

07-Judges-09-Transcript

[Music]

well greetings brethren and welcome to another Wednesday night Bible study and we are up to judges chapter eight let's begin with a word of Prayer and then we can get straight into the study for this evening our Heavenly Father we bow before you when we praise you a great God for your loving kindness and mercy and we know father that you are grieved right now as you look down from heaven and you just see the violence all over this world and you did warn us that at the time of Christ's return it will be as in the days of Noah in those days father violence covered the earth and it repented you that you had made man father we pray for your protection we pray for your mercy and we pray especially father for protection from deception we thank you for your word and we pray God that it will be a lamp unto our feet and that through the light that comes from your word father we can disassociate ourselves with wicked and evil man who will wax worse and worse and we can conform to the mind of Jesus Christ we praise you father we ask your blessing on our study now we pray in Jesus most holy name Amen

so brethren let us begin then and get into the study for this evening we are into our judges or up to judges chapter 8 and I just want to go back to judges 7 just the tail-end just so that we do have the context and you'll remember here with Gideon's career here where he now has gained the confidence to go after the Midianite and the men from the east and the Amalekites and just here in chapter 7 and verse 23 the tail end of chapter 7 and the men of Israel gathered

themselves together out of Naphtali and out of Asher and out of all Manasseh and pursued after the Midianite so three hundred men were the army of Gideon and they went and they routed the Midianites and they got God caused the middle Knights to slaughter each other and now the Midianites are on the run and Gideon recruits these other tribes of northern Israel to help him go after the Midianite so

see not Nali and we saw previously in Chapter five Deborah abraded ah sure because a sure did not include involve themselves in the fight but here they do so people come from an apt Olli they come from a sure they come from Manasa and they pursue after the Midianites and then Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim so remember now Ephraim is the largest tribe of the north and it's really the head tribe so they are they the leading tribe of the Israelites and Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim saying come down against the Midianites so these messengers run up to Ephraim and they say you've got to help us come down against the Midianites and take before them the waters of Bethabara and Jordan so now as the Midianites are fleeing north the the if the tribe of Ephraim can cut them off then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together and took the waters unto Beth bara and Jordan and they took two princes of the Midianites these are very two prominent men of the Midianites think thief reminds capture the remember Israel has been under subjection to these people for seven years deep heavy oppression and now the tables are turning and and so Ephraim are they're gonna pursue this with enthusiasm and with real focus and

so they managed to capture now two of the princes Horeb and Zeeb-- and they slew Orab upon the rock Orab and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Xiv so these are very prominent men they have these places named after them all of the Midianites look up to these princes Ephraim captures them and slays them and they pursued Midian and brought the heads of Orab and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of Jordan so quite a conquest now we come to chapter 8 and the men of Ephraim said unto Gideon why have you treated us like this why have you served us at us that you called us not when you went to fight with the Midianites league we what have you done here you went to fight against the Midianites and you didn't call us we are if Reom we don't get it like what are you doing here and they did chide him sharply basically how dare you how dare you do something like this and not call us the tribe of Ephraim basically the head of Israel and they did tie him sharply and he said unto them what have I done now in comparison to you is not the gleaning of The Grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Ibiza they saying look I just come from this small clan a Beezer we're nothing we're nobody you're Ephraim and even what's left over after you do all your gleaning that's greater than anything we have in a Beezer so basically he flatters them he doesn't say to them look this is what God instructed and God did not want if we if we bring the biggest tribe of Israel to come and conquer the Midianites then clearly we can give the success in the credit to ourselves this is the exact opposite of what God wanted what God wanted is for all Israel to look and see

what happened and say praise be to God
we don't understand how this could have
happened with just a with just a small
300 man army so and I'm just seeing some
something on the chat here that some
folks are looking for the broadcast I'm
not sure I'm looking at the chat and
I've seen the broadcast is coming
through so hopefully they are able to
find that and see some people aren't you
- but RJ thinks you're on YouTube
watching from Wichita Kansas that's
wonderful

