

AVIMELECH: SON OF GIDEON

- Gideon had 70 sons by his (70?) Hebrew wives
- 1 son by a Shechemite concubine
- Ba'al was Shechem's god
- Avimelech ½ Hebrew and ½ Canaanite
- Avimelech had his 70 brothers killed, but one escaped (Yotam)



PARABLE OF THE TREES

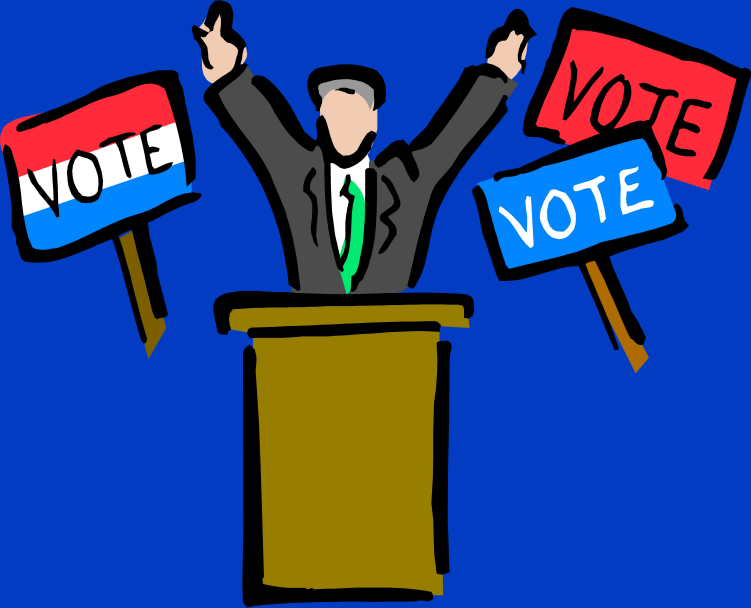
- Yotam pronounced a parable of warning to the people of Shechem
- Trees = group of people
- Olive, Fig, and Vine refuse to be king
- Bramble accepts with the condition that all the trees depend upon him
- CURSE! Avimelech will destroy his people and his people will destroy him



JUDGES: National Leadership

- Israel had a lack of leaders AND leadership
- People followed their own inclinations, then would become oppressed
- God would send a Judge to save Israel
- Judges 9 shows how easily Satanically inspired leadership can gain hold over a nation





