

JUDGES 9:22-57
THE COMING JUDGMENT OF GOD!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Judges chapter 9 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Here in Judges chapter 9, as we have seen, Gideon has died. He was a Judge in Israel for forty years and after his death, we see the children of Israel fall back into sin.

Listen to what we are told in Judges 8:33, **“So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god.”**

You would think that they would have learned their lesson, but they did not and went back into worshipping these false god’s instead of the true and living God who delivered them from their bondage at the hands of the Midianites.

And I believe that once you turn from the true and living God that what you manifest in your life will not be good. In fact, it can’t be good. The reason being is that you are now worshipping a god that came from the imagination of your own heart and your heart is wicked and thus, the things you do will also be wicked!

That is what we see here with the children of Israel. Again, look at what they were doing, how they felt as they were serving these false god’s now, **“Thus the children of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side; nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.”** Judges 8:34-35.

And it is out of that we see that Abimelech, a son of Gideon born through a concubine, not a wife of Gideon, and he rises up and gets the men of Shechem to side with him to make him king.

And he does a really good job in selling this idea. He tells them that since he is from Shechem, he is family, he will treat them better than any of the other sons of Gideon because they have no ties with you.

And the men of Shechem bought into this, they gave to him seventy shekels of silver to hire some worthless men and Abimelech went and killed the seventy sons of Gideon, all except one, and his name was Jotham.

And Jotham warns Abimelech that what he is doing and what he did was wrong, and God is going to judge him and the people of Shechem if they don't repent and get right with God.

But, as we will see, the message, this warning from God fell on deaf ears, neither Abimelech nor the people of Shechem heeded the warning and thus, what God had warned them about was going to come to pass.

This morning, as we go through these verses here in Judges chapter 9, we are going to focus on ***THE COMING JUDGMENT OF GOD!***

You see, God has warned the people of this world that there is coming a judgment against all those who have rejected Him, and this judgment will come to pass.

Now I do realize that many people laugh at that, they don't believe that there is coming a judgment of God.

But to me, I don't know how you can miss it, signs are everywhere, God has warned us and now, like the children of Israel, we have a choice. To obey the Lord or face His judgment, because, believe it or not, it is coming!

I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into five main points, and they are as follows,

JOTHAM'S WARNING COMES TO PASS – JUDGES 9:22-25

THE REBELLION OF GAAL – JUDGES 9:21-33

THE DEFEAT OF GAAL – JUDGES 9:34-41

THE JUDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF SHECHEM – JUDGES 9:42-49

THE JUDGMENT OF ABIMELECH – JUDGES 9:50-57

So we have a lot of ground to cover this morning and let's jump into our study here in Judges chapter 9, beginning in verse 22 as we look at ***THE COMING JUDGMENT OF GOD!***

JUDGES 9

VERSES 22-25

Notice how short-lived this rebellion of Abimelech lasts, only three years. And keep in mind that he did not rule over all Israel or Judge all of Israel. One writer gives to us the territory that he judged over, "The extent of Abimelech's kingdom was very limited; only Shechem, Beth-millo, Arumah (Judges 9:41) and Thebez (Judges 9:50) are mentioned as under his jurisdiction and it is unlikely that it extended beyond a portion of western Manasseh." (Cundall)

And yet, things were going well. What Jotham said I am sure was forgotten now and life went on.

But make no mistake about it, when God speaks what He has said will come to pass, not might!

Remember that God is going to repay the evil that they had done to Gideon's sons. But at this point, or really up to this point, there was no strife between the people of Shechem and Abimelech. And, like I have said, this lasted for three years!

And then look what happened. **“God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech.”** Judges 9:23.

And I believe that this **“spirit of ill will”** was not a heavenly angel, but God allowed a demonic spirit to carry out death and destruction, that is what they are all about.

You see, God is good, there is no darkness in Him at all. But He will use the demonic world to carry out His plans and I think that is what we see here.

And for Abimelech, what we are going to see happen to him is that he was going to reap what he had sown and this judgment of God was not only going to fall upon Abimelech, but also upon the people of Shechem for what they have done!

Now notice what they did. The men of Shechem had people who were hiding along the trade routes, up in the mountains, and as these caravans and the other travelers would come by, they would swoop down upon them and they would rob them.