Elda Mira wonderful good to see you and
Cynthia okay so I think people are
finding the broadcast I'm not sure dawn
dawn s or Donny s what's happening for
you but hopefully you'll you'll catch on
to us

so yes okay instead of Gideon standing
up for God and saying don't you get it
this is by God's design you're the
biggest tribe you're the head tribe if
you took down Midian you'd give the
credit to yourself

Gideon doesn't say that instead he
flatters them and says oh the little
thing that you do is greater than the
best that we could do we're a Beezer
you're ephraim so a verse 3 now he says
God has delivered into your hands the
princes of Midian or a Benzie like this
is a big takedown and you did it Oh
Ephraim you're just so wonderful
Ephraim look what you did Ephraim you
took down these princes or a Benzi and
what was i able to do in comparison to
you then their anger was abated toward
him when he had said that and I think
this is a mess this is very unfortunate
because God was very clear to Gideon
I don't want Israel to give themselves
credit so rather than give the credit to
God what if what Gideon does is he

flatters Ephraim and says the little
that you look what you guys do you you
took down the princes you're amazing
you're wonderful you're powerful and
then that calms them down you know a
soft answer turns away wrath so it's
like oh yeah yeah we are wonderful I'm
I'm glad you know your place and I'm
glad you know that we're wonderful so
their anger they calm down so again
we're looking at Gideon's career and yes
he he took down the Midianites and it
took a lot for God to get him to the
place where he would actually believe
God and do it but he did it that's
wonderful but the beginning was a little
bit ropey and now we see that indeed
Gideon is also ropey and the point that
I'm making here is we study judges in
particular and in particular this judge
is when God sends a man to save his
people so that he can have mercy upon
his people who are we to demand
perfection from that man well I won't
accept Gideon because he's not perfect I
see all kinds of flaws in this man
therefore I don't want the salvation I
don't want the help that God is sending
that is ridiculous God chooses who to
use God chooses who he uses and he works
through flawed instruments and it's our
job to recognize that God is doing some
here that the Midianites are oppressing
his people for seven years and it's a
deep harmful oppression and God uses a
very flawed man to save them so that
Israel would acknowledge praise be to
God look at the love look at the
covenant love God has for us and it's
already going sideways instead of
Guardians instead of getting saying look
I'm nobody look how flawed I am God
chose me so that you would not boast in
yourself you would not boast in your

strengths that you know he uses a cartoon character but he saves Israel through the cartoon character because he has such a great covenant love for Israel so Gideon came to Jordan and passed over he and the 300 men that were with him faint yet pursuing them so these 300 men are there like a band of brothers and they are very clear on their mission and they're very loyal to to gideon now these are the men that God hand-picked work with Gideon and you know they're not the stars of Israel these these are sort of the lowest class of Israel that God says I'm going to save Israel through these men excuse me excuse me and he said unto the men of Sukkoth give I pray you see these are his relights that he's speaking to you there in Sukkoth give I pray you loaves of bread unto the people that follow me so there's 300 men that are following me we're saving Israel we're pursuing Midian please give them some bread for they are faint so there you know this is this is intense you know think of a an athlete running a marathon here in all of the physical activity and and how that's gonna drain them and they're they're faint and I'm pursuing after zebah and zalmunna kings of Midian so you would think here that if I tell you after seven years of oppression that I'm pursuing these people and I'm gonna take them down on behalf of all Israel that you would help me you know if I say to you look I'm going after Twitter and I'm going after Facebook and going after google so we can cast off this oppression and we can have some freedom here I would think you would support me I think you would you would be glad that the oppression is going to be lifted no I'm going after the kings

of Midian and so you people of Israel
can you help me can you feed my men so
that we can help you and the princes the
leaders of Sukkoth said are the hands of
zebah and zalmunna
now in your hand that we should give
bread unto your army like basically what
they're saying here is okay that's
that's really nice that you're going
after the kings of Midian uh have you
done it yet because if you haven't done
it yet I wouldn't be boasting if I were
you you know so we're gonna help you and
then when you lose these Kings ziba and
Zell moon are gonna come after us I
don't think so
like if you came to us and you had the
heads of zebah and zalmunna with you
that might be a different story but
you're just talking is just fancy talk
so I'm sorry we're not gonna feed your
man we don't want anything to do with
this and you know the Bible tells us
that in the last days brother will
betray brother and so here we see
brother betraying brother God has chosen
Gideon to take down Midian and these men
these Israelites of Sukkoth are saying
we don't want anything to do with it in
case it comes back on us now listen -
Gideon's response and Gideon said
therefore when the Lord has delivered
zebah and zalmunna into my hand so he is
quite confident that God will in fact
bring him free so he's been he's proven
God through the whole fleece experiment
and the dream that the Midianite had he
knows absolutely God is gonna come
through these men don't know that and
they're basically laughing at him and
saying I don't think so we're not we
don't anything to do with it so he says
listen to how he responds he says here
listen therefore when the Lord has

