

~ZEBUL (86)

(Ze'bul) [Toleration, or, possibly, Lofty Abode or Habitation]

- **A commissioner of the city of Shechem, subservient to Gideon's son Abimelech. When a certain Gaal and his brothers came to Shechem and attempted to arouse the city against Abimelech, **Zebul** informed Abimelech and later challenged the rebel leader Gaal to prove his boasts by fighting.**
- **The Shechemite rebels were defeated and **Zebul** drove Gaal and his brothers from the city.**
- **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)**