

Leader

²⁹ Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house. ³⁰ Now Gideon had seventy sons, his own offspring, for he had many wives. ³¹ And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he called his name Abimelech. **Judges 8:29-31 (ESV)**

Cong.

¹ Abimelech...went to Shechem...and said...to...his mother's family, ² " Which is better...that all seventy...sons of Jerubbaal rule ...or that one rule over you? Remember...I am your bone and ...flesh." ⁵ And he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers ...seventy men...But Jotham the youngest...was left... ⁶ And all the leaders...made Abimelech king...

Judges 9:1-6 (ESV)

Leader

⁷ When it was told to Jotham, he ... stood on ... Mount Gerizim and cried aloud ... ¹⁹ if you ... acted in good faith and integrity with Jerubbaal ... then rejoice in Abimelech... ²⁰ But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech and devour the leaders of Shechem ... and devour Abimelech." ²¹ And Jotham ran away ...to Beer ... because of Abimelech his brother. ²² Abimelech ruled over Israel three years.

Judges 9:7,19-22 (ESV)

Cong.

²³ And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech, ²⁴ that the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might... be laid on Abimelech ... and on ... Shechem, who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers.

Judges 9:23-24 (ESV)

Leader

²⁶ And Gaal ...moved into Shechem ... and the leaders...put confidence in him. ⁴⁵ And Abimelech fought ...and killed the people....

⁵⁰ Then Abimelech went to Thebez and ... captured it. ⁵¹ But there was a strong tower within the city... and they went up to the roof of the tower. ⁵² And Abimelech came... near to the door of the tower to burn it ... ⁵³ And a certain woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull.

Judges 6:33-37 (ESV)

Cong.

⁵⁶ Thus God returned the evil of Abimelech, which he committed against his father in killing his seventy brothers. ⁵⁷ And God also made all the evil of the men of Shechem return on their heads, and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

Judges 9:56,57 (ESV)

