

- **Jephthah flees to Tob:** Lit. good, pleasant. agreeable
- Though despised/cast out **he chose** to live his life well before God

Greatest revenge is to live life well before those who despise you

4 It came to pass after a time that the people of Ammon made war against Israel. 5 And so it was, when the people of Ammon made war against Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob. 6 Then they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon."

Judges 10:17 Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in Mizpah.

- Face to face with enemy they call Jephthah the Valiant
 1. **No longer son of a prostitute?**
 2. **Be our Commander:** Deliverer/Judge

7 So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "**Did you not hate me**, and expel me from my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?" 8 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "That is why we have turned again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

- **We thought about it...We like you now.**

9 So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you take me back home to fight against the people of Ammon, and the Lord delivers them to me, shall I be your head?"

- Jephthah knows he is being used...

10 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The Lord will be a witness between us, if we do not do according to your words."

- **Lord now getting Glory:**
 1. **The LORD will Deliver** v9
 2. **The LORD is our Witness** lit. "The LORD will be listening" v 10

11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them; and Jephthah spoke **all his words** before the Lord in Mizpah.

- **Jephthah:** Back to hometown as **great hope against Ammon**
- **In front of brothers/rest:** Repeats promises by elders that he would be Judge

12 Now Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon,

saying, **“What do you have against me, that you have come to fight against me in my land?”**

**This is my Land. This is my people’s land. It belongs to Israel
Why have you come to fight against me in my land?**

13 And the king of the people of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, “Because Israel **took away my land** when they came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and to the Jordan. Now therefore, **restore those lands peaceably.**”

- **Beef of Ammon against Israel?** You stole our land
- **Beef of most of Mideast against Israel** You stole our Land

Proposal then and now: If you restore the land there will be peace

Ultimatum then and now: Until you restore the land there will be constant war w/no rest

- **Next week:** Jephthah’s response

II. Jephthah’s Response to the Enemy Claim to Land

14 So Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon, 15 and said to him, “Thus says Jephthah: **‘Israel did not take away** the land of Moab, nor the land of the people of **Ammon**; [History of Israel on way to Promised Land] 16 for when Israel came up from Egypt, they walked through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and came to Kadesh. 17 Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, “Please let me pass through your land.” But the king of Edom would not heed. And in like manner they sent to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel remained in Kadesh. 18 And they went along through the wilderness and bypassed the land of Edom and the land of Moab, came to the east side of the land of Moab, and encamped on the other side of the Arnon. But they did not enter the border of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab. 19 Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, king of Heshbon; and Israel said to him, **“Please let us pass** through your land into our place.” 20 But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together, encamped in Jahaz, and **fought against Israel**. 21 And the Lord God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them. **Thus Israel gained possession of all the land of the Amorites**, who inhabited that country. 22 They took possession of all the territory of the Amorites, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the wilderness to the Jordan.

Jephthah’s Historical Rationale: **It is Israel’s Land
Three Arguments: Won in war, Given by God, Legally theirs**

- **Argument 1** Israel won the land in war they did not start
 1. Israel’s denied Moses friendly passage
 2. Enemies attacked/defeated/lost land to Israel east of Jordan

- Argument 1 Israel won the land in war
- **Argument 2** **God gave Israel the Land**

23 'And now the Lord God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel; should you then possess it? 24 Will you not possess whatever **Chemosh** your god gives you to possess? So whatever the Lord our God takes possession of before us, we will possess.

- OT Nations believed the stronger god would win in war
 1. **Ammonite god Chemosh/Moloch lost**
 2. **Israel's God; i.e. the Living God won**

- Argument 1 Israel won the land in war
- Argument 2 God gave Israel the Land
- Argument 3 **Israel legally owns the Land**

25 [Jephthah continues...] And now, are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, **king of Moab**? Did he ever strive against Israel? Did he ever fight against them? 26 While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and its villages, in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities along the banks of the Arnon, for **three hundred years, why did you not recover** them within that time?

- **Legal Argument:** Statute of Limitations. Too late...
 1. Israel was in the land for 300 years and...
 2. Until it was established... **their enemies did not want it**

Same as "Palestinians" of today. Until the land was established/fertile/producing Arab's wanted nothing to do w/ 8550 sq. mile piece of dirt

- **Same Beef** You stole our Land
- **Same Proposal** Restore the land there will be peace v13
- **Same Ultimatum** Until you restore the land there will be constant war w/no rest

Yet...Same Three Binding Arguments the Land belongs to Israel

- **Argument 1** Israel won the land in a war they did not start

On the eve of May 14 1948, the Arabs launched an air attack on Tel Aviv, which the Israelis resisted. This action was followed by the invasion of the former Palestinian mandate by Arab armies from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt. Saudi Arabia sent a formation that fought under the Egyptian command.

