8:30 ... for he had many wives ...

Deut. 17:16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.
8:31 [Gideon’s] concubine that was in Shechem, she also bare him a son.

9:28 And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? is not he the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: for why should we serve him?
Lessons from Gideon

- **Fear** hinders God’s work
- God Spirit can turn **fear** into faith
- God works with a few faithful servants rather than many **fearful** ones
- The objective of the Lord’s work is his own glory
- Spiritual success can lead to carnal stumbling

### The Judges Cycle with Abimelech

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Fear H3372, H3373 in Judges
9:6 the memorial oak in Shechem

Gen 12:6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain אֵלֹן H436 of Moreh. … 7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Gen 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth עֵנֶיסָא H424 which was by Shechem.

Josh. 24:25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. 26 And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an terebinth עֵנֶיסָא, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.
Jotham’s Rebuke from Mt Gerizim

Deu 11:29 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal.

Mt Gerizim from ancient Shechem. Van and Anita Parunak, November 1974
Three of Jotham’s “Trees”

The Olive

Thorny burnet in hills above Beit Netofa valley. 11/23/1974, Van and Anita Parunak

The Bramble

The Vine

Near Kfar Etzion. Van and Anita Parunak, June 1975

Thorny burnet in hills above Beit Netofa valley. 11/23/1974, Van and Anita Parunak