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**Day 79 – March 20**

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## **Conquering the Land (1400 – 1100 BCE)**

### ***Gideon and His Son***

**Readings: *Judges 8:4-9:57***

#### ***Reflections:***

- We see more violence and judgment. Again, praise God we are under Christ.
- The story about Jether is sad. Trying to get a boy to kill the men? Remember, this is about how bad it can get.
- Here is a key statement. When asked to become a ruler, Gideon says, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The Lord will rule over you.” That expresses what God’s desire was for the people but they always want the control and security of an earthly leader, eventually a king like the other nations have.
- It is interesting how an ephod, something that was to be used in the tabernacle for the priests, becomes an object of worship and an idol. It says it became a snare to Gideon and his family. We see here how again even a great leader used by God without God’s presence through his Spirit living through him leaves the person vulnerable to falling into a habitual pattern of sin.
- These mercenaries were “reckless adventurers.” There are some people who love to live on the edge of life and death.
- The first failed attempt at a King for one clan comes through the story of Abimelech. Talk about a power hungry, messed up leader. Anyway, God waits three years before he brings judgment on him and his false kingship through an evil spirit. It appears even demons must obey God. Also, the whole parable of Jotham is interesting and no doubt carries meaning into future generations and the people will want a king and will suffer under the rule of kings.
- The story of Gaal and Abimelech and Shechem is like a Hollywood action movie. It ends again with some horrible scenes: 1) a thousand people being burned to death in a tower; 2) Abimelech tries it a second time and a woman cracks his head open with a millstone; 3) Abimelech asks his own servant to run him through with a sword so they

can't say a woman killed him. Talk about awful! Throughout Judges we see the absolute horror of what happens when everyone does what they think is right in their own eyes.

- God's conclusion? "Thus God repaid the wickedness that Abimelech had done to his father by murdering his seventy brothers. God also made the men of Shechem pay for all their wickedness. The curse of Jotham ...came on them." Judgment upon judgment falls. Again, how bad can it get? And there is still more to come!