

## Judges Session 6

### **The Career of Abimelech, Opportunist Son of Gideon 8:33-9:57**

Gideon was cautious, reluctantly courageous, but self-indulgent in victory. This led to cruelty and idolatry on his account. He also seems to have settled into an indulgent family life after his great victory over Midian. He left behind a complicated legacy. So our attention turns to Abimelech, whose name means “My father is king.” Abimelech’s mother is from Shechem, in the tribal lands of Ephraim, while Gideon himself was from Ophrah in Manasseh. So this story constitutes a struggle between Joseph’s Egyptian sons. Joseph’s bones were buried at Shechem at the end of Joshua’s time (Joshua 24:32).

#### **A. Israel plays the harlot after Gideon’s death 8:33-35**

**Question: How does a father’s reputation influence future generations?**

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>B. Abimelech incites a coup against his 70 half-brothers</b> | <b>9:1-6</b> |
| 1. Survivor Jotham curses Abimelech’s coup from Mt Gerizim      | 9:7-21       |
| 2. Relations sour between Abimelech and Shechem                 | 9:22-25      |

**Question: In Deuteronomy 11:29-32 what did Moses instruct?**

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>C. Gaal, an outsider, incites the Shechemites against Abimelech</b>  | <b>9:26-41</b> |
| 1. Gaal lobbies for support (notice his reference to Hamor)             | 9:26-29        |
| 2. Gaal is defeated in ambush   | 9:30-41        |
| 3. Abimelech captures Shechem, destroys the city and tower              | 9:42-49        |
| 4. Abimelech is killed trying to destroy the tower at Thebez            | 9:50-57        |
| <b>D. The Career of Tola of Issachar – 23 years rule from Shamir</b>    | <b>10:1-2</b>  |
| 1. From Issachar but judged in Ephraim                                  |                |
| <b>E. The Career of Jair of Gilead – 22 years rule, buried at Kamon</b> | <b>10:3-5</b>  |
| 2. Gilead is east of the Jordan   |                |
| 3. Havvoth-Jair means “tent-villages of Jair.”                          |                |