This not only reduced the travel on these roads, but it was also taking money out of the King's pocket or Abimelech's pocket.

You see, these people would pay a tax, a kind of toll, for using these roads, like in Illinois! With these raiders around, Abimelech was losing this tax and it was of course showing great dishonor to him.

Just the thing the men of Shechem wanted to do. It was a kind of in your face behavior towards Abimelech, who only reigned now for three years before this trouble started!

And keep in mind that this was a judgment of God; He allowed this evil spirit to come upon them. They wanted nothing to do with God and this is what they received, a life apart from Him where there is evil, murder, strife and-so-on!

They had a chance to repent of their evil, the sin that they committed, but they refused and now they are going to reap what they have sown! Judgment was coming upon them!

As I look at this world we live in today, I see us deteriorating into a world that is so focused on self that we will do whatever we want when we want and it doesn't matter who we may hurt, as long as I am satisfied. And the reality is, they are not satisfied and that is why they keep deteriorating into more and more immoral, evil practices.

And when you talk to people about the judgment of God, they either ignore it or mock it, they make fun of you for believing that. And sadly, we even see this in the church today!

We should not be surprised regarding this mocking of the coming judgment of God. Peter warned us of this very thing, that in the last days there would be this mocking of the coming judgment of God.

In II Peter 3:1-13 listen to what Peter wrote, **“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth**

which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Peter wants them to remember the things that he told them and to remember what the prophets of God have spoken regarding the coming judgment of God.

And then he tells us that there will be those “**scoffers**” that come in the last days, in which we are living in, and what will they make fun of? The coming judgment of God! Isn't that interesting!

How can they be so sure?

Because they believe that life will just continue on like it has done in the past. It is a uniformitarianism belief, where there are no major cataclysmic events, but life just evolves forward, and nothing really cataclysmic happens. Which is strange as we see all kinds of catastrophic events in history, like earthquakes, volcano's and-so-on.

But I guess the question is this. *“Is that true? Is there no evidence for cataclysmic events from the past?”*

Like I have said, of course that is not true. And Peter takes them back and wants them to think about the past.

You see, he brings them to the last judgment of God, the **FLOOD!**

Now I know people laugh about a worldwide flood, where the waters covered all the face of the earth.

But is there evidence to show us that there has been this worldwide flood?

You bet. Look at what we see. Billions of dead things buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth! There was a flood!

Let me show you what I mean.

Evidence 1: Fossils of sea creatures high above sea level due to the ocean waters having flooded over the continents

We find fossils of sea creatures in rock layers that cover all the continents. For example, most of the rock layers in the walls of Grand Canyon (more than a mile above sea level) contain marine fossils. Fossilized shellfish are even found in the Himalayas.

Evidence 2: Rapid burial of plants and animals

We find extensive fossil “graveyards” and exquisitely preserved fossils. For example, billions of nautiloid fossils are found in a layer within the Redwall Limestone of Grand Canyon. This layer was deposited catastrophically by a massive flow of sediment (mostly lime sand). The chalk and coal beds of Europe and the United States, and the fish, ichthyosaurs [large marine reptiles], insects, and other fossils all around the world, testify of catastrophic destruction and burial.

Evidence 3: Rapidly deposited sediment layers spread across vast areas

We find rock layers that can be traced all the way across continents - even between continents - and physical features in those strata indicate they were deposited rapidly. For example, the Tapeats Sandstone and Redwall Limestone of Grand Canyon can be traced across the entire United States, up into Canada, and even across the Atlantic Ocean to England. The chalk beds of England (the white cliffs of Dover) can be traced across Europe into the Middle East and are also found in the Midwest of the United States and in Western Australia. Inclined (sloping) layers within the Coconino Sandstone of Grand Canyon are testimony to 10,000 cubic miles of sand being deposited by huge water currents within days.

Evidence 4: Sediment transported long distances

We find that the sediments in those widespread, rapidly deposited rock layers had to be eroded from distant sources and carried long distances by fast-moving water. For example, the sand for the Coconino Sandstone of Grand Canyon (Arizona) had to be eroded and transported from the northern portion of what is now the United States and Canada. Furthermore, water current indicators (such as ripple marks) preserved in rock layers show that for “300 million years” water currents were consistently flowing from northeast to southwest across all of North and South America, which, of course, is only possible over weeks during a global Flood.