delivered zebah and zalmunna
into my hand so he knows that God will
do this then I will tear your flesh
with the thorns of the wilderness and
with prayers I'm basically gonna skin
you alive this is an Israelite talking
to fellow Israelites this is what it has
come to so they've come into the
Promised Land and this is what it's come
to an Israelite now is first of all
these are three lights are not going to
support a brother in taking down the
oppressor and then because they don't
support him you know he responded very
differently to ephraim when ephraim
challenged him he flattered Ephraim
you better not deal you better not mess
with Ephraim that's a very powerful
tribe but these men of Sukkoth not so
powerful and now we're beginning to see
something emerging in Gideon's character
which is unlike what we saw in him
earlier earlier we saw quite a meek man
and a man that was somewhat uncertain
and was humble now we're beginning to
see a level of arrogance that because
you have chosen not to support me when I
come back I'm gonna torture you I'm
gonna skin you alive therefore when the
Lord has delivered zebah and zalmunna
into my hand then I will tear your flesh
with the thorns of the wilderness and
bears how dare you contradict me how
dare you embarrass me in front of my men
I'm gonna destroy you fellow Israelite
and he went up there to Penuel and spoke
to them in the same way so again these
men are faint they've been fighting
they've been running they've been big
they're exhausted in they're hungry so
now he goes to another place in Israel
and says to the man of Penuel the same
thing can you've can you feed my men who
were taking down Midian and we're going

after these princes and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Sukkoth had answered him so what's what's happened to Israel and that's what I guess that's what oppression does when you've been oppressed for so long what's that called Stockholm Syndrome where you now have affinity with your oppressors I you know and again this is great for us to study so we can understand the psychology of what's going on today that we are being oppressed by the Marxist and we have an affinity we defend the Marxist we don't care about freedom anymore we do we tweak we don't care that the Marxists are trying to get more and more power as long as they give us free stuff and we'd rather we'd rather be oppressed and get free stuff than to be free and have to just rely on God and make our own way so these men actually have affinity for Midian rather than a fellow Israelite who wants to take down Midian through the instruction of the Lord and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Sukkoth had answered him and he spoke also unto the men of Penuel remember these are israelites fellow Israelites he spoke also unto the men of Penuel saying when i come again in peace so he's absolutely confident that God is with him he's going after the princess the leaders of the kings of Midian and when he's done with them cuz he knows God will be with him he says I'm gonna come back and I will break down this tower so the tower and Penuel is a great symbol and it's also a watchtower so that they can see and keep their place safe he's now saying I'm gonna destroy that now zebah and zalmunna were in car core and their armies with them about 15,000 men remember gideon only has 300

men so these Kings have 15,000 men all that were left of all the armies of the children of the east so remember it was the Midianites it was the Amalekites and it was all of the children of the east so now zebah and zalmunna they only have 15,000 men in their army that's a big number compared to Gideon's army but it's a small number compared to what they started with so he says for there fell a hundred and twenty thousand men that drew the sword so Gideon's three hundred men caused zebah and zalmunna to lose a hundred and twenty thousand men so they started with a hundred and thirty-five thousand men they're down to fifteen thousand and they're on the run and gideon went up by the way of them that dwell in tents on the east of Noba and jog beha and struck the army for the host was secure the army was secure so he's gone in and he's caught them and when zebah and zalmunna fled he pursued after them so he's he's fearless now these are the kings of Midian and he's going after them and when zebra and Zell munna fled he pursued after them and took the two kings of Midian zebah and zalmunna and discomfited all the hosts so very victorious as he knew God would be with him he was fearless now and Gideon the son of joash returned from battle before the Sun was up so that is quite quite an accomplishment quite a victory and in a short order and now he's coming back from battle and caught a young man of the men of Sukkoth and inquired of him so he knew he was cut this young man was coming from Succoth so they captured him and they inquired of him now and he described unto him the princes of sucketh and the elders thereof even