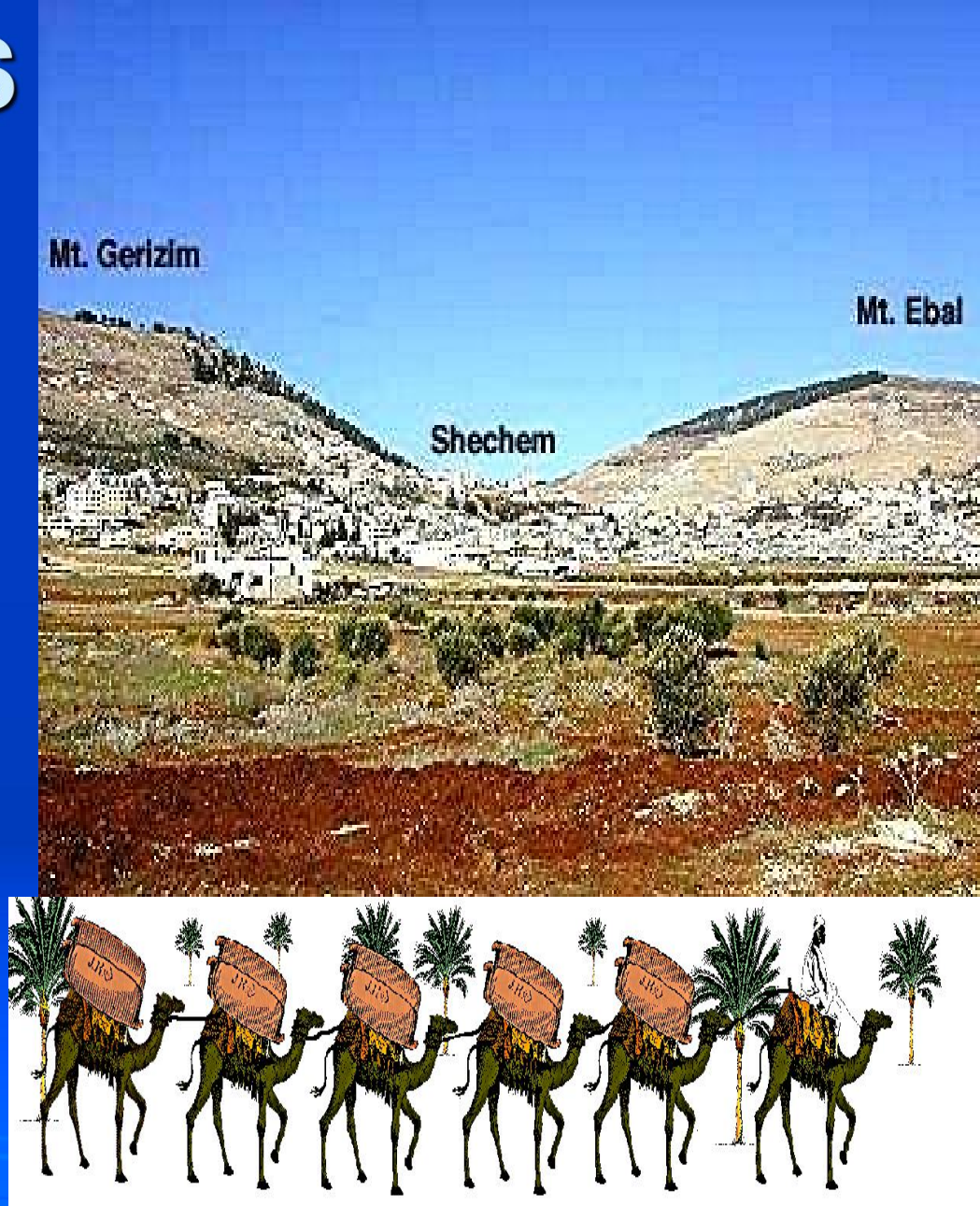
SHECHEM CHOSE AVIMELECH

- Avimelech did NOT take Shechem by force
- He made false promises
- Not every citizen of Shechem wanted him to be their king
- All within a nation share the fate brought about the leader's decisions
- American citizens bear a greater responsibility for our leader's actions than with any society in history



SHECHEM ACTS TO DETHRONE AVIMELECH

- For 3 years Avimelech ruled over Shechem
- He lived in Arumah
- Men robbed the trade caravans so it would reduce taxes and tolls and cause Avimelech trouble





GA'AL SON OF EBED

- Ga'al arrives at the pagan New Year wine gathering and celebration
- Led a band of pirates, a mercenary army
- Sukkot had been melded with this pagan New Year festival
- *Hillulim* = praise offerings
- They used praises set apart for YHWH, for Ba'al!



PARTY INSTEAD OF PRAISE!?

- Like in Avimelech's era, our current celebration of Yeshua's advent has lost its spiritual meaning
- We have melded the secular with the biblical
- Ga'al uses this moment to suggest rebellion
- Ga'al says if they allow him to be their leader, he'll get rid of Avimelech



ZEVUL, GOVERNOR OF SHECHEM

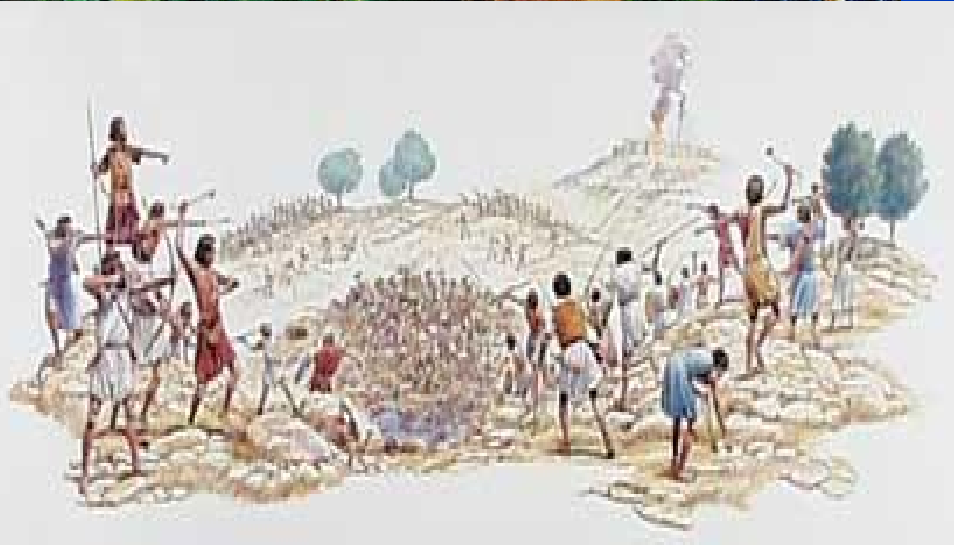
- Zevul sends a message to Avimelech of Ga'al's plans
- Tells him to come with his army and wait out beyond the fields
- Ga'al sees Avimelech's men coming but Zevul says it's a mirage
- Zevul provokes Ga'al to go out in the open and confront Avimelech's men



AVIMELECH'S REVENGE



- People of Shechem thought the fighting was over so they went back to their grape harvest
- Avimelech attacked them
- Went into the city and killed the inhabitants, destroyed the buildings, salted the soil
- Aristocrats fled to the tower of El-Berith
- Avimelech burned them alive inside the tower



THE DEATH OF AVIMELECH

- Avimelech now attacked the city of **Tevetz** for acting in sympathy with Shechem
- City was rapidly taken
- Army moved to a tower where many of the people went to try and survive
- A woman hurled an upper millstone on top of Avimelech's head, severely wounding him
- His armor bearer ran him through to save him from the humiliation of dieing at a woman's hand



JUDGES 10: TOLA AND YA'IR

- Story of Ruth occurs about this time in history
- Tola ruled for 23 years
- Operated in the hills of Ephraim even though he was of Issachar
- Ya'ir from Gilead
- Ya'ir was of high social status, lived a royal life
- Ya'ir judged for 22 years



YA'IR HAD 30 SONS



- Each son ruled over a city/village within *Ya'ir's* territory
- 30 sons on 30 asses means that his was considered a royal family
- This represents a definite departure from earlier Judges
- Gideon seems to have been the leadership model that *Ya'ir* chose
- The first Shophet to rule on the east side of the Jordan River