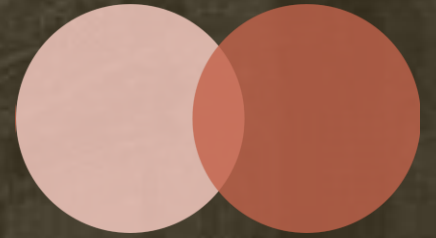


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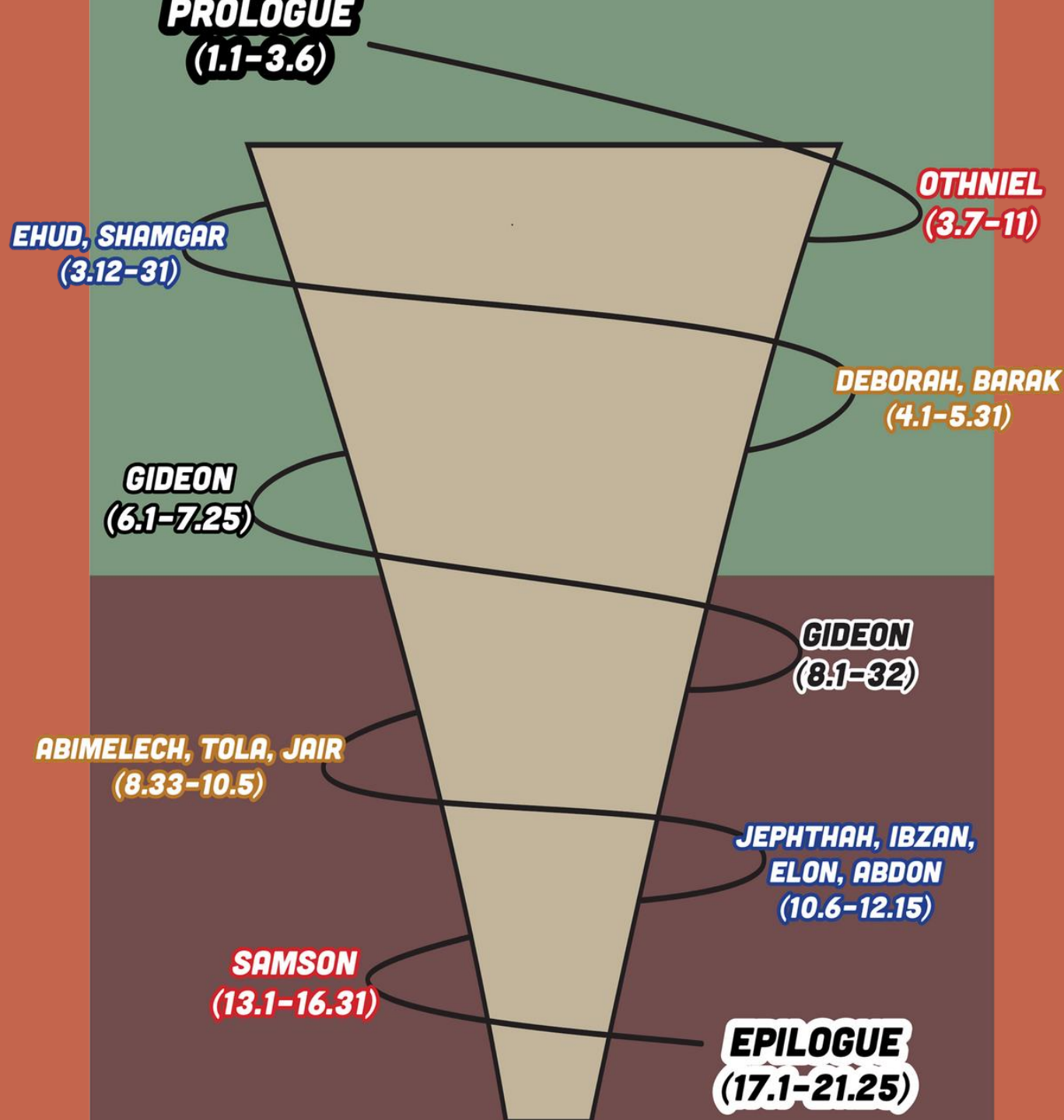
# FAILED SAVIORS.