1. **1948** Immediately after Israel given land enemies invade/handily defeated
2. **1967** 6 Day War and another miraculous defeat

- Argument 1 Israel won the land in war
 - **Argument 2** **God gave Israel the Land**
-

Genesis 15:18 [God's covenant/promise to Abram] To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates... **21** [Given you the...] the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites." [much greater area than today]

- Argument 1 Israel won the land in war
- Argument 2 God gave Israel the Land [Case closed]
- **Argument 3 Israel legally owns the Land**
 1. After WW II. **UN** decreed Israel's right to land in **1947**
 2. May 14, 1948 became a nation again after 2000 years
- **Point then/now? Don't mess with the Land God gave to Israel:**
 1. Arab's tried/failed
 2. PM Ariel Sharon tried. 8 yrs. in coma after giving Gaza then died
 3. Ammon will try and fail...

Jephthah to Ammon: It is not your land...

27 Therefore **I have not sinned against you**, but you wronged me by fighting against me. May the Lord, the Judge, render judgment this day between the children of Israel and the people of Ammon.' "

Jephthah attempted to make peace/avoid war if possible, by diplomacy...

Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. **18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably** with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

28 However, the king of the people of Ammon did not heed the words which Jephthah sent him.

- **Live peaceably if at all possible... not in this case**
- God now fully equips Jephthah for what's to come...

29 Then the **Spirit of the Lord** came upon Jephthah

- **Spirit came upon:** Empowered for a specific purpose. Hulk.

29b... and [Jephthah] passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the **people of Ammon.**

- **Sign of Encouragement?** You are strong. You are brave. You got this.
 1. No, I'm not strong, no I'm not brace and no I don' got this
 2. We don't need little buttons that say "Smile"

We need the **Spirit of God**

Zechariah 4:6b... Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, Says the Lord of hosts.

- By the power of the Spirit Jephthah plows east through compromisers into Ammon...

30 And **Jephthah made a vow to the Lord**, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands, 31 then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will **offer it up as a burnt offering.**"

- Whatever **comes out the door to meet me after the victory...**
- I will give to the LORD and/or offer up as a burnt offering; i.e. fully consumed

32 So Jephthah advanced toward the people of Ammon to fight against them, and the **Lord delivered** them into his hands. 33 And he defeated them from Aroer as far as Minnith—**twenty cities**—and to Abel Keramim, with a very **great slaughter**. Thus the people of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.

LORD Delivered Israel from of 18 years of oppression

SUMMARY Jephthah's Response

III. Jephthah's Daughter

- Human/Child sacrifice was rampant in Pagan Nations as worship to demon gods
- Israel has been following them in/out of their pagan ways...

Israel unrecognizable as God's people at this time in their history

God give me victory...Whatever walks out the doors of my house to meet me
Will surely be the Lord's... and I will offer it up as a burnt offering

34 When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, **there was his daughter**, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was his **only child**. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

- Jephthah whistling victoriously as he comes home

Stopped in tracks as he sees his only child, a daughter, walk out doors of house

35 And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! **You have brought me very low!** You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the Lord, and I cannot go back on it." 36 So she said to him, "My father, if you have given your word to the Lord, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth,

because the Lord has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon." 37 Then she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and I." 38 So he said, "Go." And he sent her away for two months; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains. 39 And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man. And it became a custom in Israel 40 that the daughters of Israel went four days each year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

- **View 1:** Perpetual Virginity/No Marriage
 1. 11:31 Translated: I will either give to the Lord "**or**" offer as Burnt offering
 2. Levitical priest could redeem her with certain amount or money [Leviticus 27:1-8]
 3. Reason for Israelite girls lament 4 days p/y: She "knew no man"
 4. She knew know man... seems to imply a lifetime not two months then death
 5. Human Sacrifice: Contrary to Law of Moses: [Lev. 18:21, 20:2-5, Deut. 12:31, 18:10]
 6. Judges 10:15 Israel repented from practices of pagan nations [if only for short time]
- View 1 Perpetual Virginity [JV McGee] or...
- **View 2** Human Sacrifice

Very, Very Dark days in Israel's History: All bets are off on anyone "doing right thing"

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

1. Levites out to lunch [see Chapter 19] off the rails
2. Human sacrifice was common/Israel was engulfed in Pagan society
3. Extreme response: Brought me very low/Among those trouble me [enemies]
4. "He"; i.e. Jephthah carried out his vow "with her" v39
5. Tortures the text to take "perpetual virginity" view and...
6. At least one historian calls the incident a **calamity...**

But as [Jephthah] came back, he fell into calamity no way correspondent to the great actions he had done... **Josephus 5.8.10**

What is certain? If this was human sacrifice it was on Jephthah
God did ask for nor approve in any way shape or form

SUMMARY Jephthah's Daughter: God pulls no punches. God evaluates an entire life and not one incident no matter how awful...

