

ABIMELECH

The life and death of the son of Gideon as a type of the rise, history and destruction of the Papacy

ABIMELECH AND TYPES IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES

A simple rule of interpretation of types in Judges is that where there is a ‘full’ record of a judge they are types of Christ. Where the record is short it is because they are not types of Christ. An example of this is Shamgar (Jud. 3:31) whose feats are Samson-like but rate only a single sentence in the record.

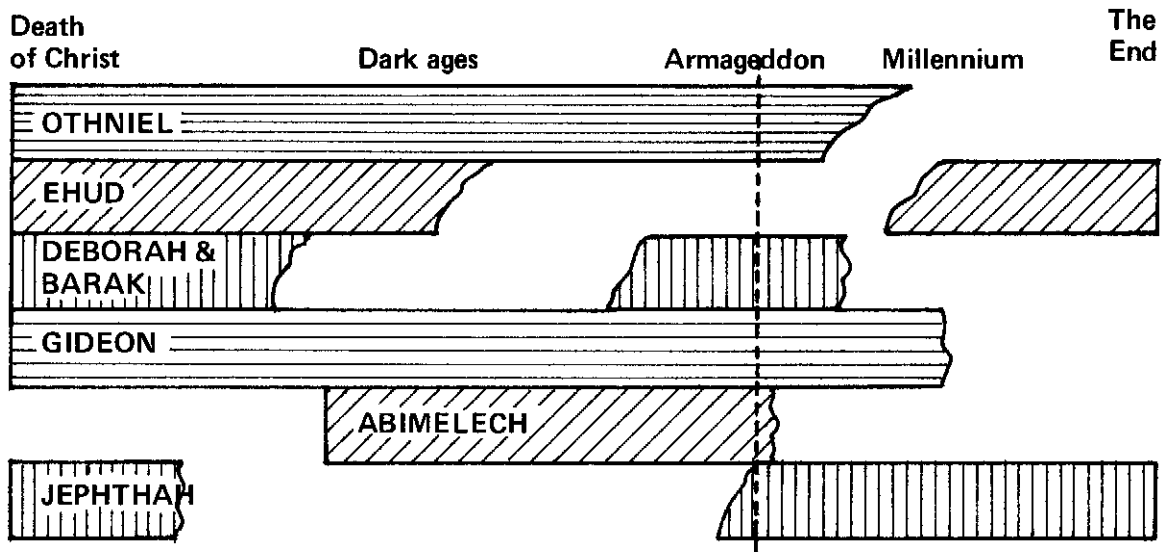
There are seven contexts in the Book of Judges where types of Christ are presented – six of these are positive while that of Abimelech is negative – a type of the Antichrist (i.e. in the place of Christ).

There were 12 divinely appointed judges. Abimelech was self-appointed like the Papacy (making a total of 13 = rebellion – Gen. 14:4).

Abimelech is the 6th judge in chronological order – 6 is the number of man – **Rev. 13:18** – “Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

MESSIAH IN THE JUDGES

The periods covered by the types in the book



THE RISE OF THE PAPACY – JUDGES 8:27-9:21

Judges 8:27 – Gideon’s house ensnared by an external form of worship – **The Roman Church grew out of a Judaistic apostasy in Christ’s house** (Eureka Vol. 1 pgs. 230-234).

8:30 – Gideon begat 70 sons (70 is the number of the nations in Scripture) – **The gospel of Christ spread to all nations.**

8:31 – Abimelech was born outside of wedlock to a woman estranged from Gideon’s house – **The “man of sin” was born out of spiritual fornication by the apostate ecclesia (2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 12:1-5).**

Abimelech means “Father-king” – **The title “Papacy” signifies Papal government. Papa or Pope means “father”. The Pope is a “ruling father” in the view of unenlightened men.**

Judges 9:1 – Abimelech is described as “son” (*ben* – family builder) of Jerubbaal (“Contender against Baal” or Paganism), but he was not – **Apostate Christianity initially contended against Paganism but then supported Constantine under whose forceful guidance they adopted pagan doctrines and practices into their creed.**

Abimelech conspired with his mother’s brethren to overthrow his father’s true sons – **The apostate church sought to destroy the true ecclesia.**

9:2-3 – Abimelech’s house made an alliance with the “men (*baal* – owners) of Shechem (“to shoulder a burden”, i.e. government – see 1 Kings 12:1; Isa. 9:4,6) to overthrow Gideon’s house – **The apostate church made an alliance with the State to assume control of the religious world and destroy the true ecclesia.**

Abimelech’s incentive was to ask the question “Many rulers or one?” – **With the support of the church the divided rulership of the Roman Empire was united under “the man child” Constantine. So also the church itself moved from laity, to clergy, to Papacy.**

The men of Shechem called Abimelech “our brother” – **The church fought alongside Constantine as his brethren in arms.**

9:4 – To cement the alliance the men of Shechem gave Abimelech silver (represents redemption – or religious authority) out of the house of Baal-Berith (“The lord of the covenant”) – **Roman emperors gave the church its religious authority because of its agreement (covenant) to adopt and uphold pagan doctrines.**

Abimelech hired “loose” and “unstable” men to support him – **So the church developed a paid clergy to promote its own interests.**

9:5 – Abimelech slew all his brethren “the sons (*ben* – family builders) of Jerubbaal (Contender against Baal)” – **The apostate church persecuted to the death the true Ecclesia which contended against its pagan doctrines and practices.**

