

Is God Silent When Fools Reign?
The Rapid Rise and Fall of Abimelech
Judges 9 / Sunday, August 9, 2015



Introduction: Is God absent? Does God care? Why do the wicked prosper, especially when they are doing openly wicked and destructive things? (*Jeremiah 12:1; Psalm 73:2-3, 18-19*)

Jotham's Prophetic Parable:

1. The Circumstances of Jotham's Parable: (Judges 9:1-6)

- a) Abimelech's gory grasp for _____.
- b) Shechem's foolish fall for a _____.

2. The Content of Jotham's Parable: (Judges 9:7-21)

- a) The _____ request of the trees (v. 8-13)
- b) The _____ character of the bramble (v. 14-15)
- c) The _____ nature of the parable (v. 16-20)
 - **The problem of evil.** (Job. 10:3, 21:1-18; Jer. 12:1; Hab. 1:2-4, 12-17; Psalm 73)

3. The Completion of Jotham's Parable: (Judges 9:22-57)

Do not doubt this reality: God may seem _____, but God is not _____.

Lessons Learned from the Rapid Rise and Fall of Abimelech:

1. To be _____ in earthly prosperity, trusting that God rewards those who _____.
Scriptures: Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 3:13-14; Proverbs 11:4; Hebrews 11:6

2. To be _____ in adversity, trusting that God is not _____ or _____.
Scriptures: Isaiah 41:10; Psalms 37:23-24, 27-28; Isaiah 30:18

3. To be _____ in injustice, trusting that God always has the _____.

God always has an _____, even when He seems _____.

A. A Word of _____ for the Violator: God's judgment is both present and future.
Scriptures: Proverbs 28:13; Galatians 6:7-8; Proverbs 13:15; Hebrews 9:27

B. A Word of _____ for the violated: God's justice is certain and perfect.

- _____ for the violator is _____ responsibility. (*Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Psalm 1:3-6*)
- _____ for our enemies is _____ responsibility. (*Matthew 5:43-45; Luke 6:27-28; 1 Peter 2:21-23*)

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Introduction: Is God absent? Does God care? Why do the wicked prosper, especially when they are doing openly wicked and destructive things? (*Jeremiah 12:1; Psalm 73:2-3, 18-19*)

Jotham's Prophetic Parable:

1. **The Circumstances of Jotham's Parable:** (Judges 9:1-6)
 - a) Abimelech's gory grasp for **glory**.
 - b) Shechem's foolish fall for a **fool**.

2. **The Content of Jotham's Parable:** (Judges 9:7-21)
 - a) The **stupid request** of the trees (v. 8-13)
 - b) The **worthless character** of the bramble (v. 14-15)
 - c) The **prophetic nature** of the parable (v. 16-20)
 - **The problem of evil:** Job. 10:3, 21:1-18; Jer. 12:1; Hab. 1:2-4, 12-17; Psalm 73.

3. **The Completion of Jotham's Parable:** (Judges 9:22-57)

Do not doubt this reality: God may seem **silent, but God is not **absent**.**

Lessons Learned from the Rapid Rise and Fall of Abimelech:

1. To be **unambitious** in earthly prosperity, trusting that **God rewards** those who seek Him.
Scriptures: Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 3:13-14; Proverbs 11:4; Hebrews 11:6

2. To be **patient** in adversity, trusting that God is not **absent or unaware**.
Scriptures: Isaiah 41:10; Psalms 37:23-24, 27-28; Isaiah 30:18

3. To be **comforted** in injustice, trusting that God always has the **last word**.

God always has an **answer, even when He **silent**.**

- A. A Word of **Caution** for the Violator: God's judgment is both present and future.
Scriptures: Proverbs 28:13; Galatians 6:7-8; Proverbs 13:15; Hebrews 9:27

- B. A Word of **Comfort** for the violated: God's justice is certain and perfect.
 - **Justice** for the violator is **God's** responsibility. (*Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Psalm 1:3-6*)

 - **Kindness** for our enemies is **our** responsibility. (*Matthew 5:43-45; Luke 6:27-28; 1 Peter 2:21-23*)