

Patrol Name : \_\_\_\_\_

**After Gideon**, (Judges chapters 9 – 12), Four Judges rise up to lead Israel: Abimelech, Tola, Jair, and Jephthah, then three more: Ibzan, Elon and Abdon before we get to Samson. Most of these men have little said about them, So, in this lesson, Abimelech and Jephthah will be the main focus. These are wild and unforgettable stories that give some idea of how the people of that time lived.

Abimelech, son of Gideon, is the first. (Chapter 9).

Gideon, also called Jerub-Baal lived to a good old age. He had many wives and 70 sons. He also had one son by a girl friend (also called a Concubine) that lived in a city called Shechem. This son's name is Abimelech. One can clearly see from this story that people lived differently than we do today.

This family mess can only lead to trouble. Let's examine the result.....

1. A struggle develops over who will be the leader of Israel after Gideon died.
 

**What is Abimelech's challenge to the citizens of Shechem? (9: 1-2)**

  - A. Would you rather have me, your brother, or the 70 other sons of Gideon rule over you?
  - B. Would you rather have me or the Philistines rule you?
  - C. Would you rather have me or my father's girl friend rule you?
  - D. Would you rather have me or Jotham?
2. The citizens of Shechem chose Abimelech and gave him some money.
 

**What did he do with the money?**

  - A. He built a government building with offices, and hired 30 secretaries.
  - B. He built bridges and improved the roads.
  - C. He bought a baseball team and joined the Jordon River League.
  - D. He hired reckless adventurers (outlaws) to carry out his dirty plan.
3. Abimelech and his outlaw band murdered all his brothers on one stone. Only one escaped.
 

**How did Jotham escape? (9:5)**

  - A. His mother hid him under a hay stack
  - B. Abimelech had mercy on his life because he was the youngest
  - C. He hid himself from the outlaw gang
  - D. Being a man of valor, he fought his way out
4. When the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo came together to make Abimelech king, Jotham hears about the gathering and climbs a nearby hill and yells out a parable. In the parable **what do the trees and bushes represent? (9: 7-21)**
  - A. Different kinds of food
  - B. Different kinds of leaders
  - C. Different kinds of parents
  - D. Different kinds of armies
5. The citizens of Shechem are fickle (changeable). (read on)  
 A guy named Gaal moves into town and turns the people against Abimelech.  
 A battle follows and many people die and get burned up. **How is Abimelech killed? (9:53-54)**
  - A. An arrow shot at random hits him in the heart
  - B. A cantaloupe from a trebuchet hits him in the neck
  - C. A millstone dropped from the top of a tower cracks his skull
  - D. The sword of an amour bearer sliced through his middle

6. **Who made the people of Shechem pay for their wickedness?** (9:56-57)

- A. Gaal
- B. A strong woman
- C. Governor Zebul
- D. God

7. Judges Tola and Jair come next. Not much is said about them.

**What is Judge Jair noted for?**

- A. He had thirty wives who drove thirty wagons
- B. He had thirty bows and shot 30 deer
- C. He had thirty daughters who rode 30 white horses
- D. He had 30 sons who rode thirty donkeys

8. The next judge is a warrior named Jephthah. He was first rejected by his brothers because he had a different mother. All the action of this story takes place on the East side of the Jordan River opposite Jericho and Jerusalem. The Israelites living there had messed up again by serving idols. So God let their enemies punish them. When they finally woke up and repented, **what was God's response?** (10:16)

- A. He was still so angry he turned his face away
- B. "He could bear Israel's misery no longer"
- C. He destroyed their enemies with hail, and healed their land
- D. None of the above

9. Although Jephthah was a renegade warrior, he was called on to lead the fight. He accepted and tried to negotiate with the King of Ammon. The King wouldn't listen. **How was Jephthah able to win the ensuing battle?**

(11:29)

"Then the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

upon Jephthah."

10. **What foolish vow did he make before the battle?** (11:31-46)

- A. "If God helps me win, I'll serve him forever"
- B. "Whatever comes out of my door when I come home I will sacrifice to the Lord"
- C. "I will give all the plunder (gold, silver, cattle, etc.) from the battle to the Lord"
- D. "I will build a 'Victory Monument' in honor of the Lord who is my helper"

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Scorer: \_\_\_\_\_