threescore and seventeen men so there are 77 men that this young man of Sukkoth is giving gideon the lay of the land and these are the leaders and this is how that the clan is made up and these are this is who they are and this is what they look like so Gideon is gathering this information because he made it clear what he was going to do to Succoth what he was going to do to the leaders in sakkath so this young man gives Gideon the information that he needs about fellow Israelites and he came unto the men of Sukkoth and said behold this is quite something they were laughing at him they were scoffing him and they were saying like why should we help you when you have these lofty dreams that these are pipe dreams they sort of dreams of delusion delusions of grandeur that you're going to capture the kings of Midian and you want us to help you and then we get into trouble for doing that I don't think so you're on your own so he says ok that's the way that's what you're gonna be about it when I come back with the heads of Zhi zebah and zalmunna

I'm gonna torture you and I'm gonna make you pay so now he's successful in came unto the men of Sukkoth and said Behold zebah and zalmunna with whom you did abrade me you scoffed me you laughed at me saying are the hands of ziba and Zell munna now in your hand that we should give bread unto your men that are weary and he took the elders of the city and thorns of the wilderness and bearers and with them he taught them in osaka' in other words he skinned them alive he tortured them just the way he said he would he wasn't joking this is the man that started out all humble and uncertain and needed reassurance now

he's become quite the tyrant and he doesn't tolerate any ridicule and he beat down the tower of Peniel he said he would do that and slew the men of the city these are Israelites good the reason God raised up Gideon was to save the Israelites the Israelites were not good people they were not nice people but they were God's people and God heard their cry and so he raised up Gideon not because Israel were good people not because Gideon was a good person but because of his covenant love for Israel so he took a flawed man to save flawed people because of his flawless covenant love that's what we have to understand and now we're really seeing the flaws in this man we're really seeing some terrible flaws this is what he's doing to his own people then said he unto zebah and zalmunna so and not only does he slaughter his people but these people these kings are still alive they're watching this then said he unto zebah and zalmunna what manner of men and now listen to this this is Gideon you want a perfect person to save Israel there are no perfect people the only perfect person was Christ he's the true Messiah but all of these messiahs in the book of Judges are flawed no the first one the story of auth Neal that one is like wow that's a real that's a real mini Savior that we can look up to the rest the stories are checkered so now now he's asking listen to the question that he asks these kings then said he unto zebah and zalmunna what kind of man were they whom you slew it to bore and they answered they were like you as you are so were they each one resembled the child of a king so they were dressed in a certain way that looked like you the

way you're dressed you look like royalty
they had that look as well and he said
so so Gideon obviously is changing the
way he dresses the way he conducts
himself his clan and so this clan these
people were dressed like him and he said
they were my brothers the men you know
they were my brothers even the sons of
my mother so you touched my blood now
listen as the Lord lives now he's
swearing an oath as the Lord lives if
you had saved them alive
I would not slay you uh-oh uh-oh is this
Gideon talking he sounds like Saul when
Samuel told Saul go and slay the
Amalekites all of them completely and
then Saul has his own ideas and then
Samuel comes and he says like what's
going on here like why why am i hearing
this bleating of sheep and why did you
save the king
now Gideon has his own ideas what did
God say to Israel Deuteronomy 7 and
verse 2 and when the Lord your God shall
deliver these nations before you you
shall smite them and utterly destroy
them you shall make no covenant with
them nor show mercy unto them so God
says look I'm taking you into this land
these are very wicked people I want you
to go in the land and completely remove
them rely on my instructions I
know what I'm telling you Israel has a
better idea Israel's ideas will coexist
with them will make friendships with
them will marry their children our
children will their our daughters will
marry their sons that our sons will
marry their daughters will worship
together we'll do business together
we'll just become one integrated people
and it completely corrupts them and then
God punishes them for that and then he
raises up this judge to put them back on

