

# GIDEON (Part 2): DECADENCE IN THE LAND

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Judges 8-9—Central Baptist Church—July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## INTRODUCTION

The *Canaanization* of Israel.

'decadence' = from the Latin for fall, sink, or decay

In a world filled with weak and wicked leaders, we can always trust Christ who is strong and good.

## LEADERSHIP DECADENCE

Vengeance is when we don't trust the Lord to correct the injustices we suffer, so we take justice in our own hands.

**Romans 12:19**—[19] *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*

Gideon took personally an offense against God.

**1 Samuel 8:7**—*And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them."*

*"Fight God's battles, not your own; and you will discover that he will fight yours."*  
—Joel Beeke

Those who belong to Christ must follow the example of Christ in suffering.

**1 Peter 2:21–23**—[21] *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. [22] He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. [23] When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.*

## RELIGIOUS DECADENCE

We tend to be enamored with what our eyes see, but God knows the godliness in the heart of a man.

**Acts 6:3**—[3] *Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.*

Gideon rejects the title of a king, but he welcomes the glory.

An ephod was a full body length vest that priests wore to symbolize their authority as mediators between men and God.

Those who lead the people of God must live a life and teach a truth that always points beyond themselves, towards God.

Israel attributed to themselves the victory that belonged to the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15:10**—*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*

When we are recognized for anything good that we have, we must be quick to point others to the grace of God that we have received.

**1 Corinthians 4:7**—*What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?*

## GENERATIONAL DECADENCE

Abimelech

- Gideon had many wives / seventy sons
- Gideon had at least one concubine / Abimelech was the son of this concubine
- Abimelech is not a judge
- “my father is king.”

The name YAHWEH is not mentioned at all in chapter 9.

- Othniel (3:10)—*“The LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand.”*
- Ehud (3:28)—*“Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand.”*
- Deborah and Barak (4:14)—*“Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?”*
- Gideon (7:9)—*“Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand.”*

The justice of God may delay, but it never fails to come.

The mercy of God won't delay, it is already ours in Christ.