



JUDGES

our deepest need



“In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.”

Proverbs 14:26

“For we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter.”

Isaiah 28:15

1. Abimelech is **crowned**.

“Now Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother’s relatives and said to them and to the whole clan of his mother’s family, ‘Say in the ears of all the leaders of Shechem, “Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal rule over you, or that one rule over you?” Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh.’”

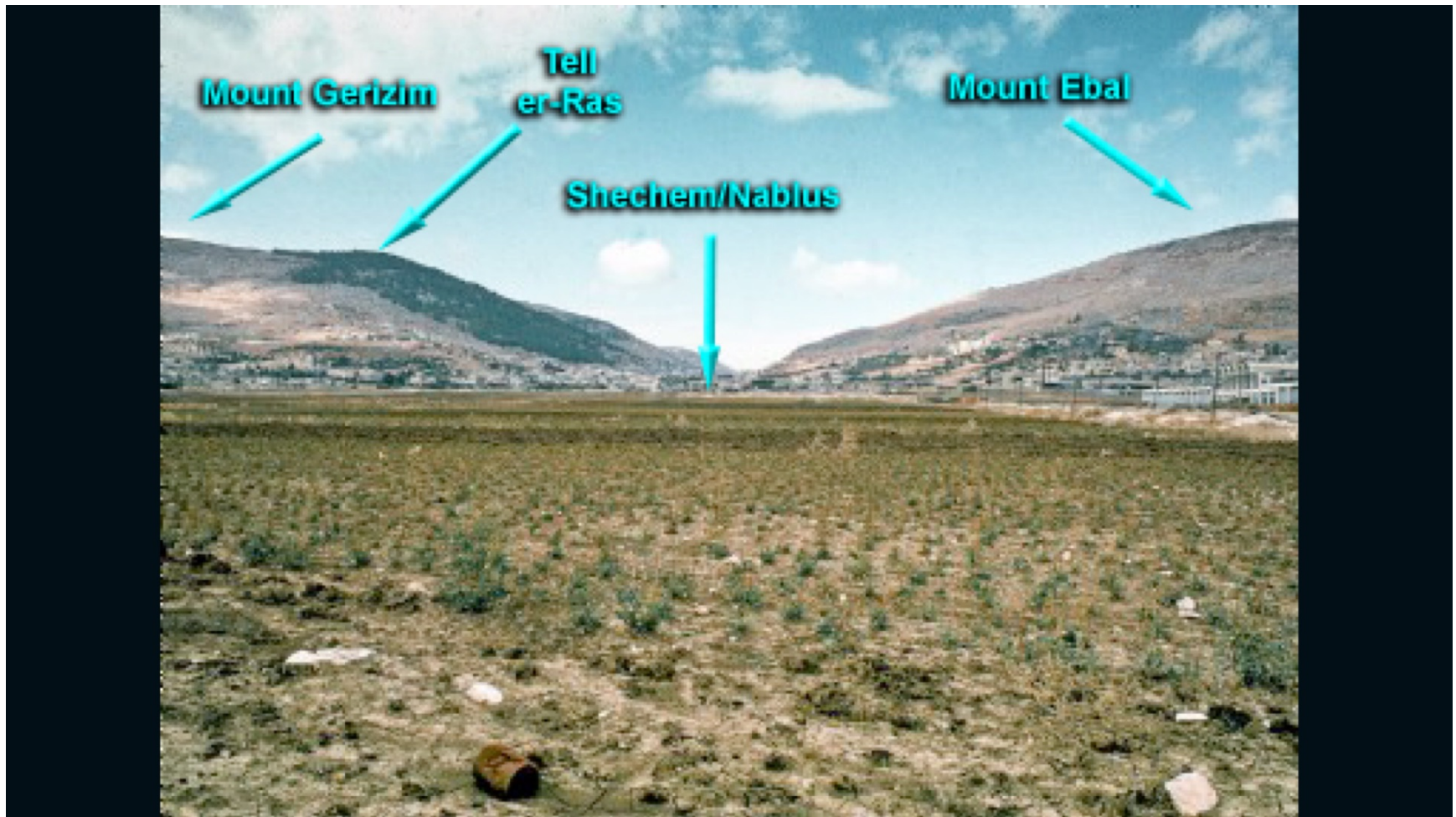
Judges 9:1-2

1. Abimelech is crowned.

2. Abimelech is **cursed**.

“When it was told to Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim and cried aloud and said to them, ‘Listen to me, you leaders of Shechem, that God may listen to you.’”