course and so the judge goes after Midian and completely slays them with just 300 men and in God's miraculous hand and now listen to Gideon these were my brothers if you had saved them alive I would have spared you huh that's not what God said to do and and oh by the way I swear by Yahweh I swear by yo Hova I'm bringing God into this that I would I swear by God that I would disobey God if you had spared my brothers kind of strange

this is Gideon continuing in verse 20 and he said to jeffer his firstborn so Gideon has become this great leader in Israel and all Israel is now seeing him as the leader and you don't mess with him he will skin you alive he will torture you if you mess with him so he has now become this like a king in Israel so his firstborn is next in line his firstborn is sort of that that heir apparent and so he says to his firstborn up and slay them and that would now be an honor to to jetha the same way that Gideon has developed its reputation among Israel that now if his firstborn comes up and slays the kings of Midian that's gonna put this sort of mantle on him that that that Gideon wants his son to have this respect of the nation up and slay them

but the youth disobeyed him the youth drew not his sword why for he feared because he was se youth kinda reminds us as Gideon himself remember in how God worked with him and down to the point of judges 7:10 where God finally says look if you're still afraid then go go with your servant pura to the army and then listen in and you'll hear this dream and then then you'll finally get over your fears so God worked with him because of his

fearfulness and now he's not fearful anymore
now he's brutal now he's like a warlord and his son his firstborn son he wants him to have the same honor now that he has inherited as a warlord but his son is actually you know there was the the the the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree so his son is fearful him he can't he can't slaughter it people like this been zebah and zalmunna said you do it yourself you rise and fall upon us we're kings or be humiliated by having some boy slaughter us you do it rise you and fall upon us for as the man is so is his strength so show yourself a man and Gideon arose and slew zebah and zalmunna and notice again listen to this and took away the ornaments that were on their camels necks and we know that these are moon worshipers and they would have the crescent moon on on the camels and and this was like reggae Leah so this is some very fascinating jewelry and he liked it and he liked the regalia so he kept that for himself hmm curious then the men of Israel said unto Gideon rule you over us both you and your son and your son's son also for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian the very conclusion that God did not want them to come to that the conclusion God wanted them to come to is Wow God is faithful and he really does love us and now because they see after seven years of oppression they finally see this freedom that has come to them as far as they're concerned Gideon and Gideon's clan can rule over them for the rest of their lives so they're happy to turn over there the sovereignty to Gideon and to make Gideon the king of Israel

now Gideon has a good response here at least at least on the surface but but remember here in like when why Gideon would have this response back in Chapter 7 the Lord verse to the Lord said unto Gideon the people that are with you are too many you have it I think 32,000 people he got that down to 20 to 12,000 I think 20,000 went home the people that are with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands lest israel vaunt themselves against me saying my own hand has saved me that this would run counter to what God is trying to accomplish with Israel that if they think they did it themselves they're not going to come to this place of true repentance and true intimacy with God so do too many people so god whittles down the army so that israel would not come to the conclusion that they've done it themselves and in verse 18 we see Gideon now how does he instruct his army he says when I blow with a trumpet in Chapter 7 verse 18 when I blow with a trumpet I and all that are with me then blow you the trumpets also in every side of all the camp and say the sword of the Lord and of Gideon why and of Gideon why why are you putting yourself in there God says I don't want Israel to think that they've done it themselves I want them to know that I have miraculously saved them it's like me saying you know we're gonna go and we're going to preach the gospel in this area and and and you know we know that we know that supernaturally that God is going to help us he's revealed that to us so when we go in we're gonna say the sword of everyone you know repeat after me the sword of the Lord and and the sword of Adrian like include me in there too so if they

