

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. STRUCTURAL FOCUS ON GIDEON/ABIMELECH** (see *NIVSB, Introduction* and *c.6-9 notes*)
- B. GIDEON THE GREAT** (c.6-8) *vs.* **ABIMELECH THE HORRIBLE** (c.9)

II. THE HISTORY OF ABIMELECH, THE ANTIJUDGE (Judges 9)

INTRODUCTION

- 1. father & son (8:31; see 2Chr.32:33f; see Job 1:6; 2:1)
- 2. cycles: rebellion, retribution, repentance, restoration (see 2:16f; 3:7-11,etc.)

A. REBELLION (8:33-35)

- 1. against God (8:33,34; 9:4)
- 2. against Gideon (8:35; see 7:18,20)

B. RETRIBUTION (9:1-6)

- 1. an anti-spirit (*presumption*; 9:1-3,6 versus 8:22,23)
- 2. an anti- covenant (8:33,34; 9:4(6,37),27; see Josh.24:25)
- 3. an anti-law (9:5; contra Ex.20:13; Jn.8:44)
- 4. the anti-judge (*oppressor*; 9:22; see 8:33-35 & 9:1f; see 3:7&8, etc.)

C. REPENTANCE (9:5,7-21)

- 1. the true spirit (*true son*; 9:5,7-21; see 6:34)
- 2. the true covenant (9:7; see Dt.11:29,30; Josh.8:33)
- 3. the true law (*fled sin*; 9:5,21; see 1Tm.6:11)

D. RESTORATION (9:22-57)

- 1. an overruling Providence (9:5; see 2Kngs.11:2; Mt.2:16f)
- 2. the promise of deliverance (9:20; see Rev.20:10)
- 3. the provision of a Deliverer (9:23; see 2:16f; 3:9f,15f)
- 4. deliverance from the anti-people of Shechem (9:23-49; & their gods, 8:33,34; 9:4(6,37),27,46)
- 5. deliverance from the anti-judge Abimelech (9:50-55; see 4:21; 2Sam.11:21 /Rev.13:3,12; Gen.3:15; Rom.16:20)
- 6. summary: the True Judge (9:56,57; 23; see 8:23 versus 9:2)

III. LESSONS FROM THIS HISTORY

A. LORD & GIDEON: FATHER & SON (Jdgs.8:34,35; 7:18,20 /Lk.3:22; 10:16; Jn.5:23; Col.1:19; 2:9; 1Jn.2:23)

B. GIDEON vs. ABIMELECH: CHRIST vs. ANTICHRIST (Jdgs.6-8vs.9; see Job 1:6; 2:1; see 1Jn.2:18,22; 4:3; 2Jn.1:7; see 2Th.2:1f)

- 1. calling vs. presumption (Lk.3:22 vs. 4:7)
- 2. righteous vs. wicked (Jn.8:29 vs. 44)
- 3. loyal vs. treacherous (Mt.26:39f vs. Eph.6:11)
- 4. victory vs. defeat (Rev.12:1f; 13:3(Jdgs.9:53); note: decisive middle of both books)
- 5. saved vs. lost (2Th.2:3f,10)

C. ISRAEL & CANAANITES: CHURCH & WORLD (Jdgs.8:33-35; see Mk.4:19; 1Jn.2:16; see Lk.22:19)

D. DO NOT FEAR OPPRESSORS & THEIR SUPPORTERS EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OF US: RULES OVER YOU... & THEM (Jdgs.9; see 8:23; 9:23,56,57 /Rev.12,13; Eph.1:18-23; Rom.16:20)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: *Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. What is the connection between God & Gideon? What in the New Testament does this foreshadow?
7. What does the connection between Gideon and Abimelech tell us about parenting?
8. How is the Judges cycle (rebellion, retribution, repentance, restoration) evident in the history of Abimelech?
 - a. What was the rebellion?
 - b. Who was the oppressor?
 - c. Where was the repentance?
 - d. Who was the deliverer?
9. How was Abimelech the opposite of Gideon?
10. How was Jotham like his father?
11. How did God deliver Israel from the people of Shechem?
12. How did He deliver them from Abimelech?
13. How is Abimelech like the Dragon and the Beast in Rev.12,13?
14. What is the great lesson of Judges 9? (see III,D)
 - a. How does this apply to your daily life?
 - b. How does this apply to our national life?
 - c. How does this apply to our international life?