Evidence 5: Rapid or no erosion between strata

We find evidence of rapid erosion, or even of no erosion, between rock layers. Flat, knife-edge boundaries between rock layers indicate continuous deposition of one layer after another, with no time for erosion. For example, there is no evidence of any “missing” millions of years (of erosion) in the flat boundary between two well-known layers of Grand Canyon - the Coconino Sandstone and the Hermit Formation. Another impressive example of flat boundaries at Grand Canyon is the Redwall Limestone and the strata beneath it.

Evidence 6: Many strata laid down in rapid succession

Rocks do not normally bend; they break because they are hard and brittle. But in many places we find whole sequences of strata that were bent without fracturing, indicating that all the rock layers were rapidly deposited and folded while still wet and pliable before final hardening. For example, the Tapeats Sandstone in Grand Canyon is folded at a right angle (90°) without evidence of breaking. Yet this folding could only have occurred after the rest of the layers had been deposited, supposedly over “480 million years,” while the Tapeats Sandstone remained wet and pliable.

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And if that is not enough, you can look at the historical records of ancient civilizations and many of them record that there was a global flood. Yes, there are some variations within the story of Noah and the flood within these civilizations, but the basic information is the same –

THERE WAS A GLOBAL FLOOD!

But why a global flood?

Because the heart of man was evil continually and only Noah and his family entered the ark to save the human race.

And what Peter is saying is that you can go back and look at history and see that God did pour out His judgment upon mankind in the past and He is going to do it again, you can take that to the bank.

But God is patient, He is longsuffering, but there will come a day that He will pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world. And I think those days are getting closer and closer as we see the heart of man becoming more and more evil!

But notice how this judgment is going to come.

Peter tells us in II Peter 3:7, “**But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**”

And isn't it interesting that Jotham, as he was warning the men of Shechem of the coming judgment, that he said, “**But if not, let fire come down from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and Beth Millo, and let fire come from the men of Shechem and from Beth Millo and devour Abimelech!**”

Just as God will judge this Christ rejecting world with the fire of His judgment, we see God's fire of judgment here with the men of Shechem and Abimelech!

Make no mistake about it – ***JOTHAM'S WARNING COMES TO PASS*** and God has warned man over and over again that His judgment is coming! May we not lose sight of that fact!

VERSES 26-33

Because it was the time of the grape harvest, we know that the time of year this took place was probably June/July.

And here is this guy, Gaal and he was a big talker.

The wine was flowing; they were drinking and drunk, having a good old time. And as the wine caused them to let their defenses down, he began to speak what was in his heart.

And Gaal said, “**Who is Abimelech?**” In other words, why should they serve this man Abimelech, who is he to them?

And he also says, “**Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem.**” Now why in the world did he say that?

Remember from our study in Genesis chapter 34 and how Simeon and Levi killed Hamor and his son Shechem, because he wanted to marry their sister, Dinah.

Thus, Gaal is basically saying, “*Why should they serve the children of Israel, for they murdered our family! Serve me, a descendent of Hamor.*”

You see, if he were the King then he would destroy Abimelech.

And you can just imagine how Gaal was acting, “*Let me at him, I’ll rip him to pieces. Come and get me if you can Abimelech. Or are you scared?*”

Big talk now, but trouble is coming quickly upon Gaal for his big mouth.

What I want to focus on here is ***THE REBELLION OF GAAL!***

Remember that the people of Shechem wanted Abimelech to rule over them. But notice that “**... they went into the house of their god ...**” Not the true and living God, but these false god’s that they were worshiping and since these god’s focused so much on satisfying the flesh, that it was all about self, Gaal led them in rebellion against Abimelech.

Yes, God said this would happen, but Gaal acted upon these things, it was his own will that brought this rebellion forth.

And I realize that some may not agree with this, but rebellion is not of God. Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

Today, more than ever, the idea of being against authority has become mainstream. In fact, some would say that if you do not question authority, then you are part of a corrupt system seeking to oppress people. From schoolteachers to police officers to parents, rebelling against the authority of any of these is considered by some to be a fundamental right of citizens in a free society. At some point one has to wonder if rebelling against authority is ever justified. . . .