come to the conclusion that hey you saved us I'm the one who set this up I didn't say let's make let's be clear the sword of the Lord period God has done this but he set it up that hey Gideon has done this so it's no wonder that they come to the conclusion okay you saved us we want you to rule over us now Gideon does have a good response and Gideon said unto them I will not rule over you neither shall my son rule over you the Lord shall rule over you beautiful that is exactly the right response if only it were true and what I mean by that is if only he could actually live this but right away we see him looking at the the golden jewelry on the camels and of the Kings and wanting that for himself that kingly jewelry I'll have that I'll have that for me and my family okay red flag we want you to rule over as Gideon oh no no no no the Lord will rule over you that's right that's a good response but that's talked what about actions so and I think he means well I think he really means this but human beings are flawed and God uses flawed humans so let's not look at a human being and say because they're flawed God would never use them look how flawed this man is and yet God used him and Gideon said unto them okay I'm not gonna rule over you I know you want me to rule over you want my son my grandchildren my great-grandchildren to rule over you want us to set up a dynasty we're not gonna do that I don't want to rule over you but can I just ask you a small favor and Gideon said unto them I would desire a request of you that you would give me every man the earrings of his prey for they had golden earrings because they were Ishmaelites so they're they're mixed in with Midian

and they're Ishmaelites and their moon
worshippers the crescent moon that's
their jewelry they're worshippers of
Baal and

these are very fancy jewels and Gideon
has an eye for it and he says you know
what just give me the spoils and they
answered and they said we will willingly
give them and they spread a garment and
it cast there in every man the earrings
of his prey and the weight of the golden
earrings that he requested was a
thousand and seven hundred shekels of
gold beside ornaments and callers and
purple Raymond again purple back in this
time was a color of royalty was very
expensive was beautiful now most people
are going around in sackcloth and drab
black and gray and and like canvas but
this is purple raiment beside ornaments
and collars and purple raiment that was
on the kings of Midian so he had an eye
for this and beside the chains that were
about their camels necks so he wants all
of this wealth I'm not gonna rule over
you but do you mind giving me all the
wealth and Gideon made an ephod thereof
and put it in his City

even in Oh for us so that's where this
whole is kind of come full circle this
whole saga began in Oprah with the
worship of Baal and now it ends in Oprah
with Gideon setting up an ephod in Oprah
and I don't think he set this up to be
an idol I think he set it up to say look
God is gonna rule over you let's put
this in place so that you can consult
this and know that God is your your
ruler so I think he his heart is in the
right place but he's flawed and so he
sets up this ephod and what happens and
all Israel went there a whoring after it
this is Gideon this is Oprah where the
whole thing began and Israel plays the

[___] and always Israel went there a
[___] and after it which thing became a
snare unto Gideon and to his house so
this is the the full circle

Gideon yes he had this wonderful moment
where he took down the Midianites but
prior to that we see a very flawed
character and after that and almost as a
result of that we see a very flawed
character thus was Midian subdued before
the children of Israel so that they
lifted up their heads no more so Gideon
was successful in the mission of putting
down the Midianites

but unfortunately a kind of the law of
irony he sets up the sea fog and Israel
then uses it as an idol and the country
was in quietness for 40 years in the
days of Gideon so that is the purpose of
the judge is to put down the oppression
to put down the enemies so Gideon did
that but it wasn't an absolute success
his character changed and the people
hoard themselves after the the ephod
that he set up and jerub-baal the son of
joash and this is interesting the
narrator previously had always referred
to him as Gideon the son of joash and
jerub-baal was a secondary name that his
father gave him when they confronted the
the Baal worship but now he's set up
idol worship and now he's known now at
least here in this this sentence he's
now jira Baal the son of joash so just
interesting that he's no longer Gideon
the son of joash after setting up the
idolatry he's now Jura ball so let let
Baal contend for himself and irony of
irony although he's defeated the
Midianites now baal worship is gaining
traction again within israel and again
very similar to what we see here that
you know the the western nations were
very successful in in you know

