

~GAAL (151)

(Ga'al) [possibly, Abhorring, Abhorred]

- The son of Ebed who, along with his brothers, came to Shechem and gained the confidence of the landowners there.
- Then **Gaal** the son of Ebed and his brothers came and crossed over into Shechem, and the landowners of Shechem began to trust in him. (**Judges 9:26**)
- These landowners had previously strengthened the hand of Abimelech to kill the sons of Jerubbaal or Gideon, and then proceeded to make him king over them.
- In time Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to the brothers of his mother and began speaking to them and to all the family of the house of his mothers father, saying; (**Judges 9:1**)
- Speak, please, in the hearing of all the landowners of Shechem, Which is better for you, for seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, to rule over you or for one man to rule over you? And you must remember that your bone and your flesh I am. (**Judges 9:2**)
- So the brothers of his mother began speaking all these words about him in the hearing of all the landowners of Shechem so that their heart inclined toward Abimelech, for they said; He is our own brother. (**Judges 9:3**)
- Then they gave him seventy pieces of silver from the house of Baal-berith, and with them Abimelech proceeded to hire idle and insolent men, that they might accompany him. (**Judges 9:4**)
- After that he went to the house of his father at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, upon one stone, but Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left over, because he had hid. (**Judges 9:5**)
- Subsequently all the landowners of Shechem and all the house of Millo gathered together and went and made Abimelech reign as king, close by the big tree, the pillar that was in Shechem. (**Judges 9:6**)

- Apparently Abimelech constituted Zebul as resident prince of Shechem, while he himself personally lived in Arumah. In time, a bad spirit developed between Abimelech and the landowners of Shechem. So **Gaal** and his brothers now incited the city to revolt against Abimelech.
- When Zebul heard of this, he at once sent word to Abimelech, with a recommendation on how to cope with the situation that was developing.
- **Gaal** and those with him were defeated in the ensuing battle with King Abimelech and fled back to the city. Finally Zebul drove **Gaal** and his brothers out of Shechem.
- And Abimelech kept playing the prince over Israel three years. (**Judges 9:22**)
- Then God let develop a bad spirit between Abimelech and the landowners of Shechem, and the landowners of Shechem proceeded to deal treacherously with Abimelech. (**Judges 9:23**)
- That the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come and that he might put their blood upon Abimelech their brother because he killed them, and upon the landowners of Shechem because they strengthened his hands to kill his brothers. (**Judges 9:24**)
- So the landowners of Shechem set ambush men for him upon the tops of the mountains, and they would rob everyone that would pass by them on the road. In time it was reported to Abimelech. (**Judges 9:25**)
- Then **Gaal** the son of Ebed and his brothers came and crossed over into Shechem, and the landowners of Shechem began to trust in him. (**Judges 9:26**)
- And they went out as usual into the field and engaged in gathering the grapes of their vineyards and in treading them and in carrying on a festal exultation, after which they went into the house of their god and ate and drank and called down evil upon Abimelech. (**Judges 9:27**)
- And **Gaal** the son of Ebed went on to say; Who is Abimelech, and

who is Shechem that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal, and is not Zebul a commissioner of his? Serve the men of Hamor, Shechem's father, you others, but why should we ourselves serve him? (**Judges 9:28**)

- And if only this people were in my hand! Then I would remove Abimelech. And he went on to say to Abimelech; Make your army numerous and come on out. (**Judges 9:29**)
- And Zebul the prince of the city got to hear the words of **Gaal** the son of Ebed. Then his anger blazed. (**Judges 9:30**)
- So he sent messengers by subterfuge to Abimelech, saying; Look! **Gaal** the son of Ebed and his brothers are now come to Shechem, and here they are massing the city against you. (**Judges 9:31**)
- And now rise up by night, you and the people that are with you, and lie in wait in the field. (**Judges 9:32**)
- And it must occur in the morning that as soon as the sun shines forth you should get up early, and you must make a dash against the city, and when he and the people that are with him are going out against you, you must also do to him just as your hand finds it possible. (**Judges 9:33**)
- Accordingly Abimelech and all the people that were with him rose up by night, and they began to lie in wait against Shechem in four bands. (**Judges 9:34**)
- Later **Gaal** the son of Ebed went out and stood at the entrance of the city gate. Then Abimelech and the people that were with him rose up from the place of ambush. (**Judges 9:35**)
- When **Gaal** caught sight of the people, he at once said to Zebul; Look! People coming down from the tops of the mountains. But Zebul said to him; The shadows of the mountains are what you are seeing as though they were men. (**Judges 9:36**)
- Later **Gaal** spoke once more and said; Look! People coming down out of the center of the land, and one band is coming by the way of the big tree of Meonenim. (**Judges 9:37**)
- At this Zebul said to him; Where now is that saying of yours that

you mouthed; Who is Abimelech that we should serve him? Is not this the people whom you rejected? Go out now, please, and fight against them. (**Judges 9:38**)

- So **Gaal** went on out at the head of the landowners of Shechem and took up the fight against Abimelech. (**Judges 9:39**)
- And Abimelech set out after him, and he went fleeing before him, and the slain kept falling in numbers as far as the entrance of the gate. (**Judges 9:40**)
- And Abimelech continued to dwell in Arumah, and Zebul proceeded to drive **Gaal** and his brothers out from dwelling in Shechem. (**Judges 9:41**)