

# JEPHTHAH'S VICTORY AND VOW



JUDGES 11

## Last week we saw ...

- There were a couple of judges that served (Tola and Jair) after the fall of Abimelech
- More than likely faithful judges
- But after their deaths it says:

*Judges 10:6–8 (NASB95) — 6 Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; thus they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him.*

- Idolatry was rampant
- And because of that...

*7 The anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the sons of Ammon. 8 They afflicted and crushed the sons of Israel that year; for eighteen years they afflicted all the sons of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in Gilead in the land of the Amorites.*

- The Lord uses the Philistines and Ammon then to oppress His people for some 18 years
- The people repented

And so, it is with these repentant hearts, that the Lord sovereignly brings Ammon to Israel's doorstep once again.

*Judges 10:18 (NASB95) “Who is the man who will begin to fight against the sons of Ammon? He shall become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”*

## Jephtha's Background (1-3)

### 1. *A True Gileadite*

- actual son of Gilead

### 2. *A Valiant Warrior*

- Lit: “A man of strength and substance”

### 3. *The son of a harlot*

- He was a son of Gilead but through a prostitute
- other sons run him out of town because they want to him to have no share of the inheritance with them
- Jephthah leaves and gathers a motley crew to himself living as a rebel and a marauder

## **Jephthah made head over Israel (4-11)**

- *The leaders request*
- *Jephthah's Response*
- *Consummated their Covenant before the Lord at Mizpah*

## **Jephthah's Charge against Ammon (12-28)**

### **1. Ammon's Demand 12-13**

### **2. Jephthah's Response 14-27**

- a. Get your facts straight! (14-22)**
- b. YHWH gave the land to Israel (23-24)**
- c. Jephthah affirms YHWH will decide the victory (25-27)**

### **3. Ammon's response 28**

# KING OF AMMON'S LAND REQUEST



## **Jephthah's Charge against Ammon (12-28)**

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## Jephtha's vow (29-40)

Actual Human Sacrifice of His Daughter	Daughter living sacrifice in perpetual Virginity
<p><b>Vow:</b> has in mind human sacrifice</p> <p><b>Points for via language and Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of “and” not “or” in verse 31 (indicates the certainty of offering a sacrifice)</li> <li>- There were only two household members of Jephthah's household (wife and daughter) so he only has them in mind</li> <li>- He was influenced by the culture and false religious systems regarding human sacrifice</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vow:</b> has in mind animal sacrifice</p> <p><b>Points for via language and Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use of the masculine gender in phrase “<u>whatever</u> (masc form) comes out of the door of my house”</li> <li>- Indicates that Jephthah was anticipating male livestock (Sheep/cattle) to show itself first</li> <li>- Typical four room home at this time in history contained 1 room that housed animals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Points against OT provisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– While allowed to be dedicated, it did not require that person to be a virgin</li> </ul>	<p><b>Points from OT dedication provisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Allowed for a person to be dedicated to lifelong service to the Lord (Lev 27:2, 1 Samuel 1:11, 24-28)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Points from “silence”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–God's silence does not affirm/refute any claim</li> <li>-There are a number of times in OT where disobedience is not condemned (Judges 16:1-Samson sleeps with a prostitute)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Points from “silence”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Jephthah's act is not condemned in this passage therefore it affirms he did not sacrifice her</li> </ul>
<p><b>Point from Hebrews 11:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Many people listed in Hebrews 11 committed sinful acts (David-adultery, Rahab-prostitution, Barak-cowardice)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Point from Hebrews 11:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Since he is listed in Hebrews 11, he never would have appeared here if he sacrificed his daughter (goes beyond the sin seen in other Hebrews ch 11 names)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Point from Jephthah's daughter's reaction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If she was to serve in a life of celibacy (perpetual virgin) why did she need 2 weeks to mourn her virginity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Points from Jephthah's daughter's reaction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mourns her virginity not her death</li> </ul>

# CONCLUSION

**1) Unlike Jephthah's actions, we don't want our actions to bring confusion to the world around us. We need to have a clear character and testimony from Scripture**

*Philippians 2:12–15 (NASB95) — 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,*

- Paul says, leave no doubt, no question who you are and who you serve
- The contrast here is of Jephthah and the uncertainty of his life and that of who we are to be

Paul says:

- “obey”
- “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (that is in reverence)
- “do all things without grumbling and complaining”

Key: AND BY DOING SO ...you will prove yourselves to be

- “blameless”
- “innocent”
- “Above reproach”

In the context of what?

- “A crooked and perverse generation”

What do we do when we are obedient?

- “we appear as lights in the world”

# CONCLUSION

***2) God has used and will use the most unlikely of people to accomplish His kingdom purposes***

*“Maybe some day we will see it enough times in Scripture that we will cease to be surprised at the unlikely instruments God uses to deliver His people” (Davis)*