conquering the the the the Communists
and conquering the Islamists and
establishing a free nation and a nation
based on biblical law
the Bible and the judeo-christian
principles and then irony of ironies
through our immigration policy and
open-mindedness etc we've allowed these
very ideologies to infiltrate the West
and lead the West now in Baal worship
it's kind of a law of irony and Gideon
now listen to the character of this man
he's been very successful
he's almost worshipped as you know you
saved us single-handedly you saved us
Gideon we given all this wealth he's got
incredible wealth now and he's just
incredible honor and Gideon had
threescore and ten sons of his body
begotten so these are not adoption
adopted sons he had seventy sons from
his own body he had a lot of women for
he had many wives you know when you're
that powerful and you're that honored
and you're worship that much basically
you have your pick of the litter and
he's I sees a woman and he likes her
I'll marry you come on over and then oh
well come on over and he has all these
wives a bit of an egotistical problem
here and you can see when you have that
many wives there's no true deep
affection with any of them they're just
there to help you know give you children
and satisfy your lusts this is Gideon
this is Gideon not a perfect man but the
man that God chose and the man that was
faithful in the mission that God
assigned him to so he had 70 sons of his
own body because he had lots of wives
and his concubine now get this this is
what floors me so we're looking at the
end of his life here this floors me and
his concubine that was in Shechem she

also bore him a son she has lots of
wives he's got concubines and this wife
this concubine that's in Shechem she
also bore him a son whose name he called
abimelech which can be translated my
father is king
so I won't rule over you but I'm gonna
call my son my father is king so clearly
gideon has a very high opinion of
himself to have all these women have all
these sons and then to call this son my
father is king and gideon the son of
joash died in a good old age so he lived
a long time he did his mission of
freeing israel from Midian but he wasn't
a perfect man he was flawed and Gideon
the son of joash died in a good old age
and was buried in the Sepulcher of
Josh's father in Ofra of the abbeys
rites remember the whole story began in
Ofra and it has ending here in Ofra and
now Israel has gone back into idolatry
and it came to pass as soon as Gideon
was dead that the children of Israel
turned again and went to whoring after
by aalam and made balberith
their God so first they're worshiping
the ephod that he set up and not that
that becomes their whoring after that
gideon fights off the Midianites but
once he's dead
now they're going after ba all worship
again that quickly and the children of
Israel remembered not the Lord their God
like are we getting tired of this story
like this these people are just prone to
this wickedness they just have a heart
in them that inclines to this and so how
is it different today if God raises up
somebody who can save his people how is
it different today they have a heart in
them for evil that's why it's not enough
to save people physically they've got to
be converted and Moses made that very

clear in the Torah and the children of Israel remembered not the Lord their God who had delivered them he's the one that delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side neither showed they kindness to the house of Jeroboam namely giddy Gideon according to all the goodness which he had showed unto Israel like

is quite the statement for everything that he did for them for how he pushed back the Midianites and set them up and freed them they now at this point they'd forgotten you know forty years is a long time I mean short but it's it's fast it's short but it's long like it's like 40 years a lot can happen in 40 the whole world can change in 40 years as we ourselves of her witnessing in the last five years how much the world has changed but try to think back 40 years ago how the world was and so now this man that God raised up to free them they've forgotten and they don't care and they show no kindness to his house this is Israel so it's quite a story well just read the first part of chapter 9 will continue God willing with the rest of chapter 9 next week and Abimelech the son of Djerba all went to Shechem so remember Abimelech my father is king this is the son of the concubine who was given this name kind of singled out by by gideon himself gideon named him and Abimelech the son of jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren so there his mother the concubine from Shechem he goes there because he has blood brothers there so he goes to them and he communed with them and with all the family of the house of his mother's father saying speak I pray you in the ears of all the men of Shechem so

he's talking to his family his blood
brothers insane talk to all of Shechem
whether is better for you either that
all the sons of Garibaldi score and ten
persons reign over you so he actually
there is a dynasty now oh I won't reign
over you nor will my sons reign over you
but I'll just call this son Mike my
father is king and now he's dead and
there's a situation that Abimelech is
looking at it and he's going to Shechem
and he's saying look at the situation
jerub-baal is dead and his seventy sons
are ruling over Israel
so I'm talking to you men of Shechem to
think about this and what is better for
you either that all the sons of
Garibaldi people reign over you or that
one reign over you so you have a choice
we know that Gideon was the King and so
now his 70 children are going to rule
over Israel or you could have me what's
better one person rule over you or 70
people rule over you which are not
related to you except that you know
Jared but all is their father or that
one remain reign over you remember also
that I'm your bone and your flesh so
think about it I come from Shechem I'm a
blood related relation to you these
other 70 sons they're not from Shechem
you want them ruling over you or you
want me ruling over either way we know
that jerubbaal was the king and now that
the king is dead his sons reign in his
stead
so how do we how do you want this to
play out and his mother's brothers spoke
of him in the ears of all the men of
Shechem all these words and their hearts
inclined to follow Abimelech for they
said he's our brother it's like you know
we we can't think past our skin he's got
the same skin as us he's got the same

