

In The Days When The Judges Ruled

Lesson 9

The Ambition Of Abimelech

Judg. 9

Introduction

Revealed in this chapter is the *only* leader who was not a “judge.” Not only was he not raised up by God, his character and methods were entirely unscrupulous. He was a sinful & selfish man driven by carnal ambition to be king...the very thing his father Gideon opposed (8:22-23).

Despite Abimelech's flaws, God could still providentially use him to bring about justice for the unjust way he treated his own family following Gideon's death.

- 1) Who is mentioned in v. 1? (8:31) How would you characterize him? (vv. 2-4)
- 2) What else did Abimelech do? (v. 5a) Why do you think he would do this? As a result, what happened? (v. 6) Any comparison to the events from 8:22?
- 3) Who was spared from Abimelech's murderous actions? (v. 5b) What did he do when he learned of Abimelech being made king? (vv. 7-15)
- 4) How did Jotham make application of his parable? (vv. 16-20) What did Jotham have to do? (v. 21)
- 5) What was God's reaction to Abimelech's behavior? (vv. 22-25)

