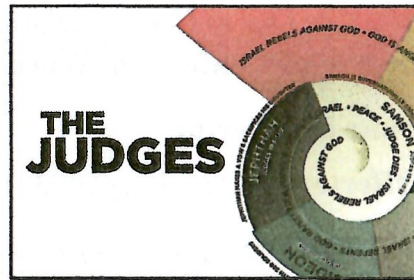


Fire & Shade

(Abimelech: Judge Unplugged)

(Judges: The Deadly Spiral #5)

Judges 9:1-24, 50-57



As goodness, righteousness and justice flow from our connection with God, so wickedness flows when we are disconnected from God.

Leadership (Jothams Fable)

Righteous - Like a Strong Tree Providing Shade for the people

Wicked - Like Wild Brambles bringing Fire upon the people
& themselves

Key Factor = Stay Connected to God!

A. **Authentic Judges** - *Imperfectly Connected to God*

1. **Rallying** - Uniting People by Blood
2. **Rich** - Spirit-Filled, Perfectly Supported by God to Provide
What His People Need
3. **Redeemers** - Bringing Deliverance from Those Who Oppress
God's People

B. **Abimelech** the **Anti-Judge** - *Disconnected from God*

1. **Barricading** - Dividing People by Blood
2. **Bribing** - Paying Others to Provide the Support He Desires
& Lacks
3. **Butcher** - Murdering Those Who Oppose Him

C. **Jesus** the **Ultimate Judge** - *The Perfect Connecting God*

1. **Ultimately Uniting** - Bringing People of all "Blood-Types"
Together by His Blood
2. **Ultimately Redeeming** - Paying for the Support Others Need
& Lack
3. **Ultimate Savior** - Sacrificing Himself for Those Who Oppose
Him

Additional Notes:



**Abimelech Destroying Shechem &
Abimelech Struck Down (German, 15th c.)**

The judges demonstrated the great things that God could do for Israel through his anointed leaders.

This story, by contrast, reveals the evil that could come to Israel through wicked leadership—in this case, the leadership of Abimelech. This story reveals the importance of following God's own Spirit-anointed leaders.

- R. B. Hughes & J. C. Laney, Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary (p.100)

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
of
Reno, Nevada**

July 5, 2026

Service for Communion Sunday

July 5, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

And the bramble said to the trees, 'If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade, but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon.'

– Judges 9:15

We Gather as People United in the Love of God

Prelude Nancy Tedford

Welcome and Church Family News Pastor Jay Hull

Call to Worship John 15:1-8 Ethan Chonez

Leader: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

People: Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

Leader: I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

People: If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Leader: If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

People: By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

We Worship Jesus Christ Who Died to Set Us Free

***Songs of Praise**

"This Is Amazing Grace" & "All My Boast Is in Jesus"

[CCLI License #246069]

***Time of Greeting**

Children's Prayer Time Katie Guerrero

We Cry Out to God in Adoration, Confession & Thanksgiving

Prayer of Confession, Word of Assurance & Gloria Patri

Time of Offering

Offertory, *Doxology (#731) & Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Hear The Holy Spirit's Redeeming Word

***Hymn of Preparation:** #402

"Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide"

Scripture Reading: Judges 9:1-24, 50-57 (p.208)

Message: Fire & Shade Pastor Jay
(Abimelech: Judge Unplugged)

At His Table We Commune with Father, Son & Holy Spirit

***Hymn of Preparation** #420

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

***Unison Affirmation** The Apostles' Creed (Hymnal p.845)

Words of Institution and Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** "God of Our Fathers" #710

We Depart into the Shade of Jesus Christ's Completed Work

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**



* indicates to stand if you are able

Weekly Events

Sundays

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
 9:30 am Prayer
 10:00 am Worship Service
 11:15 am Coffee & Fellowship

Wednesday

9:00 am Women's Bible Study
 (on summer break)
 1:30 pm XLENT-Teens (on summer break)
 2:30 pm Kid's Club (on summer break)
 7:00 pm Praise Band Practice

Thursdays

1:00 pm All Church Bible Study
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (on summer break)

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Jul 06 Fellowship MTM 2:00 pm	Jul 14 Evangelism MTM 5:00 pm
Jul 07 Stewardship MTM 5:30 pm	Christian Ed MTM 6:00 pm
Missions MTM 6:30 pm	Worship MTM 6:00 pm
Jul 12 Salad Luncheon	Deacons MTM 6:00 pm
	Missions- Moved to 7-7

News & Reminders

Salad Luncheon Next Week

The Salad Luncheon is here! A sign-up sheet for salads is in the narthex. See you next Sunday, July 12, after worship for good salads and good fellowship.

VBS is Just Around the Corner

If you know a kid who would enjoy having fun and making friends, it's time to ask them to VBS on Monday-Thursday, July 20-23, from 5:45 pm to 8:00 pm.

Mission Fair

Lots of things to see and lots of interesting people to talk with. See you on Sunday, August 2.

Kids Club and XLENT Teens

These groups will begin their Fall sessions on Wednesday, August 12. Registration is now open on www.covenant-reno.org. Forms are available in the narthex.

Women's Retreat Sign-up Sheet is in the Narthex

The Women's Retreat is October 23-25 at Lake Tahoe. Catherine Coon, a founder of HopeAlive! and a friend of Covenant, is the speaker. A flyer in the narthex contains room, meal, and cost information, ride-share potential, and scholarship information. Sign-up period is June 28 through July 26. Pay online is available on our website www.covenant-reno.org.

Picked a Plot Yet?

Summer has arrived, and the weeds are happy campers. Can you help remove the little rascals? Pick your own plot and your own hours. A map of plots and a sign-up sheet are in the narthex.

PRAYERS & PRAISES

For the Church

Pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee as they pray and search for a pastor to succeed Pastor Jay when he retires.

Prayer Requests

Nancy Tedford Healing
Joyce Miers Healing
Ernie Tanner Healing (submitted by Jean Burnett)
Aryanna Life circumstances
Eliana Glandon Life circumstances
Joyce Prosser Healing (submitted by Jim Prosser)
Lesley Weller Life Circumstances (submitted by Carole Faeth)
Janet Corty Healing
Corrine Dickman Healing (submitted by Jean Burnett)

Bereavement

Our New Neighbors

Pray for the new neighbors who have moved in

On Active Military Tour of Duty

Noah Arias, Terran Billharz, Cody Carr, Matthew Cunningham, Westin Hart, Chase Lemon, Levi Sanchez, Gary Hogman, Maille Mathieu, Brian Zordell, Margaret Guthrie, Benjamin Guthrie, Chandler Bryant, Caleb Mize & Jacob Simpkins

Budget,
 Expenses
 &
 Giving
 6-30-26

