


Judges: Gideon continued 8:1-8:35

YouTube channel: [Chris Nazarian](#)

Previous video:  Judges: Gideon why we fail

Gideon: the vengeful warrior 8:1-21

- Gideon in conflict with fellow Israelites
 - Succoth
 - Penuel
- Why is Gideon suddenly showing such drive and determination?
 - 8:19
 - Where is Yahweh in all of this?

Gideon: blatantly faithless 8:22-35

- The people call for a king
 - Who brought the victory?
 - Who orchestrated the events?
 - Who is supposed to get the glory?
- Gideon becomes king
 - Collects gold
 - Many wives yielding many children
 - Names his son Abimelech, meaning “my father is king”
 - Sets up an idol

Yahweh has been rejected as king

- Deborah story set up Yahweh as true king
 - Yahweh delivers through the judges
- Gideon story shows the people's choice
 - The desire for a human king 8:22
 - Concrete security in things we can control
 - The king figure acting kingly
 - Money, wives, territory, foreign recognition
 - King leads into idolatry

The transition: Yahweh to Gideon

- Gideon before (starts in Ophrah)
 - Hesitant, cowardly
 - Actions based on divine initiative
 - Seeking signs
- Gideon after (ends in Ophrah)
 - Vengeful, ruthless, greedy
 - Actions based on personal initiative
 - God becomes silent

Practical Application: sowing and reaping

- Galatians 6:7-10
 - You reap what you sow
 - More than you sow
 - Later than you sow
 - In community
- Positive and negative sowing
 - Good seed yields good fruit (galatians 6:22-23)
 - Bad seed yields bad fruit (galatians 6:19-21)

Practical Application: “one nation under God”

- What happens when a nation sows...?
 - Rejection of God
 - Lack of parenting
 - Exaltation of human leadership
 - In-fighting and division
- God is not mocked...

What we learned

- Yahweh is rejected as king over Israel in favor of Gideon
- Gideon shifts from faithful to faithless
 - He becomes vengeful, ruthless, greedy, and motivated by personal initiative
- Israel has made its choice to look like the people of the land
 - Sowing and reaping
 - Yielding: extermination from the land

Next time...

The character story continues: Abimelech and Jephthah

Read:

- 9:1-12:15

Think about:

- Gideon names his son Abimelech meaning “my father is king”. What should we expect from the Abimelech story?
- In the Jephthah story, find the verse where he is anointed as judge.

