

We see Abimelech's ⁽²⁶⁾_____ in the men he chose to serve with:

- Worthless
- Reckless

Furthering the presumption that Gideon served as ⁽²⁷⁾_____ is the fact that Abimelech was made 'king' as well.

AND THEN...

Adding to the chaos of his brothers' murders, Jotham now pronounces a ⁽²⁸⁾_____ on Abimelech. *Judges 9:7-16*

>>> Jotham's prophecy was that Abimelech would ⁽²⁹⁾_____ those who made him king and those who made him king would destroy Abimelech.

#3: Chaos of Liquor, Secret Liaisons, and Lies: Judges 9:22-38

Jotham's Prophecy Unfolds: Judges 9:39-57

- **Prophecy Fulfillment #1:** Abimelech ⁽³⁰⁾_____ Shechem and the men of the city.
- **Prophecy Fulfillment #2:** ⁽³¹⁾_____ is destroyed. *Judges 9:46-55*

Interesting Thoughts:

- Abimelech was truly a ruthless and vengeful ⁽³²⁾_____ ...but he wasn't very smart.
- **'Upper Millstone'**—one foot in diameter and 2 inches thick—roughly ⁽³³⁾_____ pounds.
- **'the men departed'**—Abimelech's army didn't even finish this battle—they were truly ⁽³⁴⁾_____.

THE CONCLUSION TO THE CHAOS ... FOR NOW

Judges 9:56-57—"56 Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by killing his seventy brothers. 57 And all the evil of the men of Shechem God returned on their own heads, and on them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal."



Today's message will be available online at www.ffc.org, both to view as an archived message and to download from a podcast. To purchase today's message on CD for \$5 or on DVD for \$10, please stop by the First Family Inspiration Book and Gift Store located in the Grand Foyer.

Answers: 1-afraid 2-courageous 3-alert 4-trusted 5-135,000 6-accidentally 7-concrete 8-10:00pm 9-100 10-beginning 11-humble 12-completion 13-120,000 14-death 15-desert 16-devastation 17-brothers 18-king 19-hip-service 20-scepter 21-home 22-harem 23-lineage 24-serve 25-rely 26-character 27-king 28-course 29-destroy 30-destroys 31-Abimelech 32-killer 33-45-65 34-aimless

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JUDGES: The Problem Land "Chaos in Israel"

Pastor Luke Cunningham's Sermon
Wednesday, October 7, 2009
Message #5 in the series

Bible Text: Judges 6:33-9:57

"Gideon's Six Keys to Victory"

Key #1: Gideon's Men...The Few/The Proud: *Judges 7:1-8*

It was policy that anybody in the Lord's army who was ⁽¹⁾_____ could go home.

Deuteronomy 20:8, "The officers shall speak further to the people, and say, 'What man is there who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, lest the heart of his brethren faint like his heart.'"

"The water test eliminated the lazy and uncommitted in favor of the alert and watchful, who numbered three hundred."
--LBBC, p. 108.

God's chosen warriors had the following characteristics:

1. They were ⁽²⁾_____.
2. They were ⁽³⁾_____.
3. They ⁽⁴⁾_____ God and Gideon.

NOTE: The army of Midian numbered ⁽⁵⁾_____! *Deut. 8:10*

Key #2: Gideon's Faith...Blessed Assurance: *Judges 6:33-40; 7:9-15*

"In verse 34 another emphasis is made on the Spirit of the Lord. The Hebrew literally says that the Spirit of the Lord put on Gideon like a garment. Gideon was possessed by a power beyond himself and he sounded the trumpet to call out an army...but Gideon still had doubts. He sought another visible, outward sign."

--Layman's Bible Book Commentary: Vol. 4, pg. 108

Gideon ⁽⁶⁾_____ gave God the wrong test with the fleece so he had to ask for a 'do-over'.

God continued to give Gideon ⁽⁷⁾_____ evidence of victory, even when he had stopped asking for it...which was probably a good thing! *Judges 7:9-15*

Key #3: Gideon's Battle Strategy: *Judges 7:16-25*

The time of this attack was approximately (8) _____.

Often times an army detachment of up to (9) _____ men would travel together with only one torch.

Key #4: Ephraim's Pride and Gideon's Poise: *Judges 8:1-3*

The men of Ephraim were upset that Gideon hadn't called them to help him at the very (10) _____.

Gideon, quick on his feet, took the high road and the (11) _____ route, and proved himself a great leader.

Key #5: A Contrast in Effort and Faith/Trust: *Judges 8:4-9*

Gideon and his men were going to carry this mission from God to (12) _____ ...regardless of how tired they were.

- They had already killed (13) _____ ...they had 15,000 left.
- They had traveled 35 miles and were going to continue another 15 miles into the desert.

Gideon promised (14) _____ to the cities of Succoth and Penuel for not having faith in him as God's man.

Key #6: Gideon's Realization of the Miracle: *Judges 8:11-21*

The Midianites thought they were safe once they got back to the (15) _____.

Gideon carried out his (16) _____ on Succoth and Penuel before killing the Midianite kings.

"It is difficult for us with our background of the teachings of Christ to understand such savagery. We must keep in mind that the standards of morality of that ancient day, even among the Lord's people, were much lower than ours, and that their understanding of the Lord and his will was still far from perfect." --LBBC, p. 112.

"It is probably correct to see the beating of the elders of Succoth and the destruction of the tower of Penuel—which was probably occupied in defense of the city—as judicial sentences carried out by Gideon as judge, rather than as indicating a personal vendetta or a fit of revenge." --Ogilvie, p. 143.

Gideon ended the battle by killing the kings of Midian—who had killed his (17) _____—and more than likely whom he had escaped from.

FLASHBACK: The book of Judges begins and ends with the same thought!

Judges 2:10—“When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another genera-

tion arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.”

Judges 21:25—“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

‘chaos’—“a state of utter confusion b : a confused mass or mixture.”

“The Chaos of Gideon's Reign”

#1: Chaos in Leadership: *Judges 8:21-35*

The people of Israel were ready to have a (18) _____...just like everybody else—I Samuel 8:1-22

Gideon gave great (19) _____ to God, then basically became the people's king.

Gideon as King:

- Made His Royal (20) _____.
- Established a Royal (21) _____.
- Established a Royal (22) _____.
- Established a Royal (23) _____.

FAST FACT: The people gave Gideon more than 40 lbs. of gold!

Gideon 'leadership' style was to (24) _____ the people, not rule them or judge them.

Galatians 1:10—“10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”

Acts 5:29, “But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

John 2:23-25—“ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.”

When Gideon became confident enough not to (25) _____ on God his downfall began.

II Corinthians 12:9—“ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

#2: Chaos in Lineage: *Judges 9:1-6*