

Sermon Title: **“THUS GOD REPAID”**

Judges 9:22-57

- Abimelech requested & received help from Shechem to pay for mercenaries to help him kill his 70 half-brothers
  - For 3 years, Shechem got to experience what they wanted
  - & after 3 years, God sent an evil spirit (basically God allowed Satan permission to attack them)
  - The men of Shechem wanted Abimelech out of the picture (dead)
  - & the men of Shechem vocalized their displeasure to Gaal
- Gaal inserts himself into this strife between the men of Shechem & Abimelech
  - This “new protector” made it so the people of Shechem were NOT afraid of what Abimelech might do in retaliation
- Zebul was the military leader over the city of Shechem
  - After overhearing what Gaal was doing & saying, Zebul sent secretive word to Abimelech
  - Abimelech overpowers Gaal’s army & goes chasing after Gaal landing in Arumah
- A day later, Abimelech goes & stands at the entrance of Shechem
  - After an ALL day battle, Abimelech captures Shechem & kills the people who plotted against him
  - A city being sown with salt was a visual illustration that communicated a deep desire for a city to NEVER again become inhabited
- How truly SAD! Either thinking their “god” would protect them or that perhaps Abimelech wouldn’t dare attack the temple ...
  - The leaders of Shechem hide themselves in the temple’s inner chamber
- Word gets back to Abimelech & he goes & gets a branch & uses it to set the temple’s inner chamber on fire (killing about 1,000 men & women)
- It is implied that those in Thebez assisted Shechem in their rebellion
  - While Abimelech makes his way to the entrance of the tower to burn it (like they just did at Shechem)
  - A nameless woman threw an upper millstone off the top of the tower & it smashed Abimelech’s head
  - NOT wanting to die at the hands of a woman (that was a disgraceful way to die), Abimelech calls his armor bearer over to kill him