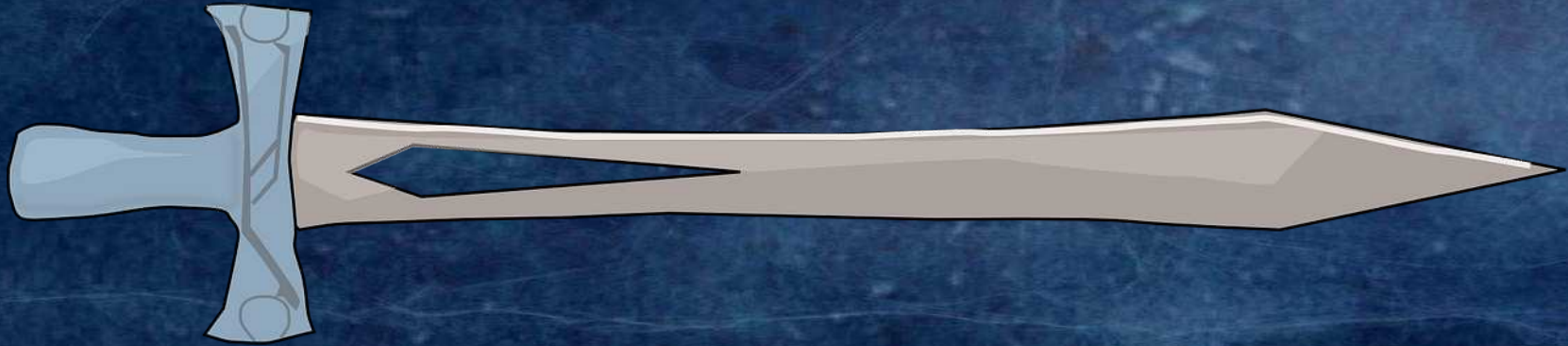


**IN
WHOSE
EYES?**



The Wrong Kind of Leader
Judges 8:29-9:57

1. Unfaithfulness and treachery from within (Judges 8:28-9:6)



1. Unfaithfulness and treachery from within (Judges 8:29-9:6)

- 29 Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house.**
- 30 Now Gideon had seventy sons who were his direct descendants, for he had many wives.**
- 31 His concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech.**



Shechem

32 And Gideon the son of Joash died at a ripe old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

33 Then it came about, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the sons of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-berith their god.

34 Thus the sons of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;

35 nor did they show kindness to the household of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) in accord with all the good that he had done to Israel.

¹ And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's relatives, and spoke to them and to the whole clan of the household of his mother's father, saying,

² "Speak, now, in the hearing of all the leaders of Shechem, 'Which is better for you, that seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, rule over you, or that one man rule over you?' Also, remember that I am your bone and your flesh."

³ And his mother's relatives spoke all these words on his behalf in the hearing of all the leaders of Shechem; and they were inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our relative."

⁴ They gave him seventy pieces of silver from the house of Baal-berith with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless fellows, and they followed him.

⁵ Then he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, for he hid himself.

⁶ All the men of Shechem and all Beth-millo assembled together, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar which was in Shechem.

2. Confrontation with a curse (Judges 9:6-21)




2. Confrontation with a curse (Judges 9:7-21)

- ⁷ Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and called out. Thus he said to them, "Listen to me, O men of Shechem, that God may listen to you.
- ⁸ Once the trees went forth to anoint a king over them...



REIGN OVER US!

A cartoon illustration of a tree with a dark brown trunk and a large, rounded, dark green canopy. The tree is set against a light blue sky and a green ground. A white speech bubble with a black border is positioned to the right of the tree's canopy, containing text.

SHALL I LEAVE MY
FATNESS
WITH WHICH GOD
AND MEN ARE
HONORED AND
GO TO WAVE
OVER THE TREES?



