Lesson 7 Handout: The Bramble King and the Merciful God

Judges 9-10

Key verse: “Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem” (Judges 9:23a, KJV).

Objective: Self-rule brings ruin, while God remains righteous and merciful.

Outline

1. Abimelech buys support and murders his brothers (9:1-6).
2. Jotham pictures unworthy rule as a _____.
3. The bramble promises safety but threatens _____.
4. _____ without service becomes destructive.
5. God sends judgment between Abimelech and Shechem (9:22-24).
6. _____ righteously turns their evil alliance toward judgment.
7. Sowing Shechem with salt certainly marks severe _____; its exact agricultural effect is not stated.
8. God renders their wickedness: delayed _____ is not absent.
9. Israel puts away strange gods and serves the LORD (10:6-16).
10. _____ turns from idols to serve the living God.
11. Supporting another’s wrong makes one morally _____.
12. _____ is the righteous King self-rule cannot produce.

Questions and Notes

1. What did Shechem contribute to Abimelech’s crime?
2. What is the purpose stated in Judges 9:24 for God’s action in verse 23?
3. How can a person seek relief from God without truly seeking God?
4. Identify one temptation toward self-rule and one concrete turn toward the LORD.

Notes:

Further Study

Read Judges 8:22-35; 1 Samuel 16:14; 1 Kings 22:19-23; Psalm 7:11-16; Romans 3:21-26.