house of their god, and did eat and drink, and cursed Abimelech. (Their god is Baal) (New wine gets people drunk quicker than old wine. These guys are running on drunken courage)

²⁸ And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? is not he the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: for why should we serve him? (Hamor was a Hivite, a Canaanite, and a worshipper of Baal. He was the founder of Shechem)

²⁹ And would to God this people were under my hand! then would I remove Abimelech. And he said to Abimelech, Increase thine army, and come out. (Drunken courage – Gaal is calling out Abimelech)

³⁰ And when Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled. (These are Canaanites, all turning against each other. Zebul the mayor of Shechem was loyal to Abimelech)

NOTE: (It's not uncommon when people conspire together to commit serious crimes like murder; that they end up turning on each other. It's possibly caused by the workings of a guilty conscience. Or it's as simple as having no moral compass. Either way, their lack of moral compass made it easy for the evil spirit to manipulate them)

³¹ And he sent messengers unto Abimelech privily, saying, Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren be come to Shechem; and, behold, they fortify the city against thee. (privily = secretly, deceitfully)

³² Now therefore up by night, thou and the people that is with thee, and lie in wait in the field: (Zebul, leader of Shechem is speaking to Abimelech and his hired murdering thugs. Bring your gang of murderers with you and prepare to ambush Gaal)

³³ And it shall be, that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the city: and, behold, when he and the people that is with him come out against thee, then mayest thou do to them as thou shalt find occasion. (he = Gaal) (This was never a legitimate army & Abimelech was never a legitimate judge. Shechem was also guilty, because they paid Abimelech to murder the 70 sons of Gideon)

³⁴ And Abimelech rose up, and all the people that were with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies. (The evil spirit might be giving Abimelech the strategy to kill Gaal)

³⁵ And Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and Abimelech rose up, and the people that were with him, from lying in wait. (Gaal didn't know that Zebul had betrayed him to Abimelech)

³⁶ And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, Behold, there come people down from the top of the mountains. And Zebul said unto him, Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as if they were men. (You're

just seeing shadows in the mountains from the rising sun. He doesn't want Gaal to prepare for the battle)

³⁷ And Gaal spake again, and said, See there come people down by the middle of the land, and another company come along by the plain of Meonenim. (Meonenim = to act covertly)

(It's a fitting name. There was a lot of covert action going on as the rats turned on each other)

³⁸ Then said Zebul unto him, Where is now thy mouth, wherewith thou saidst, Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him? is not this the people that thou hast despised? go out, I pray now, and fight with them. (Zebul is setting Gaal up for the kill. He knows that Abimelech has even more troops still hiding, waiting for the ambush)

³⁹ And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech. (Gaal went out with his men, but without the men of Shechem. They stayed behind their walls and shut the gate)

⁴⁰ And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown and wounded, even unto the entering of the gate. (Gaal was losing so he tried to retreat back to the city of Shechem)

⁴¹ And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah: and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brethren, that they should not dwell in Shechem. (They wouldn't let Gaal back into the city. They closed the gates of the city. They were siding with Abimelech because they believed that he would win against Gaal. They were siding with whoever they thought would be the winner)

⁴² And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people went out into the field; and they told Abimelech. (These are the people of Shechem. They switched sides from Abimelech to Gaal, and then back to Abimelech. Now they're telling Abimelech that Gaal is in retreat)

⁴³ And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and laid wait in the field, and looked, and, behold, the people were come forth out of the city; and he rose up against them, and smote them. (Abimelech divided his gang into 3 companies. They killed the people of Shechem, thinking that they were Gaal's people. The prophecy in verse 20 was coming to pass)

⁴⁴ And Abimelech, and the company that was with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and the two other companies ran upon all the people that were in the fields, and slew them. (Abimelech blocked the gates of Shechem while his other men killed the people that were outside of the city)

⁴⁵ And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that was therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt. (Their gardens only, so as not to be able to grow crops)

⁴⁶ And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard that, they entered into an hold of the house of the god Berith. (A Canaanite deity Baal-Berith – the god of the covenant)

(The people in Shechem are running to Baal for protection against Abimelech. They had completely become as the heathen nations)

NOTE: (Turn against Yahoveh and He will remove His protection from you. The world will eat you up)

⁴⁷ And it was told Abimelech, that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together. (These are the rulers of the city and Baal priests of the city. They didn't go out of the city with the others)

⁴⁸ And Abimelech gat him up to mount Zalmon, he and all the people that were with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it, and laid it on his shoulder, and said unto the people that were with him, What ye have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done. (They are gathering firewood)

⁴⁹ And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put them to the hold, and set the hold on fire upon them; so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women. (The prophecy of Jotham in verse 20 was happening – fire from Abimelech upon Shechem)

⁵⁰ Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it. (Thebez was on the northern outskirts of Shechem – the present day location of Tubas)

⁵¹ But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut it to them, and gat them up to the top of the tower.

⁵² And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire. (Again, he is going to use fire to destroy the tower. The doors were made of wood)

⁵³ And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull. (The fire of Shechem upon Abimelech)

See Matthew-21:44 and Genesis-3:15 (Abimelech was a type for Satan. The same will happen to him in the end days)

⁵⁴ Then he called hastily unto the young man his armour bearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A women slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died. (The prophecy of Jotham was fulfilled)

⁵⁵ And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place. (This was no army. They were a band of mercenaries. They fought for money, not from loyalty. Once Abimelech was dead, their payments ended, so they left)

NOTE: (These men of Israel were a band of murderers. God will deal with them. They're not getting away with anything)

⁵⁶ Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren: (rendered = repaid)
(Judgment was passed upon the murderer)

⁵⁷ And all the evil of the men of Shechem did God render upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal. (Judgment on the people that paid for the murder of Gideon's 70 sons)
see verse-20