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|  | **LightHouse Ranch****Bible Study**  |

***Contrasting Kings*** ***Judges 9*** ***with*** ***I* Corinthians 4****;** **Psalm 22****; and** **Isaiah 53**

 **I. Gideon’s Devolution**

 **II. Godly Leadership Must Continue after Victory**

 **III. Abimelech Desires to be King**

 **IV. Sovereign King of Kings**

 **V. The Sovereign King Shall Be Satisfied**

**Contrasting Kings**

Having studied the Pentateuch, Joshua, and now Judges, we cannot help but notice the Words of the LORD restating over and over again the necessity for God’s servant to listen to God’s Word and consequently to obey those Words. The result is total victory – why? Because the LORD is sovereign and looks for people of His creation to be a part of His workmanship to rule and reign with Him in his Kingdom. As this person called of God continues hearkening and consequently doing God’s Word, there is a certain mindset which develops and is known as, in the first part of Romans 8, “Walking in the Spirit”. To maintain that walk in the Spirit, one must “mind the things of the Spirit” thus keeping in a state of complete victory as in the last section of Romans 8 and Habakkuk 3. The result of disobedience to God’s Word leads one into the devolution and destruction we find in Romans 1.

Last week, we studied Gideon’s call and obedience as God commissioned him to save Israel. The children of Israel did not treat Gideon with the deserved thankfulness for his persistent obedience to God bringing victory over the Midianites. Gideon was enticed by “the pull of the world” and wealth into a religious snare, this unfortunately led Gideon into a lifestyle which lured him to acquire many wives - and 70 sons. This no longer glorified God and greatly affected the future of his family, his community, as well as that of, Israel. The Apostle Paul instructed the church at Philippi to:

**Philippians 3:13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
**Philippians 3:14** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
**Philippians 3:15** Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.
**Philippians 3:16** Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.
**Philippians 3:17** Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Today, we will compare and contrast Gideon’s life with two kings and kingdoms that illustrate the necessity of a persistent walk with the LORD, not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh or self-gratification, but rather, a walk which gives glory to God. Galatians 3; I Corinthians 1:4; Psalm 22; Philippians 2-3

**I.** **Gideon’s Devolution**

**Gideon, just after the men of Israel asked Gideon or his son to rule over them as king…**

**Judges 8:23** And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.

**After his refusal, Gideon makes a request of them…****Judges 8:24** And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they *were* Ishmaelites.)
**Judges 8:25** And they answered, We will willingly give *them*. And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the earrings of his prey.
**Judges 8:26** And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred *shekels* of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that *was* on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that *were* about their camels' necks.

**For what was Gideon wanting the gold and silver?**
**Judges 8:27** And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, *even* in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.
**Judges 8:28** Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

**Judges 8:29** And Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.

**Pull of the world - Gideon had 70 sons! One son, Abimelech, by a concubine from Shechem**
**Judges 8:30** And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives.
**Judges 8:31** And his concubine that *was* in Shechem, she also bare him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

**And Gideon died**
**Judges 8:32** And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites.

**II. Godly Leadership Must Continue after Victory**

The Apostle Paul was in a somewhat similar situation with the Corinthian church as Gideon was with Israel. Corinth had a great beginning with Christ, but became “puffed up” as they separated into groups, allowed people with great sin into their assembly, and some even had thoughts that Paul had pride as he was not visiting them. The message is that decisions are to be made by the Word, and the Holy Ghost teaches God’s Mysteries, in fact, God’s servants must be good stewards of the Mysteries.

**It is God that Justifies, teaches, reveals, and gets the glory**

**I Corinthians 4:1** Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.
**1 Corinthians 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
**I Corinthians 4:3** But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.
**I Corinthians 4:4** For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.
**I Corinthians 4:5** Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.
**I Corinthians 4:6** And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and *to* Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

**All that seek God receive instruction by the Holy Ghost – God uses foolish things to confound the wise**
**I Corinthians 4:7** For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?
**I Corinthians 4:8** Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.
**I Corinthians 4:9** For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.
**I Corinthians 4:10** We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but ye *are* wise in Christ; we *are* weak, but ye *are* strong; ye *are* honourable, but we *are* despised.
**I Corinthians 4:11** Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;
**I Corinthians 4:12** And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:
**I Corinthians 4:13** Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are* the offscouring of all things unto this day.

**Paul is not criticizing the assembly, but rather warning them – It is Paul’s God given responsibility**
**I Corinthians 4:14** I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn *you*.
**I Corinthians 4:15** For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
**I Corinthians 4:16** Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

**As I could not come, I sent faithful Timothy unto you**
**1 Corinthians 4:17** For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

We must be aware of the context – To what “word” is Paul referring in verse 20?
**I Corinthians 4:18** Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.
**I Corinthians 4:19** But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.
**I Corinthians 4:20** For the kingdom of God *is* not in word, but in power.

