



SUMMIT

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

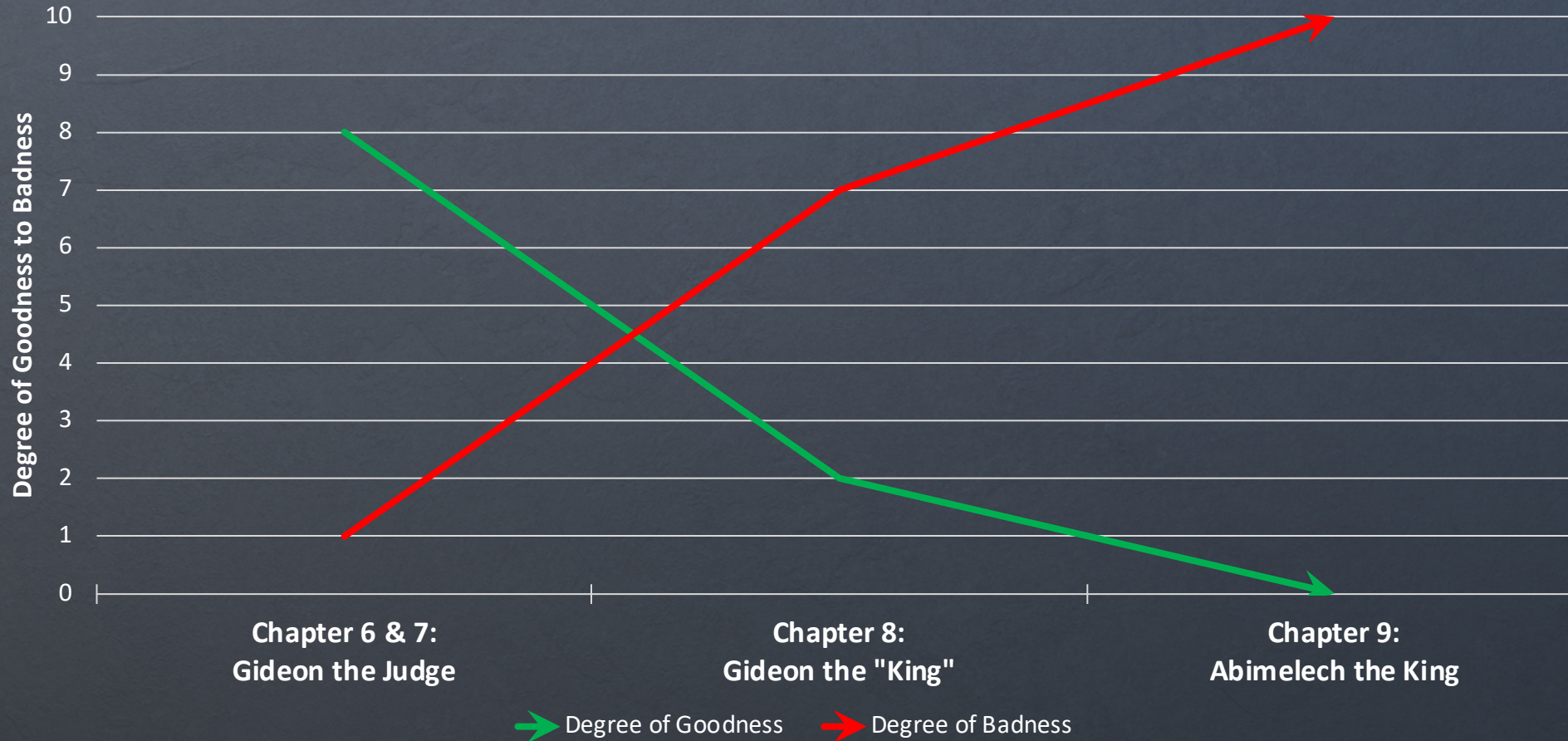
The Gideon & Abimelech Narrative [Judges 6:1 – 9:57]