Judges

Gideon's Family Trajectory

Judges 8-9

Gideon's Family Trajectory

Victory

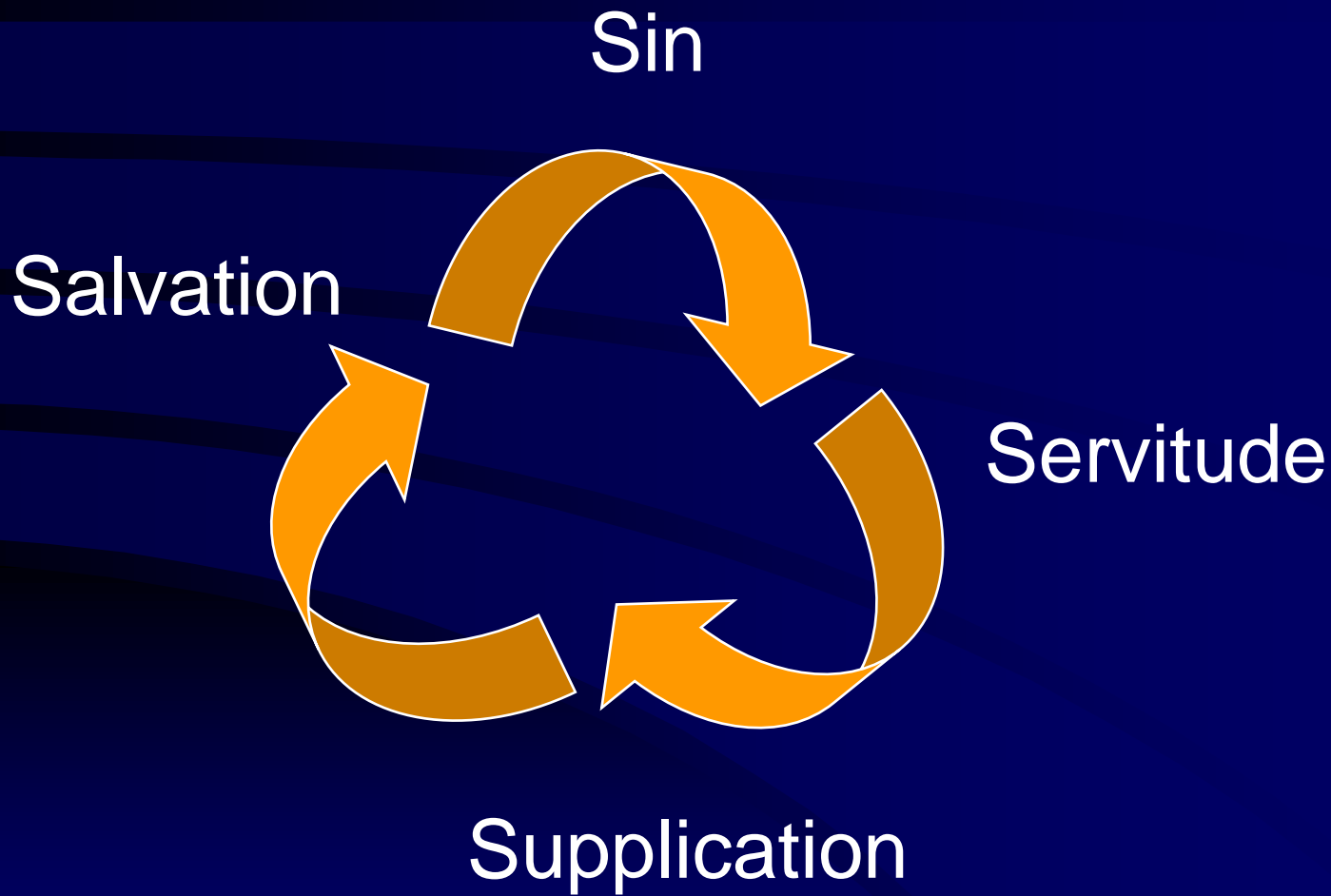
Peace &
Compromise

Decline

Leading

Hiding

The Judges Cycle



Peace & Compromise (8:22-31)

- Israel, after victory: “Rule over us!”
- Gideon: “**I will not**; the Lord shall rule over you.”
- **Yet**, Gideon made a 40# gold ephod and all Israel played the harlot. It became a snare...”



My Kingdom Come?

- Gideon turned down Israel's request that he be king, but he acted like one.
- He had 70 sons and one illegitimate son Abimelech ("my father is king") by a concubine in Shechem. (8:31)
- He sowed the seeds of destruction & lost his **liberty** through **license**.

My Kingdom Come? (9)

- Abimelech watered those seeds and harvested trouble.
- He went to Shechem to his mother's family (9:1ff) "Do you want 70 "foreign" men to rule you or 1 who is flesh & blood?"
- They crowned him king under the oak of Moreh where Abraham received the promise.

The battleground



Shechem between Ebal & Gerazim: Promise to Abraham, Blessing & Cursing; Jacob's well (Sychar)



My Kingdom Come? (9:)

- They payed him from temple of Baal.
- He killed his 70 brothers. Only Jotham escaped. (9:4-6)
- Abimelech ruled 3 years before God sent an evil spirit to split him from the Shechemites. (9:22-41)
- Principle: Sometimes God let's spirits do what they have wanted to do.

My Kingdom Come? (9:)

- Gaal drew them away to himself, claiming his right as a full blooded Shechemite. (9:30-49)
- Abimelech drove him out & burned down the tower with leaders in it.
- A woman of Thebez dropped an upper millstone on his head (9:50-55)
- God repaid his wickedness.



Applications

- “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done?” or “My kingdom, my will...”
- Sowing & reaping (Galatians 6:7)
- What are you building into your children?
- What are you setting up to trap them?
- What are you inheriting from your parents? Discern & act appropriately.
- 1Peter 1:18,19 He calls us to tear down father’s idols and ours Do we?

Applications

- Response to rejection can perpetuate or transform it.
- What fathers excuse in moderation sons approve in excess. (9:32,35)
- Division causes division. (Prov. 6:27; Eph. 4:2)
- We can find our identity in Christ or in power & control. (Isaiah 53:5,6.10)
- Timelines help us reflect & repent.

Gideon's Family Trajectory