The word rebellion is commonly defined as (1): “An act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler; the action or process of resisting authority, control, or convention.” Synonyms of the word rebellion are defiance, disobedience, and subordination. Simply stated rebellion is the defiance or disobedience against authority.

The Old Testament used the Hebrew word *meri* that translates to the English word rebellion. The root of this Hebrew word, *mara*, means to be or cause to be bitter or unpleasant. It is also translated most often as change, disobedient, disobey, provoke, rebellious, and rebel. In the New Testament, similar words for rebellion are disobedience and sedition, both of which refer to rebelling against or undermining authority. Interestingly, the Greek word for disobedience, comes from the same root for the word disbelief as described in an obstinate or rebellious way. . . .

What does the Bible say about rebellion?

1. Rebellion against authority is rebellion against God: Deuteronomy 31:27; Joshua 22:22; Ezra 4:17-24; Nehemiah 9:17
2. Rebellion is sin personified in Satan: Genesis 3:1-13

3. Rebellion is comparable to witchcraft: 1 Samuel 15:16-23
4. Rebellion is a practice of evil people: Proverbs 17:11; Isaiah 65:2
5. Rebellion results in the loss of blessings from God: Numbers 20:10-24; Joshua 2:1-15; Jeremiah 28:2-17
6. Rebellion angers God: Isaiah 65:1-7; 1 Peter 3:18-22
7. Rebellion results in death: Romans 5:12-19; 1 Peter 2:4-8

Although there is much more that can be said about rebellion, we have to understand that God is not the Author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:26-33), He wants things to be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40). When we respect authority and exercise proper dominion, we can care for things the way God wants us to care for them. Doing this also models what God does for us, which sets the stage to protect and care for those who are most vulnerable in our society.

Finally, when it comes to rebellion, we must realize that sometimes we may get a boss or someone over us that is not kind and loving. That does not change the fact that we respect and submit to their authority as long as we are not required to violate Scripture using Christ as our example. In the end, when we do what is right by God's Word, it is pleasing to God and He will set things right when the time is right (Romans 12:14-21; 1 Peter 3:18-4:7).

Rebellion against authority is common in our culture. Rebellion is the defiance or disobedience against authority. God has given man dominion over the earth, which requires authority and responsibility. When we rebel against authority, we rebel against the ordination of God; this angers God. Christ was our model of how to properly submit to authority.

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Make no mistake about it, rebellion is an act against God and that is what we see here. And as you turn away from God, then what will flow from your life, the words you say, the actions that you do, will manifest the ugliness of rebellion.

Let me give you just a few verses to show you what I mean.

First of all, in I Samuel 15:23 we are told, **“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.”**

Samuel says that rebellion is as bad as witchcraft! It is serious because you are rebelling against God and your actions are reflecting that rebellion.

Also, in Proverbs 29:16 we are told, **“When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; But the righteous will see their fall.”**

And in Isaiah 30:1 says, **“‘Woe to the rebellious children,’ says the Lord, ‘Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin.’”**

The point I want to drive home here is that if you are in rebellion then it is a result of turning from the Lord and doing what you want instead of what God has said. In fact, you are in rebellion against Him and that leads you into rebellion against man!

We see Gaal in rebellion against Abimelech and now we see Zebul turn against Gaal. Zebul, who was placed in charge of the city, a kind of **“city manager,”** warns Abimelech of what Gaal is doing, that he is trying to mobilize men to side with him.

I can imagine how loud and boisterous they were in this drunken state; all the big talk and Zebul heard what they said and what they were planning on doing.

Thus, Zebul warns Abimelech of what is going on and he tells Abimelech to set-up an ambush against Gaal. He wants Abimelech to take him by surprise instead of the other way around and Gaal taking Abimelech by surprise and defeating him!

There truly is no peace for the wicked and we see here – ***THE REBELLION OF GAAL!***

VERSES 34-41

We see here - ***THE DEFEAT OF GAAL!***

And what happens here is almost comical if it wasn't so tragic.

Abimelech sets his men in four divisions and prepares to take Gaal and those who were siding with him in this rebellion.

And as Gaal looks at the mountains he tells Zebul that it looks like people are coming down from the mountains.

