

The Redemption Stories of Judges

From Victor to Vanquished to Victor

Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing
causes them to stumble. LORD, I hope for Your salvation,
And I do Your commandments. My soul keeps Your
testimonies, And I love them exceedingly.

Call to the Word / Ps 119: 165-167

introduction

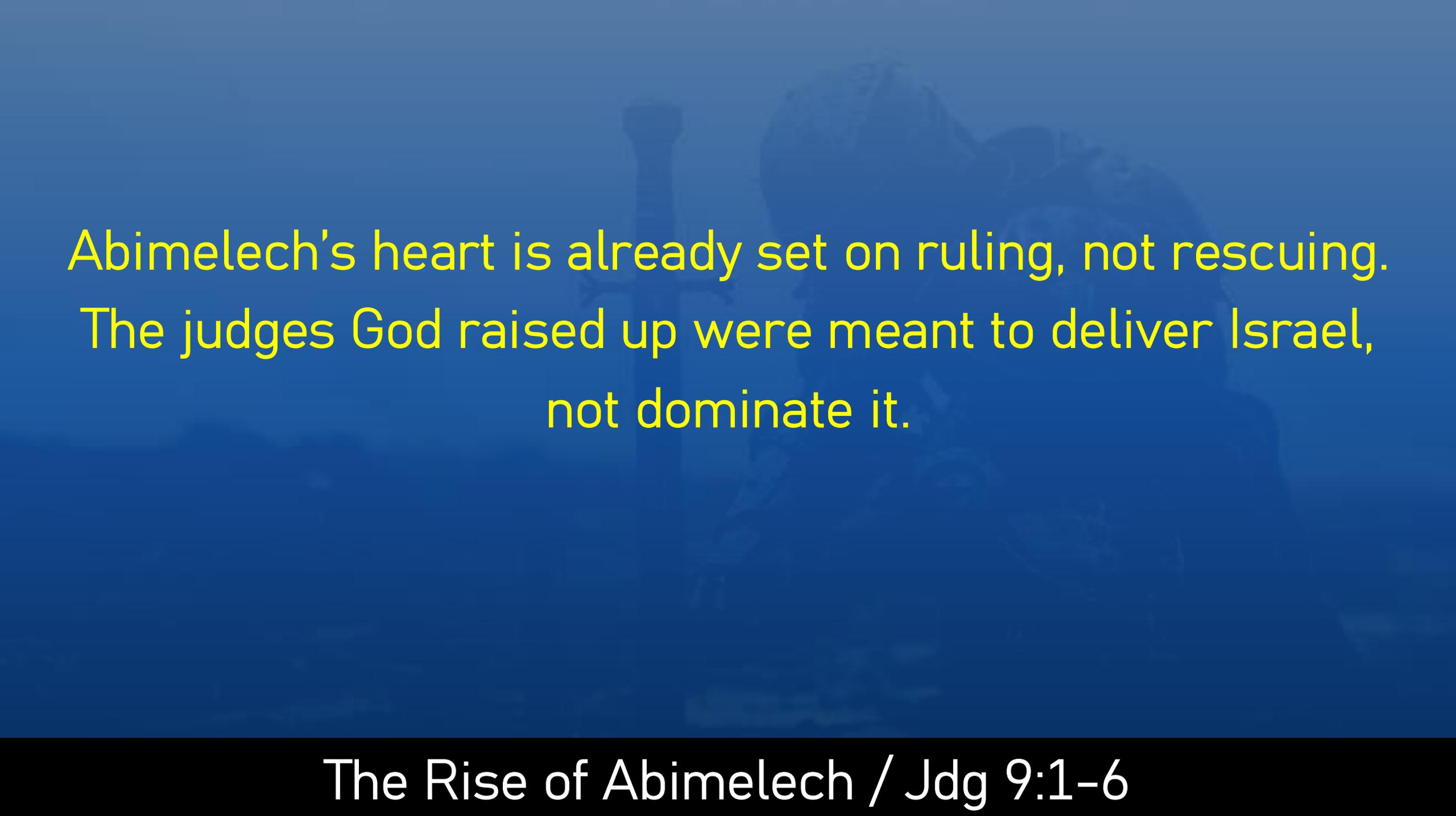
Abimelech, the Bramble King, pt. 1



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Judges 9 is the story of what happens when pride, ambition, and a divided heart take root—not just in a person, but in a people. It's a warning about what happens when we start living for our own glory instead of God's.



Abimelech's heart is already set on ruling, not rescuing.
The judges God raised up were meant to deliver Israel,
not dominate it.

The Rise of Abimelech / Jdg 9:1-6

When leadership is sought through manipulation rather than calling, disaster follows.

