

“King Gideon?”
Judges 8:18-35
January 26, 2020

I. Scene One (Judges 8:18-21): The Fate of Zebah and Zalmunna

- A. The reason for Gideon’s pursuit is finally revealed!
- B. These two kings speak to Gideon as if he’s royalty.
- C. He takes their royal emblems for his own.

II. Scene Two (Judges 8:22-35): Gideon Acts Like a (Bad) King

- A. Gideon formally refuses kingship but behaves like one anyway.
- B. Gideon’s “kingship” violates practically every law of Deut. 17:14-8:5.
 - 1. Gideon was not chosen by God as king, as the Law required.
 - 2. He multiplied wealth and wives.
 - 3. In the ephod incident, Gideon acted like a priest, leading Israelite worship away from God’s prescribed practices.
- C. The results of Gideon’s tragic “reign”:
 - 1. On a positive note, the Midianites stayed away; and formal worship of Baal was put down.
 - 2. Yet Abimelech, Gideon’s son, would grow up to do great harm to Israel.
 - 3. And thanks to Gideon’s confused religious leadership, upon Gideon’s death, the people worshipped Baal-Berith as if he *was* Yahweh.
- D. The Bible’s surprising and hope-giving evaluation of Gideon:
 - 1. Judges’ last word on Gideon is positive.
 - 2. He’s included in Hebrews 11’s “Hall of Faith”!
 - 3. Such things are only possible for Gideon (and for us!) because of the true and perfect King who has come.