And Zebul basically says, ***“You’re out of your mind. You are seeing nothing more than shadows in the mountains. You don’t see people! You are seeing things!”***

And Gaal looks again and says, ***“No, I think those are people that are coming down from the mountains, don’t you see them?”***

But Zebul knew exactly what was coming down. He lets Gaal think he is seeing things until Abimelech was right upon him. And notice what Zebul now says to Gaal!

“... ‘Where indeed is your mouth now, with which you said, “Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him.” Are not these the people whom you despised? Go out, if you will, and fight with Abimelech.’” Judges 9:38.

In other words, he basically tells Gaal, *“So you think you are so tough? So you think you can defeat Abimelech? Now put your money where your mouth is, speaking so boldly like you are some hot shot. Here is your chance, Abimelech is coming after you, go and get him!”*

And Gaal did go after Abimelech, but I am sure he was not as bold as he was when he was drunk.

And Abimelech defeats Gaal and his men and Gaal is exiled from Shechem.

And the focus here is this. In Isaiah 48:22 we are told, **“There is no peace,’ says the Lord, ‘for the wicked.’”**

God is very clear on this, there is no peace, not some peace, not a little peace or even slight peace apart from Jesus, there is ***NO PEACE!***

Like the bumper sticker says, **“No Peace, No God. Know Peace, Know God!”**

That is what is being said here.

The wicked, the unrighteous are not satisfied, what they are looking for can never be found apart from Jesus.

Thus, we see fighting, we see evil, we see immorality growing and growing because they are never satisfied, they never find that peace that they are looking for in the things of this world. You will never find peace in trying to satisfy the flesh because the flesh is never satisfied. It always wants more, bigger, better or whatever!

The people of Shechem thought they found peace, satisfaction in making Abimelech their King. But in the end, they were not satisfied, and they rebelled against him and in the end, they lost.

And think about this for a minute. Man, apart from God, means that man is at war with God. And if he is at war with God he is also going to be at war with his fellow man. And that is what we see today. Man fighting against man and in the end, you will never win, you will only destroy yourself.

The only solution, as I have said, is coming to Jesus and allowing His love to fill your life and overflow your life and touch the lives of others. It is only then we will love those who persecute us, only then can we treat those who spitefully use us kindly. We are not fighting for our rights; we are on a mission to bring the lost to Jesus or I guess I should say we are to bring Jesus to the people because He is their only hope!

So we see here - ***THE DEFEAT OF GAAL!***

And in the end, if you don't repent and get right with God, there is the judgment that is coming. First, we will see – ***THE JUDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF SHECHEM!***

VERSES 42-49

Remember that Gaal was the man that was against Abimelech but now Abimelech, after defeating Gaal, turns his fury against all of Shechem.

For the people of Shechem, they thought the battle was over and they were getting back to a normal day's work, a normal life you might say as they were going out into their fields to work.

But that was not the case. He destroys the people of Shechem and the land, he even sows salt on the land to make the land unfit for growing crops, and thus, people could not live there for a time!

Then, as word spread about what Abimelech was doing, how he had destroyed the city of Shechem and his rampage was continuing on, about 1,000 men and women fled to the tower of the god they worshiped, the god Berith.

They were seeking safety in their tower you might say, safety in this god, and in the end, they found it was not a place of safety but a place of destruction and Abimelech and his men come in and set this stronghold on fire and burned them to death.

Isn't that exactly what Jotham said would happen if they refused to repent of their sin and get right with God? Absolutely, they were warned but they chose not to listen, and they are reaping what they have sown!

And I wonder if the people of Shechem are thinking that they would have been better off with the sons of Gideon than with Abimelech?

Now this tower in Shechem is still around today.

What do I mean by that?

It is anything or anyone that people run to for safety that is apart from the Lord and in the end; they will find out that it was not a place of safety for them at all!

You see, we are told in Proverbs 18:10, "**The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.**"

Also, in Psalm 61:3 we are told, "**For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy.**"

Thus, if you want true safety, protection, you need to run to the Lord, into His arms for He alone can save, and He alone is our strong tower to protect us from the enemy!

Here is something that everyone of us need to understand. We are all going to live forever that is not the issue. The issue is where are you going to spend eternity?

Are you going to spend eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ? Or will you spend an eternity separated from Him in the Lake of Fire?