“The craving for power instead of service is the root corruption of leadership.” (Stott)

The Rise of Abimelech / Jdg 9:1-6

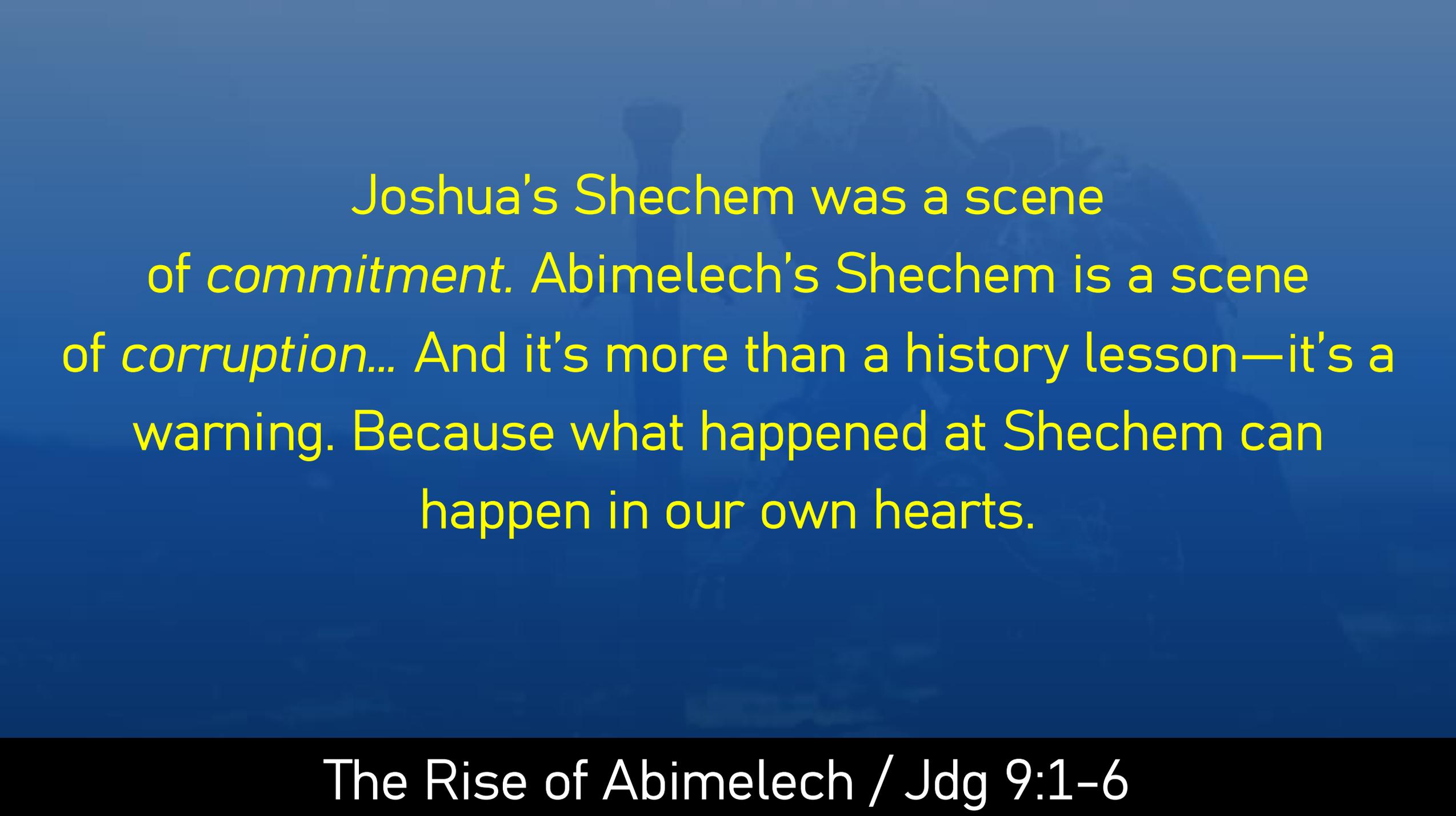
“Whenever you see men using God’s blessings for self-promotion, expect blood to follow.” (Smith)

Pride always leaves a trail of casualties—sometimes relationships, sometimes reputations, sometimes entire communities.