**The work of the LORD is at times with a rod and at times with love and the spirit of meekness
I Corinthians 4:21** What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and *in* the spirit of meekness?

**III. Abimelech Desires to be King**

**The children of Israel worship Baal again and were unthankful**
**Judges 8:33** And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god.
**Judges 8:34** And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:
**Judges 8:35** Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, *namely*, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel.

**Abimelech goes to his siblings on his mother’s side – Would 70 kings be better or 1?**

**Judges 9:1** And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,
**Judges 9:2** Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, Whether *is* better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, *which are* threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you? remember also that I *am* your bone and your flesh.
**Judges 9:3** And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, He *is* our brother.

**Abimelech did not fall for a religious snare, but bought an army**
**Judges 9:4** And they gave him threescore and ten *pieces* of silver out of the house of Baal-berith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light persons, which followed him.

**Abimelech slew all 70 except for Jotham who hid himself**
**Judges 9:5** And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, *being* threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself.

**All the men of Shechem make Abimelech King****Judges 9:6** And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that *was* in Shechem.

**Jotham’s allegories concerning Abimelech**
**Judges 9:7** And when they told *it* to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto them, Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you.

**The Olive Tree**
**Judges 9:8** The trees went forth *on a time* to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us.
**Judges 9:9** But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

**The Fig Tree**
**Judges 9:10** And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, *and* reign over us.
**Judges 9:11** But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?

**The Vine**
**Judges 9:12** Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, *and* reign over us.
**Judges 9:13** And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

**The Bramble**
**Judges 9:14** Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, *and* reign over us.
**Judges 9:15** And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, *then* come *and* put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

**Jotham delivers a prophetic Interpretation and explanation of the motive behind the allegories**

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| **Judges 9:16** Now therefore, if ye have done truly and sincerely, in that ye have made Abimelech king, and if ye have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done unto him according to the deserving of his hands;**Judges 9:17** (For my father fought for you, and adventured his life far, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian:**Judges 9:18** And ye are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, threescore and ten persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he *is* your brother;)**Judges 9:19** If ye then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, *then* rejoice ye in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you:**Judges 9:20** But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech. |

**Jotham fled for fear of Abimelech, his brother**
**Judges 9:21** And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

**The men of Shechem deal treacherously with Abimelech** **because of the slaying of the seventy**
**Judges 9:22** When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel,
**Judges 9:23** Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:
**Judges 9:24** That the cruelty *done* to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren.

**The men of Shechem sent “liars in wait”**
**Judges 9:25** And the men of Shechem set liers in wait for him in the top of the mountains, and they robbed all that came along that way by them: and it was told Abimelech.

**Gaal, the son of Ebed, gains the confidence of the men of Shechem**

**Judges 9:26** And Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brethren, and went over to Shechem: and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.
**Judges 9:27** And they went out into the fields, and gathered their vineyards, and trode *the grapes*, and made merry, and went into the house of their god, and did eat and drink, and cursed Abimelech.

**Judges 9:28** And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who *is* Abimelech, and who *is* Shechem, that we should serve him? *is* not *he* the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: for why should we serve him?

**Gaal promises that if he were king he would get rid of Abimelech**
**Judges 9:29** And would to God this people were under my hand! then would I remove Abimelech. And he said to Abimelech, Increase thine army, and come out.

**Word gets to Abimelech from the messengers of Zebul**
**Judges 9:30** And when Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled.
**Judges 9:31** And he sent messengers unto Abimelech privily, saying, Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brethren be come to Shechem; and, behold, they fortify the city against thee.
**Judges 9:32** Now therefore up by night, thou and the people that *is* with thee, and lie in wait in the field:
**Judges 9:33** And it shall be, *that* in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the city: and, behold, *when* he and the people that *is* with him come out against thee, then mayest thou do to them as thou shalt find occasion.
**Four companies of Abimelech’s army laid wait against the army of Shechem**

**Judges 9:34** And Abimelech rose up, and all the people that *were* with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies.
**Judges 9:35** And Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and Abimelech rose up, and the people that *were* with him, from lying in wait.

**Gaal cannot see the opposing army in the shadow**
**Judges 9:36** And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, Behold, there come people down from the top of the mountains. And Zebul said unto him, Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as *if they were* men.
**Judges 9:37** And Gaal spake again and said, See there come people down by the middle of the land, and another company come along by the plain of Meonenim.

**Zebul chides with Abimelech**
**Judges 9:38** Then said Zebul unto him, Where *is* now thy mouth, wherewith thou saidst, Who *is* Abimelech, that we should serve him? *is* not this the people that thou hast despised? go out, I pray now, and fight with them.