It is a choice that everyone has to make and if you don't choose, you have already made your decision to reject Jesus and spend an eternity apart from Him!

Let me share this with you to give you this perspective of things. We are told,

Have you ever been required to appear in court before a judge? Even if your only offense was a parking or speeding ticket, the courtroom experience can be very intimidating. Your wrong cannot be undone, and you must give an account for your actions and accept whatever consequences the judge decrees.

There will come a day when every human being will be required to stand before the Judge of the universe. At that point, there's no turning back, no chance to start over. We will each be held accountable by almighty God for our choices and actions in this life.

If you've trusted in Jesus, you will appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). This isn't a judgment of your sins, because they were judged when God's wrath was poured out on His Son at Calvary. Since the Savior has already secured your eternal destiny, you will stand before God, clothed in Christ's righteousness. The purpose of this judgment is evaluation of your works to determine if they are worthless or deserving of a reward.

The Great White Throne Judgment is reserved for people who have rejected Jesus as Savior (Revelation 20:11-15). The works they have done will be evaluated according to God's record books. Since their names are not written in the book of life, their eternal destination will be the lake of fire.

Although no one can avoid being judged, the good news is that you have a choice regarding which judgment seat you will appear before. But the only time you can make that choice is in this lifetime. Once your earthly life ends, your destiny is set.

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These people here in Shechem had rejected the true and living God and they sought protection with the god's that they were worshiping. And in the end, they lost their lives because their gods are not god's and they could not save them.

And please understand you will not be able to escape the judgment of God apart from Christ. Let me explain it like this. This took place back in 2018 and we are told,

The company, Roambee, is based in Santa Clara, and they make GPS tracking devices. You take this box, activate it, and place it in a shipment of produce, fruit, or some other perishable. You can use them to follow the shipment and keep track of where it goes and how long it takes, etc.

Well, these thieves were a few fruits short of a full bushel. They decided to break into the company's office and grab a full box of these trackers. Co-founder of the company, Vidya Subramanian, says "These devices kind of look like cell phone chargers, so they probably thought they had some kind of street value." Makes sense, phones don't last longer than a workday these days, so people are buying up battery boosters.

The thieves also made a stop in the company break room on the way out. They found a beer in the fridge, and took that too. As an added bonus (for police), the thieves cut themselves during the robbery. There was blood and fingerprints all over the place. Yeah, like I said, a few fruits short of a full bushel. The company was of course able to track their own tracking devices.

The trackers helped lead police straight to the thieves within a few hours of the robbery. Police later found a storage facility the thieves had which was full of a ton of other stolen goods. +1 for technology!

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It is very funny and true. And, again, if you trust in anyone or anything else besides Christ to save you, you are going to lose just as these people in Shechem did as they tried to hide in this tower of their god and in the end, they lost their lives because there is no God except the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! And you can't hide from Him!

I am going to spend the rest of our time this morning looking at our last point and looking at the judgment of God that is coming. We saw here – ***THE JUDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF SHECHEM***, which is a picture of all the human race you might say.

As we finish up, we will be looking at ***THE JUDGMENT OF ABIMELECH***, and that is speaking of the judgment of Satan himself.

I am going to speak of both the judgment of man and the judgment of Satan in this last section as I wrap things up.

VERSES 50-57

Abimelech must have thought he was pretty tough, and he continues to attack cities.

Thebez was located about 10 miles northeast of Shechem, and Abimelech was going to do to them, what he did in Shechem.

He is still on this killing rampage, maybe trying to show the people who is in charge here but if he kills all the people, then there will be no one to rule over. But that is what Satan does, destroys lives, kills life, steals life from people!

And when you are living in rebellion against God, you must try to maintain what you think is yours at any cost and that is what he is doing, and it isn't pretty!

But the people see what is happening and once again they hide themselves in a tower for safety, and Abimelech was once again going to burn the tower down as he had done earlier.

It worked once it has to work again, right? Well, not exactly!

You see, things did not work out exactly as Abimelech had planned.

There was this woman in the tower who had a millstone and she threw it over the top of the tower, and it landed on Abimelech's head.

Good shot or maybe God shot!

Now a millstone could weigh some 400 pounds and even upwards of 1 ton and I don't think this woman tossed a 400-pound millstone off the tower because Abimelech would not have woke up from that one nor could she do it.

