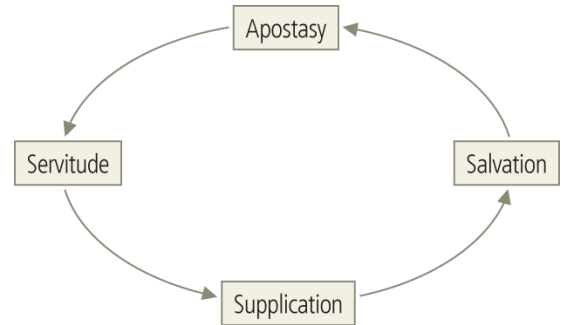


# Gideon's Foibles and the Rise of His Anti-Judge Son

Judges 8:4-9:21

## I. Intro

- A. Remember cycle? The wheels begin coming off.
- B. In chapters 8-9, we see not the status quo but a spiral down (note, the "LORD" is mostly absent from these chapters).



*Taken from the ESV Study Bible*

## II. The Fall of Gideon – From God-ordained judge to acting like a pagan king (8:4-32)

- A. Gideon's Conflict with Fellow Israelites (8:4-9)
- B. Gideon's Vengeance on Fellow Israelites (8:10-17)
- C. Gideon Executes the Kings of Midian in a Vengeful Rage (8:18-21)
- D. Gideon's Pseudo-Kingship (8:22-32, cp. Deut. 17)
- E. Application
  - 1. We must take heed to ourselves lest we fall. It is easy to go from serving the Lord's purposes to substituting our own.
  - 2. We need to give thought to how our own actions and compromises affect those we lead.

## III. The Rise of Gideon's Anti-Judge Son: Abimelech (8:33-9:21)

- A. The cycle doesn't wrap up neatly with "rest" in 8:28. There is a sad epilogue.
- B. The Rise of Abimelech, the anti-judge (9:1-6)
  - 1. He is not raised up by God.
  - 2. He acts like a Canaanite king, oppressing Israelites.
- C. Jotham's Fable: The predicted fall of Abimelech and the city of Shechem (9:6-21)

## IV. Conclusion – They are spiraling into a steeper and faster nosedive.

- A. Israel is falling for the world's way of doing this because their hearts are prone to forget the Lord.
- B. Israel needs a godly king.