**Battle between Gaal and Abimelech – Gaal the looser and chased out of Shechem by Zabul**
**Judges 9:39** And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.
**Judges 9:40** And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown *and* wounded, *even* unto the entering of the gate.
**Judges 9:41** And Abimelech dwelt at Arumah: and Zebul thrust out Gaal and his brethren, that they should not dwell in Shechem.

**Word that Gaal was kicked out of Shechem reaches Abimelech**
**Judges 9:42** And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people went out into the field; and they told Abimelech.
**Judges 9:43** And he took the people, and divided them into three companies, and laid wait in the field, and looked, and, behold, the people *were* come forth out of the city; and he rose up against them, and smote them.
**Judges 9:44** And Abimelech, and the company that *was* with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entering of the gate of the city: and the two *other* companies ran upon all *the people* that *were* in the fields, and slew them.
**Judges 9:45** And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and slew the people that *was* therein, and beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.

**Abimelech has a new battle plan against Shechem**

**Judges 9:46** And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard *that*, they entered into an hold of the house of the god Berith.
**Judges 9:47** And it was told Abimelech, that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.
**Judges 9:48** And Abimelech gat him up to mount Zalmon, he and all the people that *were* with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it, and laid *it* on his shoulder, and said unto the people that *were* with him, What ye have seen me do, make haste, *and* do as I *have done*.
**Judges 9:49** And all the people likewise cut down every man his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put *them* to the hold, and set the hold on fire upon them; so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.

**Death of Abimelech**
**Judges 9:50** Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it.
**Judges 9:51** But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut *it* to them, and gat them up to the top of the tower.
**Judges 9:52** And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

**Judges 9:53** And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull.
**Judges 9:54** Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died.

**God rendered their evil upon their heads**
**Judges 9:55** And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place.
**Judges 9:56** Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren:
**Judges 9:57** And all the evil of the men of Shechem did God render upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

**IV. Sovereign King of Kings**

**The Supreme Sacrifice – Fulfillment the Levitical burnt sacrifice**

**Psalm 22:1** My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so* far from helping me, *and from* the words of my roaring?
**Psalm 22:2** O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

**You delivered the “fathers” of Israel when they cried** **out to you****Psalm 22:3** But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.
**Psalm 22:4** Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.
**Psalm 22:5** They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

**But I am a worm**
**Psalm 22:6** But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.
**Psalm 22:7** All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*,
**Psalm 22:8** He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

**It was the Father who took care as the Son was obedient to the Father’s will****Psalm 22:9** But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts.

**Psalm 22:10** I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou *art* my God from my mother's belly.

**Bulls and lions beset Him round**
**Psalm 22:11** Be not far from me; for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help.
**Psalm 22:12** Many bulls have compassed me: strong *bulls* of Bashan have beset me round.
**Psalm 22:13** They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion.

**Into the “Dust of Death”**
**Psalm 22:14** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.
**Psalm 22:15** My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

**The assembly of the wicked pierced my hands and feet**
**Psalm 22:16** For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.
**Psalm 22:17** I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me.

**They cast lots for my vesture**
**Psalm 22:18** They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

**A separation of Father and Son**
**Psalm 22:19** But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.
**Psalm 22:20** Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.
**Psalm 22:21** Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

**But death will not hinder the Will of the Father**
**Psalm 22:22** I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.
**Psalm 22:23** Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.
**Psalm 22:24** For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.

**But He is not only referring to His First Advent**
**Psalm 22:25** My praise *shall be* of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.
**Psalm 22:26** The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.
**Psalm 22:27** All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

**The Kingdom is the LORD’s – He is sovereign**
**Psalm 22:28** For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and he *is* the governor among the nations.
**Psalm 22:29** All *they that be* fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

**A seed shall serve Him**
**Psalm 22:30** A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.
**Psalm 22:31** They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done *this*.

**V.** **The Sovereign King Shall Be Satisfied**

**Although Israel has sold herself for nought, The LORD hath made bear His arm so the world will see the salvation of the LORD.**

**Isaiah 53:1** Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?
**Isaiah 53:2** For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him.

**He is despised and rejected of men**
**Isaiah 53:3** He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
**Isaiah 53:4** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
**Isaiah 53:5** But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**He was oppressed and afflicted, yet opened not His mouth**
**Isaiah 53:7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

**He was cut off out of the land of the living**
**Isaiah 53:8** He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

**Isaiah 53:9** And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth.

**Yet, It pleased the LORD to afflict Him**
**Isaiah 53:10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

**My righteous servant will justify many**
**Isaiah 53:11** He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

**The Sovereign King will divide the spoil with the strong**
**Isaiah 53:12** Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.