

Old Testament Israel: Law, **Judges**, Kingdoms

Story of Abimelech (A son of Gideon)

Scripture **Judges 9**

Judges 8:33 The situation

Judges 9:1-6 Abimelech set up as 'king' in Shechem

Judges 9:7-21 Jotham condemns Abimelech as King

Judges 9:22-41

22-25 Unrest in Shechem

26-29 Shechemites raise up Gaal,

30-33 Mayor of Shechem calls in Abimelech

34-41 Abimelech slaughters Gaal

42-45 Abimelech destroys the city

46-52 Abimelech attacks leaders in tower

53-57 End of Abimelech

Discussion:

Discuss: OT math – 70 = 72, or maybe 71?

Note: that 'king' is an equivalent to judge here, local scope to Abimelech's ability to enforce.

Open Question:

How did it get so bad?