The Rise of Abimelech / Jdg 9:1-6

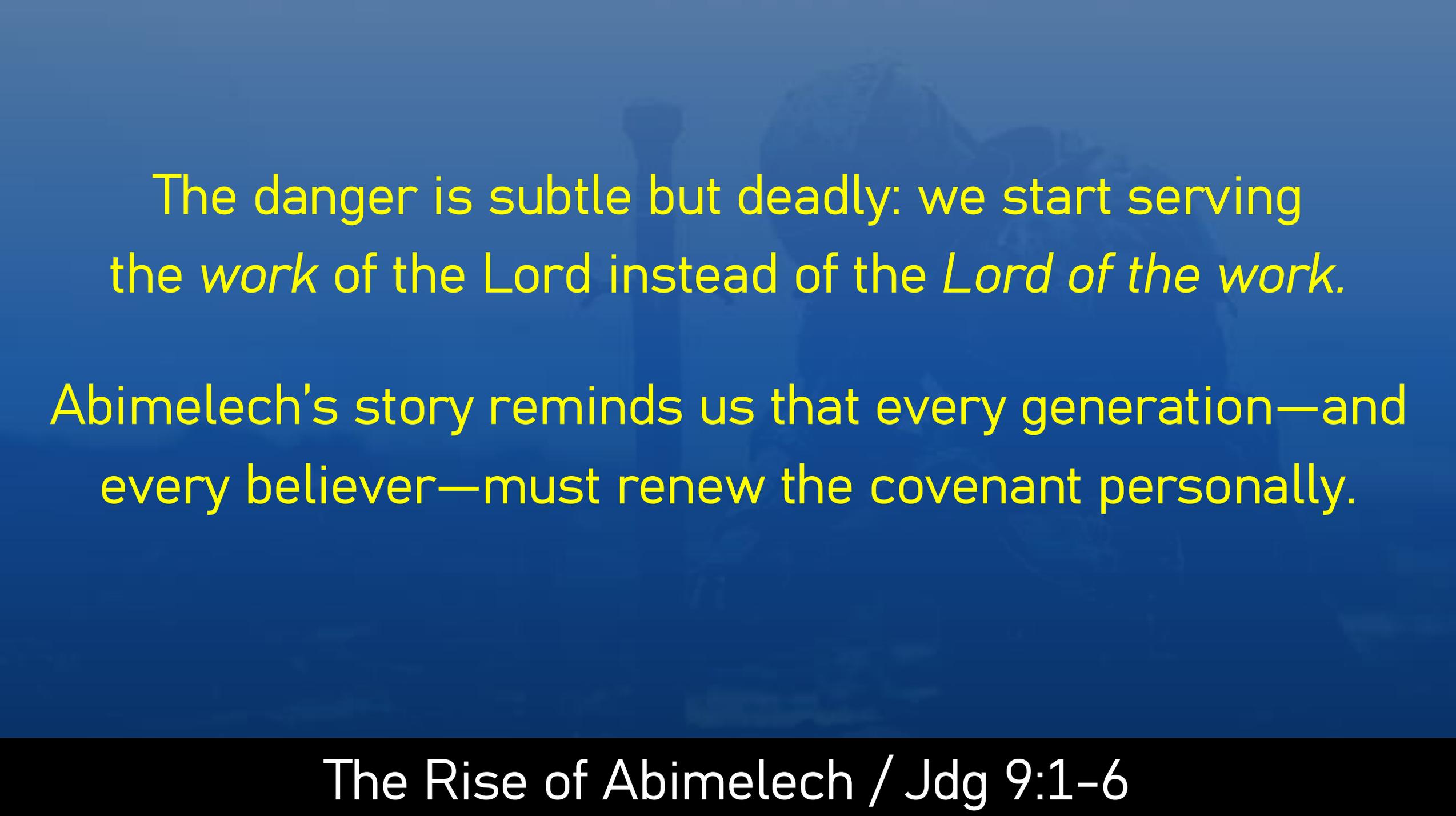
Joshua 24:25-26

*“So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day...
and took a large stone and set it up there under the oak
that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.”*



Joshua's Shechem was a scene
of *commitment*. Abimelech's Shechem is a scene
of *corruption*... And it's more than a history lesson—it's a
warning. Because what happened at Shechem can
happen in our own hearts.

The Rise of Abimelech / Jdg 9:1-6



The danger is subtle but deadly: we start serving
the *work* of the Lord instead of the *Lord of the work*.

Abimelech's story reminds us that every generation—and
every believer—must renew the covenant personally.

The Rise of Abimelech / Jdg 9:1-6

Mount Gerizim



Mount Gerizim becomes a symbol of *what could have been*—God's blessing through obedience—but in Judges 9, it stands as a reminder of what's been lost through rebellion.

Jotham's Parable and Prophecy / Jdg 9:7-15

Fruitful trees are too busy *being fruitful* to waste time chasing position or power. They understand that influence doesn't come from sitting on a throne—it comes from being a blessing.

