

Rise and Fall of Gideon Judges 7:16-9:57

I. A Decisive Victory – 7:16-25

1. Gideon divides his men in 3 groups – 16
Each has a trumpet, empty pitcher & a torch
2. Torch was covered until a signal – 17-19
When Gideon blew his trumpet they blew theirs
Told to shout, The sword of the Lord & Gideon
Were to brake the pitcher & let the light shine
3. They surrounded camp & did as told – 20-21
Blew trumpets shouted & showed their light
4. Midianites in fear killed each other – 22-25
Other men of Israel helped in destroying enemy

II. A Wise Leader – 8:1-23

1. Dealt with complaint of Ephraim – 1-3
Ephraim complained, they were not included
God had reduced the force to 300 men
Gideon convinced them of their importance
2. Dealt with those who would not help – 4-21
Men of Succoth & the men of Penuel
Gideon went on to victory with his 300 men
Came back to chastise those who would not
help
3. Refused to accept position as king – 22-23
God was king, Gideon was only the deliverer

III. An Unwise Choice – 8:24-32

1. Gideon requested gold from spoils – 24
People were happy to give him what he asked
2. They willingly gave to their hero – 25-26
A large amount of gold and other items
3. Gideon made an ephod with the gold – 27
Put it in his city & Israel came to worship it
4. Israel had rest 40 yrs under Gideon – 28
5. Gideon had many wives & 70 sons – 29-31
6. Died and buried in his home town – 32

IV. An Ambitious Son – 8:33-9:6

1. After Gideon's death Israel sinned – 8:33-35
Worshipped Baal & departed from the Lord
Did not treat Gideon's family well
2. God allows internal distress to come - 9:1-6
From within Gideon's own family
3. Abimelech, a son by a concubine – 8:30,31
4. Supported by his Mother's family - 9:1-6
He convinced them to make him king – 9:6
Hired unscrupulous men to follow him – 9:4
5. He killed all but one of brothers – 9:5

V. A Prophetic Response – 9:7-21

1. Jotham warned men of Shechem – 7
God will deal with you and with Abimelech
2. He gave a parable of the trees – 8-15
When other trees refused to reign, bramble did
3. God will right wrongs that are done – 16-20
God will turn Abimelech against Shechem
God will turn Shechem against Abimelech
4. Jotham fled from his brother Abimelech – 21

VI. A Prophecy Fulfilled – 9:22-57

1. Abimelech reigned 3 years over Israel – 22
2. God sent an evil spirit to divide – 23-24
God avenged wrong done to Gideon's family
3. Gaal led Shechem against Abimelech – 25-29
4. Zebul reports to Abimelech – 30-33
5. Abimelech besieges city of Shechem -34
6. Abimelech destroys Shechem - 35-49
7. Abimelech is killed at Thebez – 50-57
A woman drops a millstone on his head
God brings vengeance on Abimelech