Judges 9:7





- olive tree - “reign over us” (9)
“Shall I leave my abundance?”

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- **fig** tree - “reign over us” (10-11)
“Shall I leave my **sweetness**?”

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“Shall I leave my abundance?”
- fig tree - “reign over us” (10-11)
“Shall I leave my sweetness?”
- **vine** - “reign over us” (12-13)
“Shall I leave my wine that **cheers**?”

- olive tree - “reign over us” (9)
“Shall I leave my abundance?”
- fig tree - “reign over us” (10-11)
“Shall I leave my sweetness?”
- vine - “reign over us” (12-13)
“Shall I leave my wine that cheers?”
- **bramble** - “reign over us” (14-15)

“And the bramble said to the trees, ‘If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take **refuge** in my shade, but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon.’”

Judges 9:15

“Now therefore, if you acted in good faith and integrity when you made Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house and have done to him as his deeds deserved—”

Judges 9:16

1. Abimelech is crowned.
2. Abimelech is cursed.
3. Abimelech is **crossed**.

1. Abimelech is crowned.
2. Abimelech is cursed.
3. Abimelech is **crossed**.

“Abimelech ruled over Israel three years. And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech.”

Judges 9:22-23

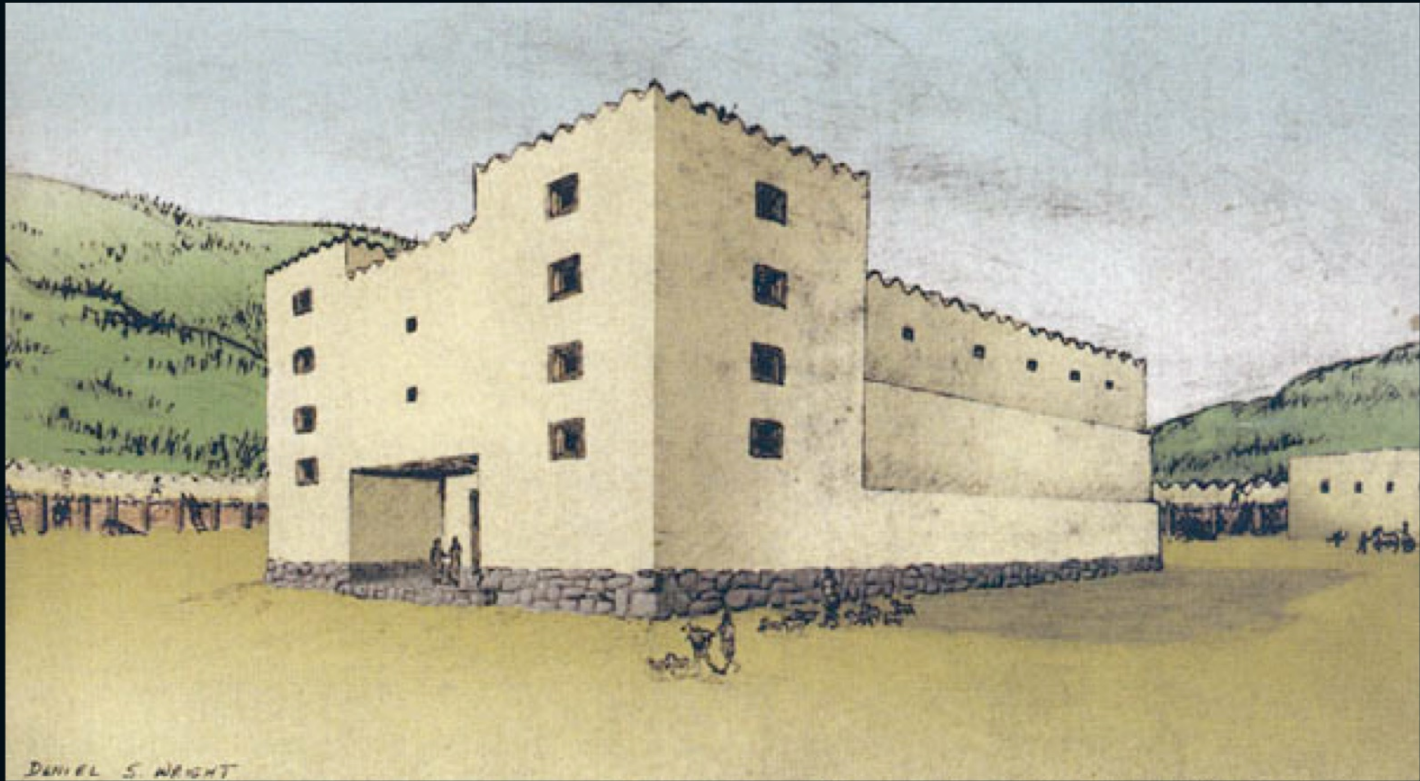
What did this treacherous spirit look like?

