

spoke with them, and with all the mishpakhat bais avi immo, saying,

|2| Speak, now, in the ears of all the ba'alei Shechem, Which is better for you, either that all the Bnei Yerubaal, which are threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one man reign over you?

Remember also that I am your etzim (bone) and your basar (flesh).

|3| And the achei immo spoke of him in the ears of all the ba'alei Shechem all these words; and their lev inclined to follow Avimelech; for they said, He is acheinu.

|4| And they gave him 70 pieces of kesef out of the bais Baal-brit, wherewith Avimelech hired morally empty and reckless persons, which followed him.

|5| And he went unto his bais avi at Ophrah, and slaughtered his brethren the Bnei Yerubaal, being 70 persons, upon one even (stone); notwithstanding yet Yotam the youngest ben Yerubaal escaped; for he hid himself.

|6| And all the ba'alei Shechem gathered together, and all the Bais Millo, and went, and crowned Avimelech melech, by the great tree near the pillar that was in Shechem.

|7| And when they told it to Yotam, he went and stood on top of Mt Gerizim, lifted up his voice, cried out, and said unto them, Pay heed unto me, ye ba'alei Shechem, that Elohim may pay heed unto you.

|8| The etzim (trees) went forth one day to anoint a melech over them; and they said unto the zayit (olive tree), Reign thou over us.

|9| But the zayit said unto them, Should I leave my oil, wherewith by me they honor Elohim and anashim, and go

to be promoted over the etzim?

|10| And the etzim (trees) said to the te'enah (fig tree), Come thou, and reign over us.

|11| But the te'enah said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the etzim (trees)?

|12| Then said the etzim (trees) unto the gefen, Come thou, and reign over us.

|13| And the gefen said unto them, Should I leave my tirosh, which cheereth Elohim and anashim, and go to be promoted over the etzim?

|14| Then said all the etzim (trees) unto the thornbush, Come thou, and reign over us.

|15| And the thornbush said unto the etzim (trees), If b'emes ye anoint me melech over you, then come and take refuge in my tzel (shade); and if not, let eish come out of the thornbush, and devour the cedars of the Levanon.

|16| Now therefore, if ye have done b'emes and in good faith, in that ye have made Avimelech melech, and if ye have dealt tovah with Yerubaal [Gid'on] and his bais, and have done unto him according to the deserving of his hands--

|17| For avi [Gid'on] fought for you, and risked his nefesh, and delivered you out of the yad Midyan;

|18| And ye are risen up against bais avi this day, and have slain his banim, threescore and ten persons, upon one even (stone), and have made Avimelech, ben amah (son of his slave girl), melech over the ba'alei Shechem, because he is your brother--

|19| If ye then have dealt b'emes and in good faith with Yerubaal and with his bais this day, then rejoice ye in

Avimelech, and let him also rejoice in you;

|20| But if not, let eish come out from Avimelech, and devour the ba'alei Shechem, and the Bais Millo; and let eish come out from the ba'alei Shechem, and from the Bais Millo, and devour Avimelech.

|21| And Yotam ran away, and escaped, and went to Be'er, and dwelt there, for fear of Avimelech his brother.

|22| When Avimelech had reigned shalosh shanim over Yisroel,

|23| Then Elohim sent a ruach ra'ah between Avimelech and the ba'alei Shechem; and the ba'alei Shechem dealt treacherously with Avimelech;

|24| That the chamas done to the 70 Bnei Yerubaal might come, and their dahm be laid upon Avimelech their brother, which slaughtered them; and upon the ba'alei Shechem, which aided him in the slaughter of his brethren.

|25| And the ba'alei Shechem set ambushers in wait for him on top of the hills, and they robbed all that passed along that derech by them; and it was told Avimelech.

|26| And Gaal ben Eved came with his achim, went over to Shechem; the ba'alei Shechem put their confidence in him.

|27| And they went out into the sadeh, and gathered their kramim, and trode the grapes, and made merry, and went into the bais eloheihem, and did eat and drink, and cursed Avimelech.

|28| And Gaal ben Eved said, Who is Avimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is not he ben Yerubaal? And Zevul his pakid? Serve the anshei Chamor avi Shechem. For why should we serve him?

|29| O that this people were under my yad! Then