

**1 August, 2011**

**Text: Judges 9:1-21**

### **AN OVERTURE FROM ABIMELECH, SON OF GIDEON**

1. Overture to the city of Shechem **Judges 9:1-2**

- a) To have the sons of Gideon to rule over Shechem
- b) To have Abimelech to rule of Shechem
- c) Partisan appeal (Abimelech was from Shechem)

2. Response of Shechem **Judges 9:3**

- a) Abimelech's half-brothers supported him
- b) Shechem decided to appoint Abimelech as their ruler

3. Abimelech's ruthlessness **Judges 9:4-6**

- a) He was given money from the temple of Baal Berith
- b) He hired reckless and worthless gangsters
- c) He went to Ophrah and there killed almost the entire family of Gideon
- d) Only the youngest son, Jotham, escaped this massacre
- e) Abimelech made ruler of Shechem

### **THE TAUNT OF JOTHAM**

1. Addressees

The city of Shechem **Judges 9:7**

2. The Parable of the Trees **Judges 9:8-16**

- a) The Olive tree declined the offer to rule over the trees
- b) The Fig tree also declined
- c) The Vine also declined
- d) The Bramble Bush accepted the offer to be made ruler of the tree kingdom

3. Accusation of Jotham

a) Folly of making Abimelech the ruler of Shechem **Judges 9:16**

b) An attempt to recall what Gideon did for Shechem **Judges 9:17**

c) Assassination of the sons of Gideon **Judges 9:18**

d) Pronouncement of a curse **Judges 9:19-20**

4. Jotham fled after he made this impassioned speech **Judges 9:21**

### **SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS IN ISRAEL**

1. Murder and mayhem
2. Abimelech's murderous route to become king of Shechem
3. The work of Gideon did not have any lasting effect