Three Movements to this Section of Judges

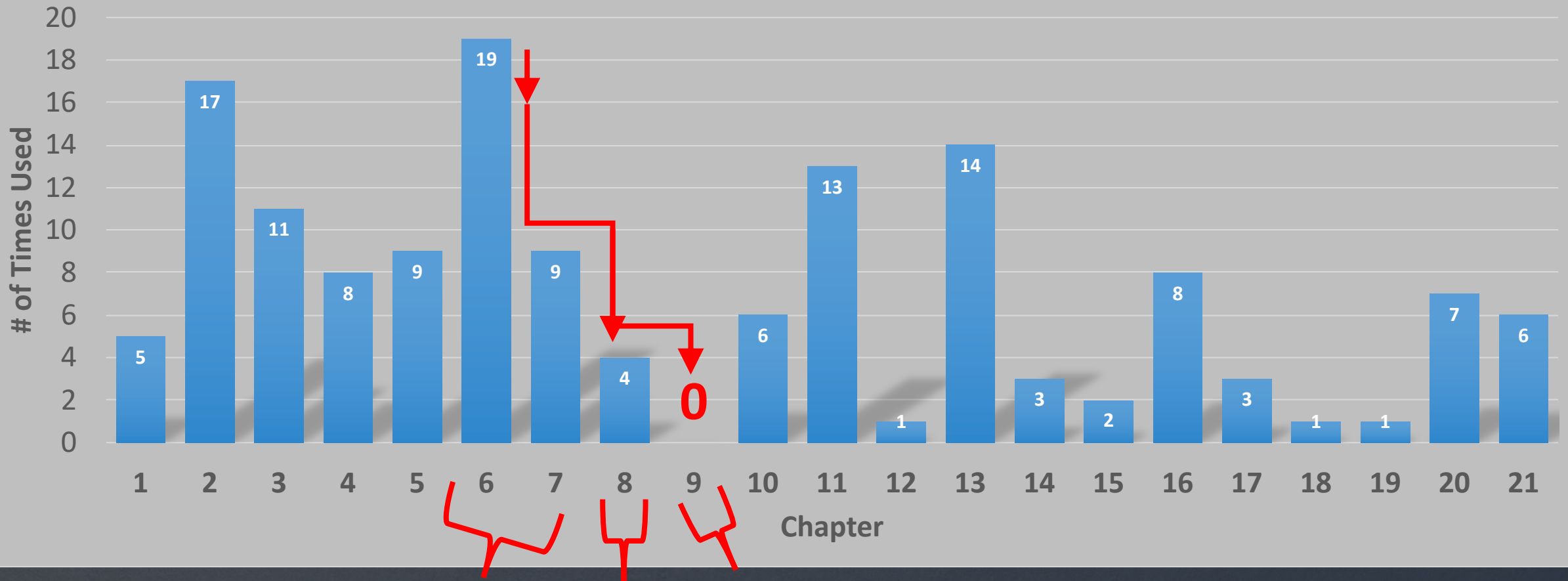
1. Judges 6:1–8:3: Gideon the Judge (*Discussed last week*)
2. Judges 8:4-35: Gideon the “King”
3. Judges 9:1-57: Abimelech the King

The Gideon & Abimelech Narrative [Judges 6:1–9:57]

The Moral Decline



of Times "LORD" is Used in Judges



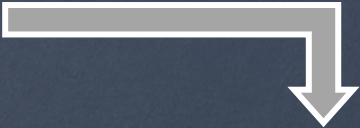
Gideon the
Judge

Gideon
the
"King"

Abimelech the
King

The Gideon Narrative

Gideon & Moses: The Call from the LORD	
Moses (Exodus 3-4)	Gideon (Judges 6)
God's people are being afflicted (Ex. 3:7)	God's people are being afflicted (Judg. 6:13)
Hiding from Pharaoh (Ex. 3:1)	Hiding from the Midianites (Judg. 6:11)
Tending flocks for his father-in-law Jethro (Ex. 3:1)	Working for his father Joash (Judg. 6:11)
The LORD says, "I have sent you" (Ex. 3:12)	The LORD says, "I have sent you" (Judg. 6:14)
Moses communicates his inadequacies for the task (Ex. 3:11)	Gideon communicates his inadequacies for the task (Judg. 6:15)
The LORD reassures, "I will be with you" (Ex. 3:12)	The LORD reassures, "I will be with you" (Judg. 6:16)
Given a sign to reassure—staff/snake (Ex. 4:1-5)	Given a sign to reassure—fire consuming meat (Judg. 6:21)
Experiences great fear at seeing God (Ex. 3:6)	Experiences great fear at seeing God (Judg. 6:22)



The Literary Effect:
As readers, we enter this narrative with high expectations of what the LORD will do through Gideon. Gideon is the new Moses sent to deliver God's people.