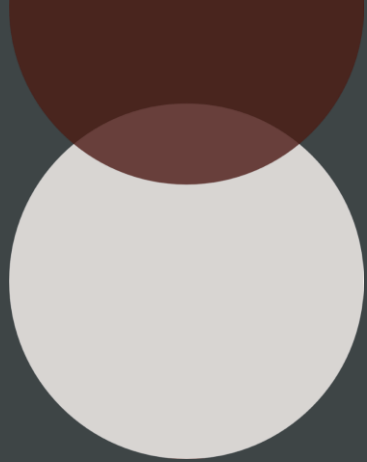
6. Failed Kings (Jgs 8–9)

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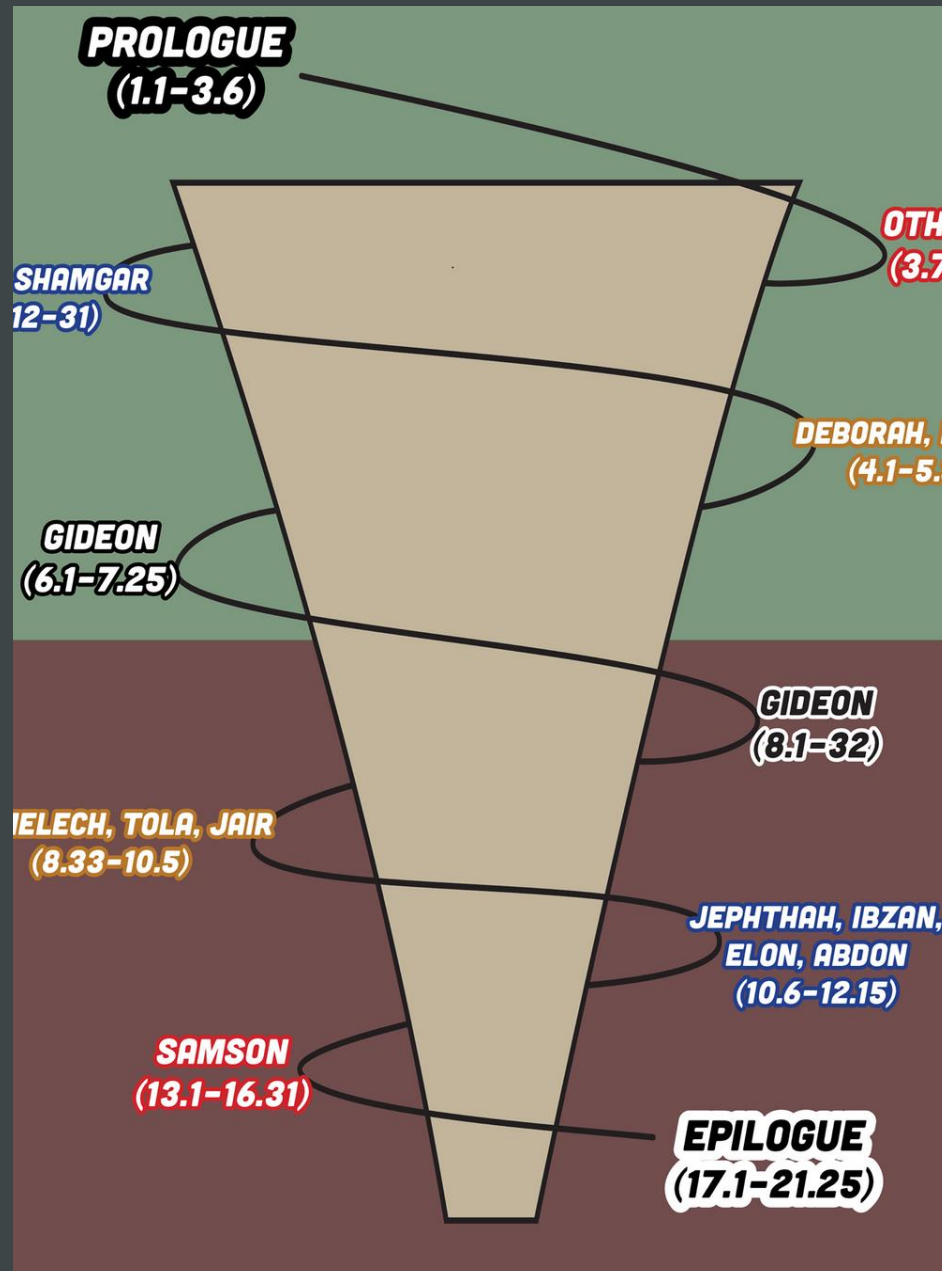
## GIDEON IN THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL

- The Center of the Structure
  - Half “good”
  - Half “bad”
- Looks Backwards
  - Exodus (2.1, 12; 6.8–12)
  - Tearing Down Altars (2.2; 6.28–32)
- Looks Forwards
  - Canaanite vs. Israelite Enemies
  - Tearing Down vs. Setting Up Altars





# SEEDS OF DOUBT.



DOWNWARD

Before, after?