**YOU COME,
REIGN OVER US!**



**SHALL I LEAVE MY
SWEETNESS
AND MY
GOOD FRUIT,
AND
GO TO WAVE
OVER THE TREES?**



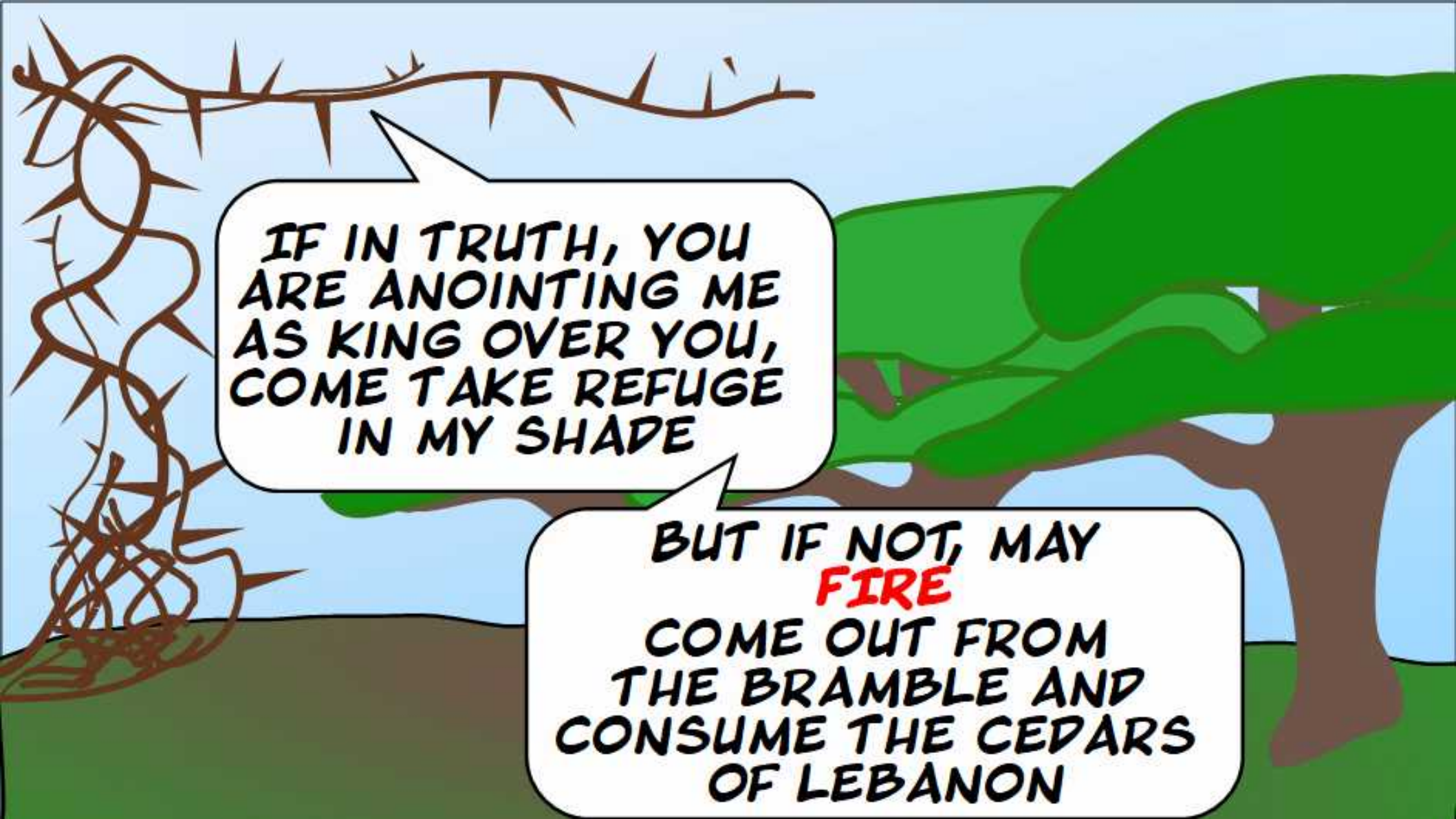
**YOU COME,
REIGN OVER US!**



**SHALL I LEAVE
MY NEW WINE,
WHICH CHEERS GOD
AND MEN, AND
GO TO WAVE
OVER THE TREES?**



**YOU COME,
REIGN OVER US!**



IF IN TRUTH, YOU
ARE ANOINTING ME
AS KING OVER YOU,
COME TAKE REFUGE
IN MY SHADE

BUT IF NOT, MAY
FIRE
COME OUT FROM
THE BRAMBLE AND
CONSUME THE CEDARS
OF LEBANON

¹⁶ “Now therefore, if you have dealt in truth and integrity in making Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have dealt with him as he deserved—

¹⁷ for my father fought for you and risked his life and delivered you from the hand of Midian;

¹⁸ but you have risen against my father’s house today and have killed his sons, seventy men, on one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your relative—

19 if then you have dealt in truth and integrity with Jerubbaal and his house this day, rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you.

20 But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech and consume the men of Shechem and Beth-millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem and from Beth-millo, and consume Abimelech.”

21 Then Jotham escaped and fled, and went to Beer and remained there because of Abimelech his brother.


2. The curse of turning on one another (Judges 9:22-57)



3. The curse of turning on one another (Judges 9:22-57)

- 22** Now Abimelech ruled over Israel three years.
- 23** Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,
- 24** so that the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood might be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers.

25 The men of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who might pass by them along the road; and it was told to Abimelech.



Judges 9:26-41
Gaal sows unrest

42 Now it came about the next day, that the people went out to the field, and it was told to Abimelech.

43 So he took his people and divided them into three companies, and lay in wait in the field; when he looked and saw the people coming out from the city, he arose against them and slew them.

44 Then Abimelech and the company who was with him dashed forward and stood in the entrance of the city gate; the other two companies then dashed against all who were in the field and slew them.

45 Abimelech fought against the city all that day, and he captured the city and killed the people who were in it; then he razed the city and sowed it with salt.

46 When all the leaders of the tower of Shechem heard of it, they entered the inner chamber of the temple of El-berith.

47 It was told Abimelech that all the leaders of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

48 So Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand and cut down a branch from the trees, and lifted it and laid it on his shoulder. Then he said to the people who were with him, "What you have seen me do, hurry and

49 All the people also cut down each one his branch and followed Abimelech, and put them on the inner chamber and set the inner chamber on fire over those inside, so that all the men of the tower of Shechem also died, about a thousand men and women.

50 Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and he camped against Thebez and captured it.

51 But there was a strong tower in the center of the city, and all the men and women with all the leaders of the city fled there and shut themselves in; and they went up on the roof of the tower.

52 So Abimelech came to the tower and fought against it, and approached the entrance of the tower to burn it with fire.

53 But a certain woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech's head, crushing his skull.

54 Then he called quickly to the young man, his armor bearer, and said to him, “Draw your sword and kill me, so that it will not be said of me, ‘A woman slew him.’” So the young man pierced him through, and he died.

55 When the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, each departed to his home.

56 Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father in killing his seventy brothers.

57 Also God returned all the wickedness of the men of Shechem on their heads, and the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal came upon them.

Lessons

- One
- Two