

# Lessons From Gideon Pt. 2 (Judges 8, 9)



## The King

Deut 17: **14**When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,” **15**be sure to appoint over you a king the Lord your God chooses. He must be from among your fellow Israelites. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not an Israelite. ...

**17**He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray.

He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

**18**When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. **19**It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees

**20**and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites and turn from the law to the right or to the left.

Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.

# 1) Not Consider Himself Better than his Fellow Israelites

## Gideon's Ephod

Judges 8: **22**The Israelites said to Gideon, “Rule over us—you, your son and your grandson—because you have saved us from the hand of Midian.”

**23**But Gideon told them, **“I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The Lord will rule over you.”**

**24**And he said, “I do have one request, that each of you give me an earring from your share of the plunder.” (It was the custom of the Ishmaelites to wear gold earrings.)

**25**They answered, “We’ll be glad to give them.” So they spread out a garment, and each of them threw a ring from his plunder onto it. **26**The weight of the gold rings he asked for came to seventeen hundred shekels, not counting the ornaments, the pendants and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian or the chains that were on their camels’ necks. **27Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshiping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family.**

## 2) He must not Accumulate Large Amounts of Silver and Gold.

### Gideon's Ephod

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### 3) He must not take Many Wives, or his Heart will be Led Astray

#### Gideon's Death

Judges 8: **28** Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon's lifetime, the land had peace forty years.

**29** Jerub-Baal son of Joash went back home to live. **30** **He had seventy sons of his own, for he had many wives.** **31** His concubine, who lived in Shechem, also bore him a son, whom **He named Abimelek (My Father is King).** **32** Gideon son of Joash died at a good old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

**33** No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They set up Baal-Berith as their god **34** and did not remember the Lord their God, who had rescued them from the hands of all their enemies on every side. **35** They also failed to show any loyalty to the family of Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) in spite of all the good things he had done for them.

# Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.

## Abimelek

Judges 9: **1**Abimelek son of Jerub-Baal went to his mother's brothers in Shechem and said to them and to all his mother's clan, **2**"Ask all the citizens of Shechem, 'Which is better for you: to have all seventy of Jerub-Baal's sons rule over you, or just one man?' Remember, I am your flesh and blood."

**3**When the brothers repeated all this to the citizens of Shechem, they were inclined to follow Abimelek, for they said, "He is related to us." **4**They gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, and Abimelek used it to hire reckless scoundrels, who became his followers.

**5**He went to his father's home in Ophrah and on one stone murdered his **seventy brothers, the sons of Jerub-Baal**. But Jotham, the youngest son of Jerub-Baal, escaped by hiding. **6**Then all the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo gathered beside the great tree at the pillar in Shechem to crown Abimelek king.

# Loving and Obedient Relationship with God

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20 and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites and turn from the law *to the right or to the left.*

# Humility

Gen 3: **19** By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to *dust you will return.*”

# Humility

1 Cor 4:7 For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

# Humility

**1** Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples: **2** “The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ...

**5** All their deeds are done for men to see. They broaden their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. **6** They love the places of honor at banquets, the chief seats in the synagogues, **7** the greetings in the marketplaces, and the title of ‘Rabbi’ by which they are addressed.

**8** But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and **you are all brothers**. **9** And do not call anyone on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. **10** Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Christ.

**11** The greatest among you shall be your servant. **12** For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.