

## **Abimelek's murder of Gideon's sons**

Based on Judges 9

By Phyllis Hostmeyer

Abimelek, why did you murder your brothers?

I murdered because I had been the rejected son.

The air hung heavy with the scent of blood,  
And clouds scuttled across the sky echoing screams  
for mercy.

My band of thugs and I were strangers in their midst.

I murdered for the lust of power.

My birth destined me to rule, to command, to control.

I would slay the 70 sons again but let not one escape.

I murdered to be a king.

I did it because I am Abimelek, the son of a concubine.