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week, we read about the death of Gideon (Jerubbaal) . Then the Israelites turned back to sin and made Baal-Berith their God!

In **Chapter 9**, we will find out that Gideon's son Abimelech forcefully takes over! Abimelech did NOT inherit his father's wisdom or faithfulness. We will soon discover that he is a cold-blooded murderer!

**Monday: The rise of Abimelech!**

- 1.) Where did Abimelech go?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) What did Abimelech's mothers and brothers say to the people?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) How did the people respond? (Hint: v3)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) How much money did they give Abimelech and from where did they get it?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) Who did Abimelech hire to follow him?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6.) What did Abimelech do when he went to his father's place?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7.) How many brothers did Abimelech have?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8.) Which of them escaped?  
\_\_\_\_\_



Gideon's son kills his 70 brothers and becomes king - Judges 9:5

**The Parable of the trees**

(Judges 9: 7-16)

Jotham told a parable to rebuke the men of Shechem for their choice of Abimelech as a king.

**What does this parable mean?**

•**The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them:** In the parable, the worthy trees (the olive, the fig, and the vine) didn't want to be king. But the unworthy bramble agreed to be king.

• **Let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon:** The bramble warned that he would be an oppressive ruler and destroy anyone who disagreed with him.

•Whenever you see "cedars of Lebanon" in the bible, it prompts us to think about pride. The cedars of Lebanon are very tall trees and are likened to people who "think they are big – think they can do it all" ..much like our man Abimelech.

•Jotham states that the city of Shechem shall suffer for choosing such a worthless man.

**Tuesday**

1.) How long did Abimelech reign for?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2.) What did God send him?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3.) What did Gaal the son of Ebed say about Abimelech?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4.) Who sent secret messages to Abimelech about Gaal?  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Wednesday: Let the Battle Begin!**

**Battle 1: Gaal V's Abimelech**

- 1.) Complete the verse that Zebul said "...Go out, if you will and \_\_\_\_\_ with them now"
- 2.) Who defeated who? (hint v 40-42)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) Complete the verse "So, Abimelech \_\_\_\_\_ against the city and \_\_\_\_\_ the people who were in it; and he \_\_\_\_\_ the city and sowed it with salt"

**Battle 2: Shechem V's Abimelech**

- 4.) What did Abimelech do at Mount Zalmon? (hint: trees)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) How many men and women died in the tower of Shechem?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday: The DEATH of Abimelech!**

**Battle 3: Thebez V's Abimelech**

- 6.) Where were the majority of the people hiding?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7.) What did Abimelech do to the door of the tower?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8.) Abimelech died...Complete the verse!  
"A certain \_\_\_\_\_ an upper \_\_\_\_\_ on Abimelechs head and crushed his \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 9.) What did Abimelech request from his young armorbearer?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Reflect on why you think he asked for that?
- 10.) Complete the verse "God \_\_\_\_\_ the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ brothers"

**Chapter 10:**

**Friday:**

- 1.) Now that Abimelech is dead, who arose to save Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) For how many years did he Judge Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) After he died, who came after? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) How many sons did he have? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) What did the children of Israel do this time after he died? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) In whose hands did the lord sell them too?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) For how many years were the children of Israel harassed and oppressed?
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Enough is Enough!**

Throughout this book we have seen the cycle of sin way too many times. But in chapter 10, God basically says 'enough is enough!'. This time when they cry out to him God replies saying "Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Philistines, the Sidonians, the Amalekites & the Maonites. Yet, you have forsaken me and served other Gods. Therefore, **I WILL DELIVER YOU NO MORE! GO CRY OUT TO THE GODS WHICH YOU HAVE CHOSEN, LET THEM DELIVER YOU IN YOUR TIME OF DISTRESS!**"

What about us? Do we learn from our mistakes and try to draw closer to God! Or are we like the Israelites who just NEVER LEARN!!! Watch out, one day He might say "enough is enough..."

