

Jotham's Rebuke

9:7-21 Jotham's Rebuke

8-15, Fable

- 8-9, to the Olive
- 10-11, to the Fig
- 12-13, to the Vine
- 14-15, to the Bramble
 - if in truth ...
 - if not ...

16-20, Interpretation

- 16-19, if in truth ...
- 20 if not,

20a, let Abimelech devour Shechem

20b, let Shechem devour Abimelech

9:22-55 Restoration

24 their blood laid

- **upon Abimelech**
- **upon the men of Shechem**

25-49, Abimelech devours Shechem

50-55, Shechem devours Abimelech

9:56-57 Chiastic Summary

56, God returned the wickedness of Abimelech

57a, God returned the wickedness of the men of Shechem

57b, upon them came the curse of Jotham

Gaal: The Danger of False Prophets

Matt. 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

2Sam. 15:4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

Shechem's East Gate



Above: arrow shows door
to stairwell leading to
second story

Right: arrow shows
direction of Arumah,
Abimelech's headquarters

Van and Anita Parunak, November 1974



9:53 A certain woman ...

Judg. 4:8 And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go. 9 And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into **the hand of a woman**.

Is. 3:1 For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, 2 The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, 3 The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. 4 And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. ... 12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and **women rule over them**.

2Sam. 11:20 And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall? 21 Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not **a woman cast** a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

Lessons from Abimelech

- The risks of syncretism
- The weakness of political systems
- The danger of false prophets
- God's sovereignty over tyrants