

“The Rise and Fall of Abimelech”

Gal. 6:7-8

Introduction

- I. We must not forget that God will handle the wickedness of man (Rom. 12:19).
- II. The life of Abimelech serves as an example of how high man can climb, but how low he can fall (Judges. 9:1-57).

Discussion

- I. The ascension of Abimelech to power was not unnoticed by God (Judges. 9:1-21).
 - A. He manipulated his way to rise.
 - B. He used others to help his ambitions (Judges. 9:4).
- II. Jotham pleaded with the men of Shechem (Judges. 9:7-21).
 - A. The example of the bramble and the trees should have brought to light the folly of what was being done.
 - B. Abimelech should not have been desired as king.
 - C. Abimelech would eventually receive what was coming to him.
- III. Abimelech learned the truth of “reaping and sowing” the hard way (Judges. 9:22-57).
 - A. Finally, there was a dealing with Abimelech for what he had done (Judges. 9:24).
 - B. The men of Shechem placed their allegiance with Gaal (Judges. 9:24-29).
 - C. At first, it looked as if Abimelech was going to prevail (Judges. 9:30-45).
 - D. Abimelech was ruthless in his destruction of the tower of Shechem (Judges. 9:46-49).
 - E. Abimelech desired to do similarly to those in the tower in Thebez (Judges. 9:50-52).
 - F. Finally, Abimelech learned the hard lesson of reaping what one sows (Judges. 9:53-57).

Conclusion

- I. Time may pass, and we may think that we get away with our wickedness (Judges 9:22).
- II. Unless we are forgiven, we will answer for our sins (Gal. 6:7-8).