

----- Abimelech 3 years -----

2768d AM, 3478 JP, 1236 BC

358. As soon as Gideon was dead, the Israelites fell into idolatry and worshipped Baalberith as their god. {#Jud 8:33} Abimelech, the son of Gideon, (born by his concubine from Sichem) planned to be king and killed seventy of his brothers, all on the one stone. {#Jud 9:1-5,18,24,56} [E30]

2769a AM, 3478 JP, 1236 BC

359. When Abimelech was made king with the Sichemites' help, Jotham the youngest son of Gideon, having escaped Abimelech's clutches, challenged them from the top of Mount Gerizim about the wrong they had done to his father's house. [L44] Using a parable, he prophesied their ruin and then fled from there and lived quietly in Beeroth. {#Jud 9:1-57}

2771d AM, 3481 JP, 1233 BC

360. After Abimelech reigned over the Israelites three years, Gaal, a man of Sichem, made a conspiracy against him. When Zebul discovered this, the city of Sichem was utterly destroyed and sowed with salt. The inhabitants were all killed and the temple of their god Beeroth was burned with fire. From there, Abimelech went to besiege Thebes. There

he was hit on the head with the upper part of a millstone thrown by a woman and he was killed by his own armour bearer. {#Jud 9:50-54 2Sa 11:21}

Judges 9

1 Then Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his mother's brothers, and spoke with them and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

2 "Please speak in the hearing of all the men of Shechem: 'Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or that one reign over you?' Remember that I am your own flesh and bone."

3 And his mother's brothers spoke all these words concerning him in the hearing of all the men of Shechem; and their heart was inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother."

22 After Abimelech had reigned over Israel three years,

23 God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

39 So Gaal went out, leading the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.

40 And Abimelech chased him, and he fled from him; and many fell wounded, to the very entrance of the gate.

50 Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and he encamped against Thebez and took it.

51 But there was a strong tower in the city, and all the men and women—all the people of the city—fled there and shut themselves in; then they went up to the top of the tower.

52 So Abimelech came as far as the tower and fought against it; and he drew near the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

53 But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull.

54 Then he called quickly to the young man, his armorbearer, and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, lest men say of me, 'A woman killed him.'" So his young man thrust him through, and he died.

55 And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed, every man to his place.