

SPIRITUAL TASK—JOTHAM TELLS PARABLE OF TREES (Judg 9)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story Jotham tells the people of Shechem the parable of the trees in hopes that they will see the problem they have brought on themselves by choosing Abimelech as their king.

Meaning We all have the freedom to choose how we will be governed spiritually. The Lord wishes for us all to be gently ruled by His outpouring love, kindness and wisdom. However, when we choose a life of self-centeredness, contempt for others or false thinking we choose to put ourselves under a harsher rule--the rule of strict laws and consequences. An example of this is the law of retaliation (an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth) the law of hell.

Task This week we will work on turning ourselves toward the Lord (we are like vessels). This can be accomplished by daily prayers, daily reading, and compelling ourselves to turn away from and resist using mean or hurtful words, actions and reactions in our daily dealings with others. Just try it for one week.