

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

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PART 15: TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

A DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY

Gideon returned to civilian life after God gave him the victory over the enemies of Israel. He was a total failure as a husband and a father. By ignoring God's commandment that a man should only have one wife, Gideon decided to add a number of women that he married and those wives gave him 70 sons. **Judges 8:29-30; Genesis 2:24-25**

Gideon was not satisfied with his numerous wives and his sexual appetite caused him to add a concubine.¹ She bore him a son named Abimelech and he was considered a bastard at that time. **Judges 8:31**

AN OPEN DOOR FOR SATAN

Gideon did not provide strong moral leadership as a judge of Israel, and as soon as he died, the Israelites returned to pagan worship. They did not have any respect for the sons of Gideon. **verses 33-35**

Abimelech knew that his 70 half-brothers despised him and would harm him. As soon as his father was dead, Abimelech went to Shechem where his mother and her family lived. There was no precedent that a son of a judge would become the next judge; instead, each judge was handpicked by God. Abimelech was an evil man and acted like a shrewd politician. He convinced his mother's family that it was better for them to be ruled by Abimelech than the 70 sons of Gideon. **Judges 9:1-2**

The evil spirits in charge of Abimelech transferred to his mother's family and they in turn spoke and transferred the evil spirits to the men of Shechem. **verse 3**

The men of Shechem went to their pagan temple and took 70 pieces of silver from the temple funds. Abimelech used that money to hire assassins, traveled with these hired murderers to his father's homestead, and through a stealth attack, he was able to murder 69 of his half-brothers. **verses 4-5**

The men of Shechem then made a cold-blooded murderer their king despite the fact that God had not told the people of Israel they could have one. **verse 6**

The surviving son, Jotham, spoke a curse over Abimelech and the people of Shechem. **verses 7-21**

A THREE YEAR REIGN

Abimelech was a murderer and a pagan worshiper. God let him think that he had gotten away with the murder of his half-brothers for three years, but once the judgment of God began, it was downhill from that time on until the Abimelech died. **verses 22-57**

¹ In polygamous societies, a concubine lives with a man but has lower status than his wife or wives.



A 45 YEAR PERIOD

Once Abimelech was dead, God raised up two other judges.

Tola was the first one and he judged Israel for 23 years. **Judges 10:1-2**

He was followed by Jair, who judged Israel for 22 years. **verses 3-5**

BACK TO THE PAGAN CYCLE

When Jair died, the people of Israel backslid worse than ever and started to serve the pagan gods Baalim and Ashtaroth², the gods of Syria³, the gods of Zidon⁴, the gods of Moab⁵, the gods of Ammon⁶, and the god of the Philistines.⁷ Not only did they get deeply into demonic pagan worship, the Israelites also forsook the Lord and stopped serving Him altogether. **verse 6**

GOD'S RESPONSE

The anger of the Lord was fierce and He withdrew the protection over Israel and empowered the Philistines and the people of Ammon to attack the Israelites and oppress them for 18 years. **verses 7-9**

REPENTANCE

After 18 years of being subdued, the people of Israel finally decided to repent. **verse 10**

God was tired of their repentance and refused to deliver them. He stated that should seek help from their demon gods. **verses 11-14**

The people of Israel realized they could not manipulate the Lord and subsequently told Him to do whatever He wanted as long as He delivered them from the oppression. **verses 15-16**

WAR BREAKS OUT

The forces of Ammon set up base camp for an invasion of Gilead⁸ and the Israelites set up their base camp at Mizpeh.⁹ **verses 17-18**

Gilead was a man from the tribe of Manasseh, and like so many other men in Israel, he had a son named Jephthah with a pagan worship prostitute. **Judges 11:1**

Just like Gideon, Gilead had children with his wife and the sons that she bore despised Jephthah and told him that he would have no inheritance. As a result, Jephthah fled

² Astaroth (Ashtaroth, Astarot and Asteroth) is a male figure most likely named after the Mesopotamian goddess Ishtar.

³ Ishtar or Astarte was a goddess of love and war; Nabu was a god of writing and scribes; Nergal was a god of the Underworld; Tiamat was a sea goddess.

⁴ Ashtoreth and the fish

⁵ Chemosh was the god of the Moabites. The worship of Molech and Chemosh is almost synonymous with sorcery, adultery, incest, prostitution and the sacrifice of unwanted children in the fire.

⁶ Molech

⁷ Dagon was a fish god and a god of fertility.

⁸ Gilead was a mountainous region east of the Jordan River that was divided among the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh and situated in modern day Jordan.

⁹ Mizpeh was town in Gilead where Jephthah lived and where he assumed the command of the Israelites in a time of war.

from his half-brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob¹⁰ where he gathered men without morals and became known as a fierce warrior. **verses 2-3**

When elders of Gilead realized that soldiers of Ammon were about to attack, they turned to Jephthah and asked him to become their leader. **verses 4-11**

Jephthah tried diplomacy with the king of Ammon after assuming the leadership position to no avail. **verses 12-28**

Regardless of the spiritual status of Jephthah, God decided to use him to defeat the Ammonites. **verse 29**

HUMAN SACRIFICE

Jephthah was still a pagan worshiper but he made a vow to the Lord that whatever came out the door to meet him after his victory over the Ammonites would be sacrificed as a burnt offering. God had never asked for a human sacrifice and made it clear that it was a sin to kill a human being. Jephthah knew that it would be a human being that would come out from his house. **verse 30-31; Exodus 20:13**

God did in fact deliver the Ammonites into the hands of Jephthah and his army despite his sins. **Judges 11:32-33**

When Jephthah came home after the victory, he was surprised when his daughter was the first one to come out through the door and welcome him home. It is important to note that neither Jephthah nor his daughter knew the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and she willingly agreed to be killed and burnt as a sacrifice. The reality is that she was sacrificed to Satan. **verses 34-39**

The murder and sacrifice of this young woman was then glorified by future generations of young women in Israel who lamented the event. **verse 40**

Jephthah did not bring a blessing to the people of Israel; instead, he ushered in a bloody civil war where Israelites killed other Israelites. **Judges 12:1-6**

Jephthah only lasted six years as a judge until he was taken out of circulation by the Lord. **verse 7**

SUMMARY

Abimelech and Jephthah both represent the fruit of an immoral sexual appetite. Neither of these men could help the fact that their fathers were whoremongers and they paid for the sins of their parents. **Exodus 20:1-6; Deuteronomy 23:2**

Millions of men and women today were conceived out of wedlock and many of them raised by one parent. These are broken people, infested with demons, and unable to cope with life. Their idols are movie stars, sports heroes and music performers who are also warped spiritually and hooked on sexual immorality, alcohol and other drugs. Homosexuality has made huge inroads among television personalities and entertainers and creates destruction among the people who view them as "idols."

¹⁰ Tob was on the northern boundary of Perea, between Syria and the land of Ammon.

The people of Israel called out to God when they were oppressed by foreign nations, but they never had true repentance. The only hope for a nation and for individuals is a total surrender involving repentance and a willingness to obey the commandments of God. **Isaiah 55:6-7; 1 John 1:4-10**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?