What did this treacherous spirit look like?

- **terrorism**

What did this treacherous spirit look like?

- terrorism
- **treason**





1. Abimelech is crowned.
2. Abimelech is cursed.
3. Abimelech is crossed.
4. Abimelech is **crushed**.

“And a certain woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech’s head and crushed his skull.”

Judges 9:53



“And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, everyone departed to his home. Thus God returned the evil of Abimelech, which he committed against his father in killing his seventy brothers.

“And God also made all the evil of the men of Shechem return on their heads, and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.”

Judges 9:55-57

1. Choose leaders wisely.

- egotistic

- egotistic
- nepotistic

- egotistic
- nepotistic
- tribalistic

- egotistic
- nepotistic
- tribalistic
- euphoric

- egotistic
- nepotistic
- tribalistic
- euphoric
- toxic

- egotistic
- nepotistic
- tribalistic
- euphoric
- toxic
- barbaric

1. Choose leaders wisely.
2. Treat people **kindly**.

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2. Treat people **kindly**.

“And they did not show steadfast love to the family of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) in return for all the good that he had done to Israel.”

“When we ignore the instruments of God’s
grace, we demean the Giver of that grace.”

Dale Ralph Davis

1. Choose leaders wisely.
2. Treat people kindly.
3. Use **gifts gratefully**.

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4. Worship God **humbly**.

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“In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.”

Proverbs 14:26

“As soon as Gideon died, the people of Israel turned again and whored after the Baals and made Baal-berith their god. And the people of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hand of all their enemies on every side.”

Judges 8:33-34

“I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.”

John 5:43

“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

“Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.”

Romans 1:21-23

“For this reason, God gave them up to dishonorable passions.”

Romans 1:26a

“And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech.”

Judges 9:23

“When God controls good, he is controlling what extends from his own nature; yet when he controls evil, he controls what is antithetical to his nature.”

Bruce Ware

“Did we believe that so potent and fearful a thing as sin had broken into the original holy order of the universe in defiance of God’s purpose, and is rioting in defiance of His power, we might well surrender ourselves to terror and despair.

“Unspeakably comforting and strengthening is the Scriptural assurance ... that beneath all this wild tossing and lashing of evil purposes and agencies there lies, in mighty and controlling embrace, a Divine purpose that governs them all.”

E.W. Smith

“No one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Romans 3:11-12

“And the way of peace they have not known.
There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Romans 3:17-18

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:23-24