“The parable is a timeless rebuke of leadership sought for self-interest rather than service.” (Stott)

Jotham's Parable and Prophecy / Jdg 9:7-15

In short, Jotham's message is this: *"If this was righteous, may God bless it—but if not, may God let your own actions destroy you."*

*"The principle of sowing and reaping runs throughout Judges—you cannot plant rebellion and harvest peace."
(Smith)*

The Curse of Jotham/ Jdg 9:16-21

Spirit of hostility – not a created spirit, but an allowed spirit.

“God often uses internal strife to collapse unrighteous alliances.” (Precept Austin)

The Rule & Ruin of Abimelech / Jdg 9:22–25

*“Sin’s most destructive force is inward corrosion—
nations and churches die more from within than from
without.” (Stott)*

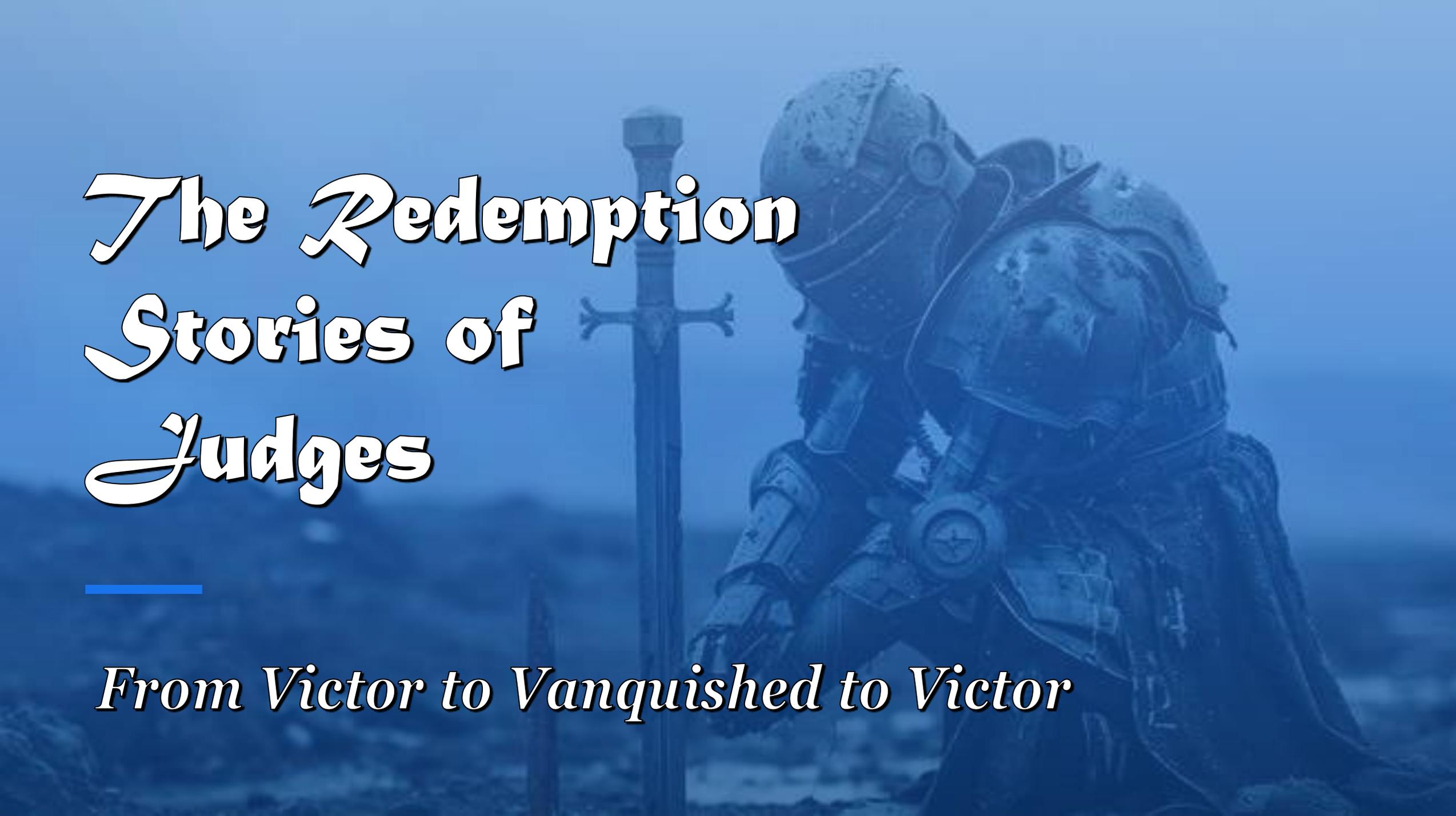
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The Rule & Ruin of Abimelech / Jdg 9:22–25

When He stops the flow, it's not to hurt us—it's to remind us that *He* is still our source.

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. –(Rom 15:13 NLT)

The Rule & Ruin of Abimelech / Jdg 9:22–25



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