ENEMIES

Israel's Enemies

SAVIORS

Failed Saviors



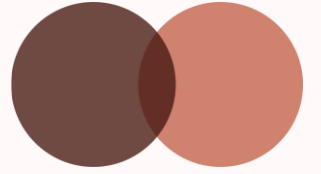
# JUDGES 8.1

WHY HAVE YOU TREATED  
US LIKE THIS?

# JUDGES 8.2–3

WHAT HAVE I DONE IN  
COMPARISON TO YOU?

# God Punishes Israel (Judges 8.4–21)



- SUCCOTH (8.4–9)  
What motivates them?
- SUCCOTH (8.13–17)  
What motivates him?
- ZEBAH & ZALMUNNA (8.10–12)  
Their expectations and realities.
- THE MEN OF TABOR (8.18–21)  
Whose clothing, whose identity?



## JUDGES 8.22–28

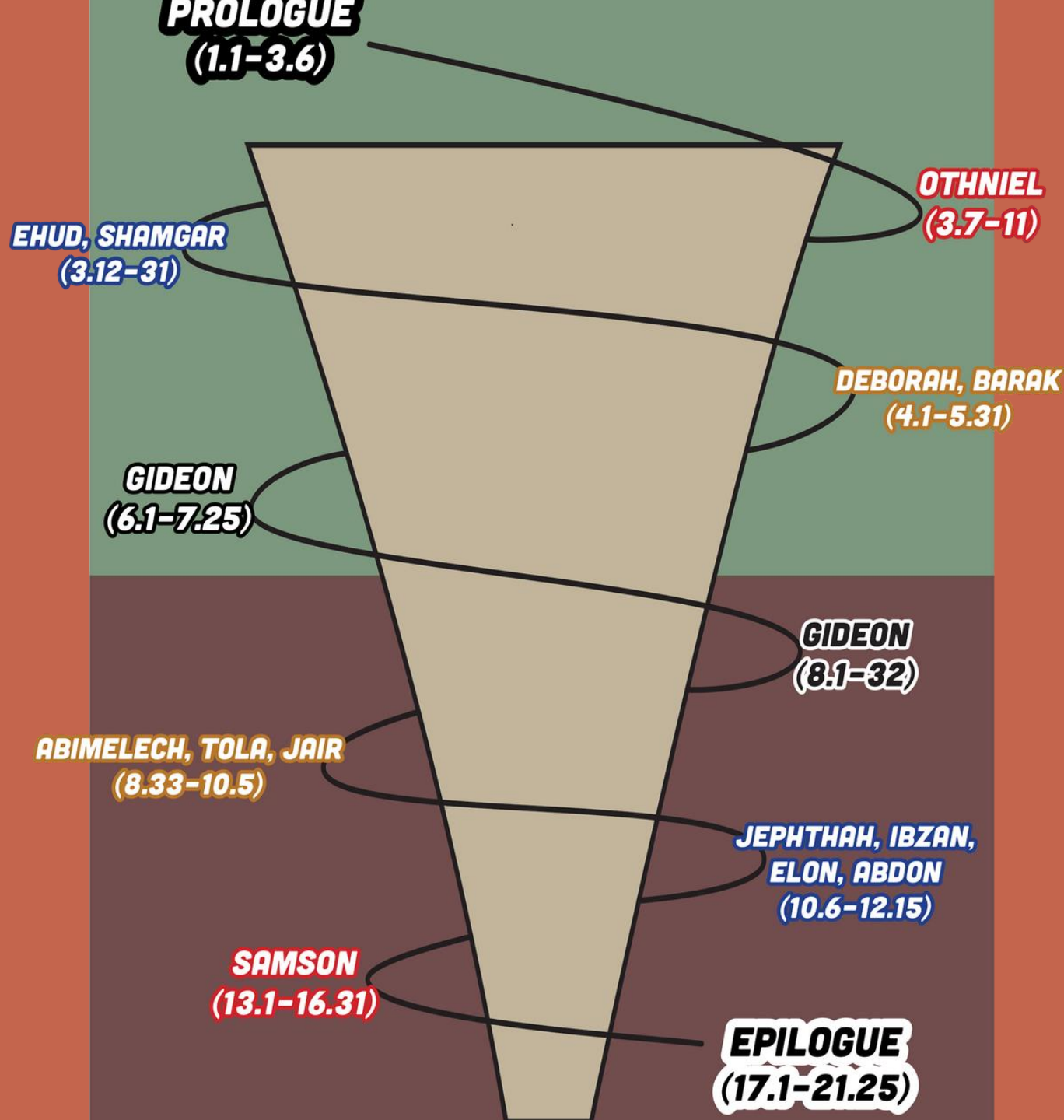
LET GOD RULE OVER YOU,  
BUT....