The Gideon Narrative

Movement #1: Judges 6:1–8:3: Gideon the Judge

- Highlight: The LORD raises up Gideon as a deliverer (6:11-14)
- Highlight: The LORD uses Gideon & 300 men to defeat the Midianites (7:19-23)

When we get to the end of Judges 8:3, we are feeling pretty good about Gideon as the new Moses—the deliverer of Israel. But...we have a second movement in the story.

The Gideon Narrative

Movement #2: Judges 8:4-35: Gideon the “King”

- Highlight: Gideon’s personal vendetta against Zebah & Zalmunna (8:4-5, 18-21)
- Highlight: Gideon’s treatment of fellow Israelites (8:13-17)
- Highlight: Gideon says the right thing but does the wrong thing (8:22-32)

When we get to the end of Judges 8:35, we aren’t feeling so good about Gideon as the new Moses—the deliverer of Israel.

The Gideon Narrative

Gideon the Judge vs. Gideon the “King” Ring Composition: Back to where we started...		
Bible Verse	Judges 6:11-27	Judges 8:22-27
When	The beginning	The end
Where	Gideon’s hometown of Ophrah	Gideon’s hometown of Ophrah
Summary	We are introduced to Gideon & learn that his family are idolaters who have an altar of Baal & an Asherah	Gideon takes gold from the people, makes an ephod, puts it in his hometown, and all Israel & Gideon’s family whored after it
Action Taken	<u>He pulled down</u> the altar of Baal & cut down the Asherah.	<u>He set up</u> the ephod that would be used as an idol

Gideon was called to be a Deliverer; but he ended his life as something other than that & it had devastating consequences for him, his family & his nation.

The Gideon Narrative

Takeaway:

- When we fail to be the men God has called us to be, it has devastating consequences.
- Do you know who you are called to be?
 - Luke 9:59-62
 - 1 Corinthians 12:14-20
 - 1 Peter 1:13-16
 - Philippians 2:3-4
 - 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The Abimelech Narrative

Movement #3: Judges 9:1-57: Abimelech the King

- Transgression (Judges 9:1-6)
 - Highlight: Abimelech's murder of his brothers (9:1-5)
 - Highlight: Abimelech made king in Shechem (9:6)
- Rebuke (Judges 9:7-21)
 - Highlight: Jotham's parable
- Punishment (Judges 9:22-57)
 - Highlight: The Lord exacts retribution toward Abimelech & Shechem

When we get to the end of Judges 9, we are reminded that we will reap what we sow.

The Abimelech Narrative

Abimelech & Shechem: The Law of the Harvest

“Thus God returned the evil of Abimelech, which he committed against his father in killing his seventy brothers. And God also made all the evil of the men of Shechem return on their heads, and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.” (Judges 9:56-57)

Who is in Focus:	Sowing	Reaping
Abimelech	Abimelech’s going to Shechem to incite its leaders to conspire with him against the sons of Jerubbaal (Judg. 9:1-2)...	is answered by Gaal’s arrival in Shechem to incite its leaders to conspire with Gaal against Abimelech (Judg. 9:26-29).
The men of Shechem	The “ambush” set by the men of Shechem against Abimelech in Judg. 9:25...	is answered by the “ambush” set by Abimelech against the Shechemites in Judg. 9:34
Abimelech	Abimelech, who, as we are told twice, killed the sons of Jerubbaal on one stone (Judg. 9:5, 18)...	is himself killed beside a stone which has been dropped on his head by a woman of Thebez (Judg. 9:53).

The Abimelech Narrative

Takeaway:

- We see the law of the harvest at work: we will reap what we sow
 - Galatians 6:7-8
 - Proverbs 26:27
- Evil does not go unpunished
 - Psalm 7:14-16
 - Revelation 22:12-13

Announcements

- Please be sure to sign in and print a name tag. It has your small group room in the corner.
- If you do not have a small group, stay in here and come to the front where Hil Bowman and Rob Heath will lead the Open Group.
- If your group meets in the West Tower, please use the skybridge.