According to Wood, "Such hand-stones average ten to fourteen inches long and weighed five pounds or more."

That is what she probably tossed off the tower and hit Abimelech on the head, and that would smart, it could kill you and it left him in a condition where he was dying but did not want to die at the hands of a woman, so he asks his armorbearer to get his sword and kill him and he does.

Just as Jotham said, **“if then you have acted in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you. But if not, let fire come from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and Beth Millo; and let fire come from the men of Shechem and from Beth Millo and devour Abimelech!”** Judges 9:19-20.

It has come to pass!

The lesson here is that we need to listen and obey the Lord’s voice to us, His warning because if we refuse there is a very real and a very terrible price to pay!

Make no mistake about it, as we look at – *THE JUDGMENT OF ABIMELECH*, we also see the judgment of Satan coming!

What we need to understand is that in this coming of judgment of God upon a Christ rejecting world, the world will turn to the Antichrist and worship him, a representative of Satan. And in their wickedness, they will be judged!

In Job 21:30 we are told, **“For the wicked are reserved for the day of doom; They shall be brought out on the day of wrath.”**

This is not a might happen or could be, God is going to judge the wicked. And yes, we are all wicked, but once we come to Christ, we have His righteousness imputed into our lives by faith and we are not wicked, we are saints.

In Job 31:2-4 we see this once again, as we are told, **“For what is the allotment of God from above, And the inheritance of the Almighty from on high? Is it not destruction for the wicked, And disaster for the workers of iniquity? Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps?”**

Now let me show you the grace of God. It has been almost 4,500 years since the flood, since the last judgment of God.

And since that time we see God provide for us the Savior, Jesus Christ that has come to take away our sins so that we can enjoy fellowship with God once again and escape the coming judgment of God.

That is some amazing longsuffering on God's part when you look at the wickedness of man.

But, just as the longsuffering of God had reached its end prior to the flood judgment, we are reaching that point today as the wickedness of man continues to grow and grow. Listen carefully to what transpired prior to the flood and how the world will be like that before the judgment of God comes again. We are told,

The societal conditions of the world prior to the Flood had so degraded that mankind had become completely characterized by wickedness and evil. As a result, we are told that God "grieved in His heart" (Genesis 6:6) for creating man. . . .

The majority of people before the Flood became so evil and wicked that their negative character completely overwhelmed any potential for good. The Bible teaches that human nature at its worst is "deceitful . . . and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). (Other scriptures show that the potential for evil within human nature comes to the fore as a result of personal choices; those choices are influenced and the subsequent evil is amplified by Satan the devil.)

The level of human wickedness had reached a unique low before the Flood. Two of the characteristics of the sinful state of antediluvian human beings were sexual lust (Genesis 6:2, 4) and murderous violence (verse 11).

Jesus Christ compared the end times to this antediluvian period: “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark” (Matthew 24:37-38). This shows us that before the flood, life was being lived as normal, with no regard for God. The flood came upon the antediluvian as a surprise because they lacked any regard for God or the preaching of Noah (2 Peter 2:5). Peter described the people of this time as “ungodly” (2 Peter 2:5).

The social conditions during the end time are described in detail in 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Since Christ likens the end times to the antediluvian world, we can assume many of these same conditions describe what society was like then. Putting all these scriptures together, the fundamental issue during this time period was people living lives totally driven by lust and hate with absolutely no fear of God or sense of morality (Romans 1:28). The Bible also defines this as being “carnally minded” (Romans 8:6-8).

Throughout the Bible, God reveals that His desire is for human beings to *repent* - which means a change of life to the core of the heart. The New Covenant was prophesied to include God’s law (the definition of His character) being written on the hearts and minds of human beings (Jeremiah 31:33). God wants *us* to have the opposite of the characteristics of the antediluvian world! We are to be “spiritually minded” (Romans 8:6) and to love God “with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37, 39).

- <https://bit.ly/2MkTB15>

And as I look at all that is going on in this world, I can't imagine that the Lord's return can be that far away. We are told to be looking for the Lord's return, as Paul was, but I think we are living in a period of time when things are ripe for judgment.

When you look at what the Bible says and what we see happening, it is amazing.