Jotham (“Yahweh is perfect or upright”) escaped death by hiding himself – **A remnant of the true Ecclesia escaped death by fleeing to distant parts of the Empire.**

Judges 9:6 – Abimelech proclaimed king beside the oak of the pillar placed by Joshua (Jesus – see Josh. 24:25-27; Gen. 12:6-7; 35:4) – **The Pope was given political power by Roman emperors in support of his claims to be the true successor of Christ.**

Jotham witnessed against the men of Shechem on Mount Gerizim (the mount of blessing – Deut. 11:29) – **The remnant of the true Ecclesia assumed the position of divine blessing to witness against Rome’s apostate system.**

9:16-19 – Gideon had cast aside his life to secure redemption for Israel but they had not responded to his sacrifice – **So Christ laid down his life for his brethren but many corrupted the truth and sought another way.**

9:20 – Jotham forecast strife between the men of Shechem and Abimelech – **The alliance between Church and State was fragile, often leading to bitter struggle.**

9:21 – Jotham fled to Beer (“a pit”) – **The remnant of the true Ecclesia found refuge in “the wilderness” (Rev. 12:6).**

THE HISTORY OF PAPAL ASCENDANCY – JUDGES 9:22-49

Judges 9:22 – Strife breaks out after 3 years of Abimelech’s rule – **After 1,080 years (3 years of ‘days’ – 3 x 360) of Papal rule the Church rose against the two witnesses (the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 was 1,077 years after the Decree of Phocas proclaiming the Pope’s political authority).**

9:23-24 – God (Elohim) manipulated the treachery of the men of Shechem to avenge Gideon’s house – **The judgements on the Catholic system were providentially arranged (Rev. 16:1-11) to avenge the blood of God’s servants.**

9:26 – Gaal (“loathing”, root to detest, hence to reject) son of Ebed (“a servant” or as some texts have it, *eber* – “to cross over”, i.e. into opposition) forged a loose alliance with the men of Shechem against Abimelech – **Religious witnesses (God’s ‘servant’ – Rev. 11:3) who loathed Rome’s dogmas and rule crossed over and joined with the political witnesses to fight against Papal dominion.**

9:27 – Gaal and the men of Shechem trod grapes to make merry in the house of Baal-Berith – **Protestantism repudiated Catholicism but produced a creed full of the wine of Babylon as the basis of their new covenant.**

9:28-29 – A drunken Gaal contemptuously rejected Abimelech’s authority and in so doing confused the latter’s origins – **Protestant opposition to Catholicism was flawed by confusion, irresolution and intoxication with Rome’s pagan doctrines.**

9:30-33 – Zebul (“habitation”) ruler of Shechem sided with Abimelech but deceitfully in order to secure his own political power – **Feudal lords under pressure from political and religious witnesses craftily worked with the Papacy to secure their own ‘habitation’ by destroying the witnesses.**

9:34-40 – Gaal blinded by lies and deceit was defeated by Abimelech’s army – **Protestant opposition was crushed in Europe by Papal accord with treacherous and powerful feudal lords and monarchs. This culminated in the dreadful events of 1572 through to 1685 (Eureka Vol. 2 pgs. 641-649).**

9:37 – The plain of Meonenim should read “the magician’s oak” (or strength of the conjurers) – **Rome’s strength lay in its power over superstitious and credulous people. It is still a church of magic cures.**

9:41 – Abimelech victorious resided at Arumah (“height”) and let Zebul deal with Gaal and his brethren – **The Pope having gained the victory over the witnesses retired to his ‘throne’ in**

the ‘temple of God’ and allowed the feudal lords of Europe to deal with all remaining opposition.

9:42-45 – Abimelech crushed the common people of Shechem and sowed their city with salt – **Catholicism reasserted its complete control over Europe on the death of the witnesses. Rome was known to sow cities with salt!**

9:46 – The men of the tower of Shechem took refuge in the citadel of the house of El-Berith (The strength of the covenant) to hold out against Abimelech – **The remnants of Protestantism intent on securing their positions of authority and influence banded together against Rome but have not forsaken her pagan dogmas. Their strength is in their citadels – massive churches and craven adherents.**

9:47-49 – Abimelech overcame the resistance of the men of Shechem’s tower not by sword but by fire – **The Papacy’s power to bring Protestantism under its control by sword is gone but will still be accomplished by fiery zeal.**

Abimelech led his people to Mount Zalmon (“a phantom” or “illusion”), cut down a bough and carried it to the city as an example for them to follow – **So the modern Papacy masquerades as Christ’s chosen representative on earth carrying a twisted replica of the cross. The power of the cross is being used to kill the resolve of errant Protestantism by the mother Church.**

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PAPACY – JUDGES 9:50-57

Judges 9:50-52 – Abimelech attacked Thebez (“whiteness”) and took it except for the central stronghold which held out until his demise – **Catholicism in alliance with Russia will attack Jerusalem, and capture it, but its power in the Land will be broken while a remnant of Judah hold out in the old city.**

9:53-55 – Abimelech fatally wounded by an upper millstone cast by a woman is slain by his armour-bearer – **The second stage of Divine judgements after Armageddon will fall on Babylon the Great likened to the fall of a great millstone (Rev. 18:21), cast by a woman (the bride of Christ – Rev. 19:7).**

9:56-57 – God (Elohim) rendered to Abimelech and the men of Shechem their just punishment for slaying Gideon’s sons – **Yahweh’s mighty ones of the present and the future have a role in the judgement in the persecutors of His saints (Rev. 18:24; 19:9-21).**