## JUDGES 8.29–33

JERUBAAL'S HOUSE (CF.  
DTR 17.14–20)

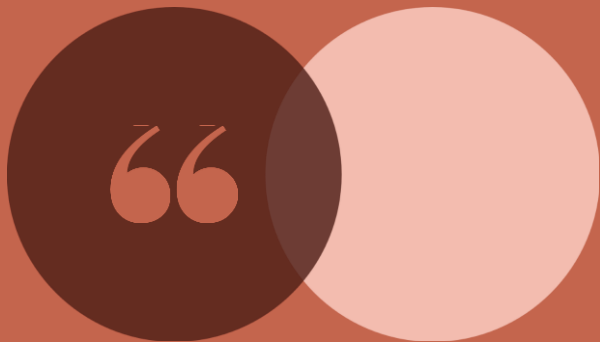
# ABIMELECH AND THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL

- Geography
- Literature
- Narrative
  - Woman Hero
  - Blow to the Head
  - Unconventional Weapon
  - No Savior
- Downward Spiral
  - Internal vs. External
  - Treating Leaders
  - View of Community



# ABIMELECH'S SEIZURE

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“Abimelech, son of  
Jerubbaal, went to  
Shechem...”

JUDGES 9.1–6



# JOTHAM'S RESPONSE

JUDGES 9.7–21

FINDING  
PURPOSE IN  
FABLE

A fable, and also a  
curse--what do we  
think of this?

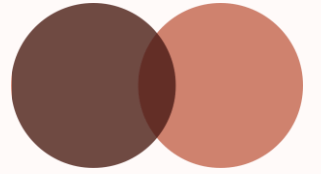
THE TREES  
WANT A KING  
(9.7–15)

Olive, fig, grape,  
and bramble...

IF YOU'D ACTED IN  
GOOD FAITH  
(9.16–21)

Who does Jotham  
represent? For  
whom does he  
speak?

# Abimelech's Demise (Judges 9.22–55)



- **A SPIRT (9.22–29)**  
Between Shechem and Abimelech, as Jothan cursed.
- **AMBUSH (9.30–41)**  
Selfishness and self-destruction.
- **FIELDS (9.42–49)**  
Field, gatehouse, city, and tower...
- **THEBEZ (9.50–55)**  
Consuming each other, destroying each other.



# THINKING ABOUT GIDEON.

## GIDEON AND THE ISRAELITES

Gideon's victories and victims.

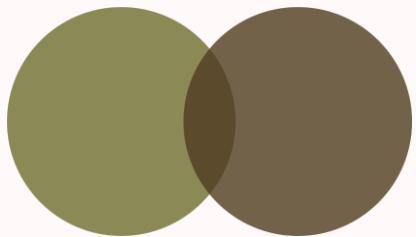
## GIDEON AND ABIMELECH

His father's son... in the worst ways

## GIDEON AND HEBREWS 11

What do we think of him?

# SHECHEM'S



# CANAANIZATION

- Baal Berith vs. The LORD (8.33; 9.4)
- Covenant? (Jos 24.1–28; Gen 12.6–7; Dtr 27–28; Jos 8.30–35)
- Holy Place? (Jos 24.26; Gen 33.20)

# NEXT CLASS:

## 7. FAILED SACRIFICE (JGS 10–12)

### THOUGHTS QUESTIONS:

1. How does Jephthah parallel Ehud?
2. What does Jephthah vow?
3. What does Judges say Jephthah does?
4. How does Jephthah parallel Abraham and Isaac?
5. Does Leviticus 27.1–8 change our views of things?

