

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.