We see this push for a One-World Government and in the end, Europe will head it, and the world will be divided up into ten kingdoms, just as we are told in Daniel chapter 2. And they have already divided the world up, and one of the kingdoms is America, Mexico and Canada!

And we even saw that they will use any crisis to call for this One-World government as the leaders from around the world were pushing for a One-World government to stop the spread of the Corona Virus. Not sure how that will help, but again, they will use anything!

And we see a push for socialism as the government will have to be in charge of your life from beginning to end. Even the Pope has called for a global government and for socialism.

Listen to this synopsis of a book from Amazon. We are told,

The Global Constitution: One World Government to Save the Earth by Anonymous

Over the past several years and in the years to come, we will see more and more direct evidence that our political systems are fatally flawed. There are no controls for holding out for common sense solutions before installing only the most expensive and the least effective solutions to our problems. They bring out the worst of our kind and put the rascals into positions of authority over us all and the biggest problem is that there is no way to correct for their maligned behaviors.

We are always forced to sit and watch from the sidelines as our country and our planet is degraded and slowly destroyed. The major problem is that the dictators in the world believe that their brains are the only ones capable and wise enough to solve the world's problems, when it is these singularly untrained minds which are the problem. They look at their citizens, the average men and women whom they never understand as if we are ants. We are their cannon fodder. We are like sheep who need to be husbanded, fed and warehoused until such time as it's perceived by them that it's time for our slaughter.

Over the centuries their mass slaughter of us has been limited to a few cities and towns. Then, in the last century the mass slaughter expanded into hundreds of cities and dozens of nations being destroyed.

The next major war will be brought into every living room on the planet. The next few decades even assuming we are able to skip another major world war, will mean that we will all die from suffocation as all of the oxygen is sucked out of our atmosphere and gradually replaced by a huge black sooty cloud of Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide, which will spell disaster to all life forms on this Earth. The silence will be deafening and last for millions of years. ***This is the world's first attempt to unify all the people of the Earth under one set of laws and rules that could prevent total disaster.***

- <https://amzn.to/2XrlZFd>

And this is what the world is pushing for and we are getting closer and closer. There are really only two main political leaders in the world who are against this and that is our President, Donald Trump, and the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, who are being pressured by their governments to find some kind of corruption so they could be removed. That tells me we are really close as we see here in America, both political parties, for the most part, are for a Global Government!

Remember that I said that the Pope is for a Global Government, which should not surprise us because I believe it will be a Pope that ushers in a One-World religion. Even the United Nations is for this because they understand that you have to control the religious people for this to work and one way to do that is with a One-World religion!

We see pestilences, wars, we see earthquakes in diverse places and all of this is a warning of what is coming, the Tribulation Period or that last seven year period of time where God will be dealing with Israel and will pour out His wrath on a Christ rejecting world. The signs are everywhere, what are you doing about it?

Remember, Jotham warned the people of Shechem and Abimelech, but they did not listen, and judgment came upon them just as the Lord said through Jotham.

The Bible has warned people over and over again that there is another judgment coming and many are not listening. As Christians, we are to warn people of the coming judgment and our loving Savior. You see, they don't have to face this coming judgment of God, they can be set free in Christ!

Make no mistake about it, Satan will be judged, and he will eventually be cast into the Lake of Fire with all those who have rejected Christ. You can't escape the judgment, no matter who you are apart from Christ.

And I will leave you with this. We should each consider if God is warning us about something in the present time.

The story of Abimelech, the men of Shechem, and Jotham shows us that there is a real and terrible price to pay for rejecting God's warnings. May we heed the warning!

And I will close with this, I promise.

Unlike other countries that have a pay-as-you-use toll system on major roads, Switzerland expects drivers using its autoroute system to pay an annual fee of 40 Swiss francs. When you pay, you get a windshield sticker you display for the rest of the year.

Traditionally, traffic police give motorists the whole month of January to purchase the sticker. There is no penalty for driving without it during that month—it is a month of grace. But when the first days of February come, expect to see the traffic police on the autoroute exit ramps checking for cars without the sticker. ***No more excuses are accepted; no more time is given. The grace period has ended.***

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The grace of God is coming to an end and His judgment is at the door, don't miss out on ***HIS AMAZING GRACE!***