Hebrews 11:33... Jephthah who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises...

What does Jephthah's Vow have to do with us?
There's No human sacrifice today?

- Ghoulish religious vows/practices continue still today
- Speaking of Ceremonially eating practices...

Deuteronomy 12:23 ...be sure that you **do not eat the blood**, for **the blood is the life**; **you may not eat the life** with the meat. 24 You shall not eat it; you shall pour it on the earth like water.

- **Average Man Reading** Drain the blood of the animal before you eat it
- **Watchtower Society** Do not accept blood transfusions even to save a life
900 precious human beings die each year for refusing blood transfusions

Believing they are pleasing God

1. Husbands/Wives/Children/Siblings
 2. People who could have/should have lived. Ghoulish dark false teaching
- Followers of WTS duped by their leaders/writings
 - **Tearfully allowing family members die** believing they are pleasing God

Someone is pleased **but it is NOT the Lord of Life.**

- **Once a family member allows the unnecessary death**
 1. Feel trapped to the organization
 2. Must justify act in mind/consoled by those in cult
 3. Overwhelming guilt/confusion if question decision or thoughts to leave

Come out from among them...today. Come to the arms of the True Jesus

God allowed His son to die...The only death required to forgive/save you

- **God did not ask** Jephthah to make any vow at all: What happened Unspeakable
- **God did not ask** us to refuse blood transfusions: Unspeakable...900 lives per year

Not simply a misunderstanding of Scripture
Blasphemous misrepresentation of a merciful God to onlookers

Unspoken Truth of Religion/Religious Practices
Religion is of the Devil who wants people dead before they're saved

John 10:10 The thief [devil/substitute/usurper] does not come except to steal, and **to kill**, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life...**have it more abundantly.**

- **Religion:** Doing what God never asked yet in the name of God. Demonic
All religions ARE the same...all of the devil

Granted...Few religions lead to human sacrifice...but all religions lead to hell

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

- **Jephthah believed what he was doing was for God...**

1. Making a vow...he was never asked/led to make
2. Fulfilling a vow
3. Sacrificing his child/daughter...a gift from the Living God. God of Life

Someone was pleased but it was not God

The True and Living God was appalled at what Jephthah did...

Jeremiah 19:5 [They...] have filled this place with the blood of the innocents 5 they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, **nor did it come into My mind** [c.f. Jer. 32:35]

- **All man-made religion** is as heinous/sinful as child-sacrifice because it **nullifies the finished work of Jesus** on the cross by seeking to add to it. Leads to death yet...

John 10:10 ... I have come that they may have life...have it **more abundantly.**

**Jesus came to give us Life
So...What does our Creator ask of us?**

Matthew 9:13 [to religious leaders] ... go and learn what this means: **'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'**

- I desire mercy [lovingkindness] not sacrifice

Matthew 22:37 [What is the greatest commandment?] "'You shall **love the Lord** your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

**I desire relationship not religion
Lovingkindness and Humility to fellow man**

Some of us are so busy being religious we didn't even notice we stopped being decent a long time ago

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, **what is good**; And what does the Lord require of you But to **do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly** with your God? [All toward man]

Go and learn what this means...I desire mercy not sacrifice

- **NOTE:** We can't show God mercy so He means **mercy toward man**

We don't love God with some sacrifice we come up with in our own minds
We love God by loving others created in God's image

- **Jesus said Love your neighbor:** Who is my neighbor? Jesus tells story...

1. Man mugged/beaten/left to die on side of road
2. Priest comes passes on other side
3. Levite looks at guy and walks away...Law said don't touch
4. **Hated Samaritan**
 - a. Saw him/had compassion
 - b. Took care of him/Put him on his donkey while he walked
 - c. Took him to hotel and paid his way

Luke 10:36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" 37 And he said, "**He who showed mercy on him.**" Then Jesus said to him, "**Go and do likewise.**"

**Law of Love supersedes Letter of the Law [do not touch dead body]
Correctly represents the lovingkindness of our God**

▪ **Matthew 12 Example**

1. Jesus Walking in fields with disciples eating heads of grain
2. Pharisees call him out for working on Sabbath. Jesus answers...
 - a. What about David who fed his friends w/bread of Temple?
 - b. What about those that do work for the people in Temple on Sabbath?

12:5 ... or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple **profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?** 6 Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. 7 But if you had known what this means, '**I desire mercy and not sacrifice,**' you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

So worried about the Letter of the Law you forgot about people. **It's about the people!**

▪ **Law of Mercy** [Loving-kindness to others] supersedes/beyond the Letter of the Law

James 1:12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the **law of liberty**. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

Jephthah's vow: Exemplifies the tragedy of all man-made religion and its result...Death. Completely misrepresenting the Lord of Life who came to give us life