blood as us we'll go with him we don't
care that these are Israelites that
we're talking about you know we care we
care about our family and they gave him
70 pieces of silver excuse me
and they gave him seven
pieces of silver out of the house of
Bala births this is the the the covenant
of Baal this is this is where they
worship instead of the Covenant of yova
they have the Covenant to Baja they
there's the house of of this pagan
worship and they gave from 70 pieces of
silver out of the house of balberith
we're with Abimelech hired vain and
light persons which followed him so this
would be the equivalent of the and Tifa
of the day stupid people losers who are
going nowhere that are easily
manipulated
we're with Abimelech hired vain and
light persons which followed him and he
went unto his father's house at Ofra and
he murdered he slew his brothers the
sons of jeribai
70 people so whatever position
jeribai all Gideon had attained to
within Israel it was highly coveted and
this position of kingship this son he
did not want to share it Abimelech did
not want to share it with the other
seventy that's how powerful Gideon was
that's how desirable his position in
Israel was oh I won't rule over you no
nor will my sons rule over you God will
rule over you but when he dies now
there's a contest as to who will rule
over Israel in his place all seventy
sons or abemolik so they now they it's
so desirable that they'll actually
slaughter fellow Israelites fellow
children of Djerba all that's what power
does to people they'll stop at nothing
not withstanding yet Jotham the youngest

son of Jerub-baal was left for he hid himself so head even if they found the child they would have slaughtered the child but he hid and that's the only reason he lived is the he escaped these are power-hungry people this doesn't change you know why it doesn't change

because human beings change human beings come and go but it's the same devil it's the same Satan who lusts for power and uses human beings as puppets so all the patterns that we see here those patterns are still around us today because it's the same devil and all the men of Shechem gathered together and all the house of Milcho

and went and made a beam elect king by the plane of the pillar that was in Shechem this is Gideon's legacy the sword of the Lord and of Gideon Oh Gideon you saved us you rule over us oh no no I couldn't possibly rule over you the Lord will rule over you but you know what all this wealth give me all of that wealth of course and now he's the most powerful person and in effect he becomes the king that when he dies his 70 sons are now ruling over Israel and Abimelech comes up with this scheme to say no Shechem do you want 70 sons where they're gonna make decisions and not necessarily in your favor or do you want me a man of Shechem well always rule in your favor over the rest of Israel yeah we want you okay let's slaughter all of Gideon's children

this is Gideon's legacy so what we want to be clear about as we study the judges is the poor character of Israel God's people God's chosen people how low their character was and how that did not deter God that God has a plan for Israel their character or a lack of character

notwithstanding because he's made a promise to the patriarchs and because of that promise to the patriarchs he's going to flip and so this whole thing that we see playing out on the earth today nobody knows what's going on on planet earth everybody's confused except for the people who understand the Bible and understand that God has a plan and his plan very much involves Israel despite their poor character and because of their poor character this how shall we say this punishment that we see Israel constantly subjected to is just gonna constantly intensify until the ultimate suffering which is a time of suffering that is unprecedented and it is specifically the time of Jacob's trouble it's specifically the time of Israel's trouble because God is going to drive Israel to true repentance and the other thing that we see is again because of this covenant love it's not just a superficial love because of this covenant love that God has for Israel he will use men that are flawed and these flawed men will do God's will and we can't look at the men and say because he's flawed I will not accept God's help this is a pretty flawed man that we just studied when we look at his career the whole arc of the career it's not the greatest testimony and yet he's considered faithful he's considered faithful because he did what God raised him up to do so let's think about this let's think about God's covenant love for his people and let's praise God and thank God for his covenant faithfulness Jesus Christ what a faithful God we serve declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient days that which is not yet done saying my plans shall stand we stand on the solid rock

praise God
you