

# BIBLE BOWL -2016

Lesson #10 –Abimelech

Scripture Reading: Judges 9:1-5

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## Introduction:

1. We must be careful in our actions; we reap what we sow –Ga 6:7-8
2. The story of Abimelech displays that the Lord repays the evil that men do
3. In this lesson we will examine the rise and downfall of Abimelech.

## **I. ABIMELECH’S RISE TO POWER -9:1-21**

### **A. HIS CONSPIRACY**

1. He desired to rule as king
2. He convinces his mother and brothers to help him become ruler
3. They give him seventy shekels of silver –vs. 4
4. He uses the money to hire worthless men
  - a. They round up and destroy the seventy sons of Gideon.
  - b. They do this by sword on one stone

### **B. THE PARABLE OF THE TREES**

1. This was spoken by Jotham, the only survivor of the sons of Gideon
  - a. The trees were looking for a ruler
  - b. The olive tree refused to leave his position
  - c. The fig tree follow suit
  - d. The vine responded the same
  - e. The bramble however, took on the position as ruler
    - 1) Bramble was a worthless thicket of thorns (some thorns were like darts).
    - 2) Abimelech is the bramble
2. The meaning:
  - a. If the sons of Gideon deserved what they received and his intentions were good, all is well.
  - b. Otherwise, his brutality would come back upon him.

## **II. ABIMELECH’S DOWNFALL -9:22-57**

### **A. THE MEN OF SHECHEM TURNED AGAINST HIM**

1. He reigned over Israel for three years –vs. 22
2. God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem

### **B. GAAL GAINED THE SUPPORT OF THE MEN OF SHECHEM**

1. Zebul heard this and sent word to Abimelech –vs. 30
2. Abimelech defeated Gaal and the city of Shechem

### **C. ABIMELECH TAKES OUT THE TOWER OF SHECHEM -9:46-49**

1. Men and women had taken shelter in the tower
2. Abimelech cut down a tree and instructed others to do the same
3. He lit the stronghold on fire and killed about a thousand men and women

### **D. THE TOWER OF THEBEZ -9:50-57**

1. Men and women took shelter in the tower as before
2. Abimelech was preparing to burn it down also as before
3. This time a woman drops a upper millstone on his head, crushing his skull
  - a. He asks his armor bearer to run him through
  - b. He does not want anyone saying he was killed by a woman.

### **III. APPLICATIONS TO THE STORY**

#### **A. EVIL EXIST IN THE WORLD**

1. Although bad things happen to good people, it is never the will of God
2. Evil will at times seem to prevail, but it only does so for a short period of time.

#### **B. GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL**

1. He brings man's evil back upon him
2. With Abimelech, he is remembered as the one killed by a woman -2Sa 11:21

#### **Conclusion:**

1. People committed evil against the church hoping to destroy it.
2. Jesus said that the gates of hades would not prevail –Mt 16:18
3. It is therefore important that we remain faithful to God in times of ease and in times of distress.