

~MEONENIM, BIG TREE OF (56)

(Me-on'e-nim) [Hebrew, *'e-lohn' me 'oh-nenim'*, Those Practicing Magic]

- A tree within sight of Shechem, passed by a band of King Abimelech's men before their fight with the landowners of that city.
- 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)
- **Big tree of Meonenim** translates the Hebrew words *'e-lohn' me 'oh-nenim'*. *'E-lohn'* refers to big trees in general, and *me 'oh-nenim'* is a participle signifying, **those practicing magic**.
- For these nations whom you are dispossessing used to listen to those practicing magic and to those who divine, but as for you, Yehowah your God has not given you anything like this. (Deuteronomy 18:14)
- The tree may have been so named because Canaanites or apostate Israelites **engaged in magical practices** there. Some scholars also link **the big tree of Meonenim** with the big trees of Moreh that are similarly described as being in the vicinity of Shechem.
- And Abram went on through the land as far as the site of Shechem, near the big trees of **Moreh**, and at that time the Canaanite was in the land. (Genesis 12:6)
- So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods that were in their hands

and the earrings that were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the **big tree** that was close by Shechem. (**Genesis 35:4**)

- 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**)