

# Judges

God's leaders | God's people

“Jephthah”

8.21.22

## Judges 10:6-12:7

### Judges 10

- 6 Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and they served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and the gods of Aram, and the gods of Sidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; thus they forsook Yahweh and did not serve Him.
- 7 The anger of Yahweh 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 they 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.
- 9 The sons of Ammon crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was greatly distressed.
- 10 Then the sons of Israel cried out to Yahweh, saying, “We have sinned against You, for indeed, we have forsaken our God and served the Baals.”
- 11 Yahweh said to the sons of Israel, “Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, and from the sons of Ammon, and from the Philistines?”
- 12 When the Sidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites oppressed you, you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hands.
- 13 Yet you—you have forsaken Me and served other gods; therefore I will not deliver you again.
- 14 Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; they—let them deliver you in the time of your distress.”

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- 17 Then the sons of Ammon were summoned and they camped in Gilead. And the sons of Israel were gathered together and they camped in Mizpah.
- 18 The people, the leaders of Gilead, said, each to another, “Who is the man who will begin to fight against the sons of Ammon? He shall become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

### Judges 11

- 1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a valiant warrior, but he was the son of a woman, a harlot. And Gilead was the father of Jephthah.
- 2 Gilead's wife bore him sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, “You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman.”
- 3 So Jephthah fled from the face of his brothers ...; and worthless fellows gathered themselves about Jephthah, and they went out with him.
- 5 When the sons of Ammon fought against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah ...;
- 6 and they said to Jephthah, “Come and yourself be our chief that we may fight against the sons of Ammon.”
- 7 Then Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “You—did you not hate me and drive me from my father's house? So why have you come to me now when you are in trouble?”

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- 9 ... If you take me back to fight against the sons of Ammon and Yahweh gives them to my face, will I—I become your head?”
- 10 The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “Yahweh, He is the listener between us, if we do not do according to your words.”
- 11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and chief over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the face of Yahweh at Mizpah.
- ...
- 28 But the king of the sons of Ammon did not listen to the words of Jephthah which he sent to him.
- 29 Now the Spirit of Yahweh came upon Jephthah, so that he passed through Gilead and Manasseh; then he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed through to the sons of Ammon.
- 30 Jephthah vowed a vow to Yahweh and said, “If You will indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand,
- 31 then it shall be that the one coming out—what comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, it shall be Yahweh's, and I will offer it up as a whole burnt offering.”
- 32 So Jephthah passed through to the sons of Ammon to fight against them; and Yahweh gave them into his hand.
- 33 He struck them with a very great slaughter .... So the sons of Ammon were subdued before the face of the sons of Israel.
- 34 When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, behold, his daughter was coming out to meet him with tambourines and with dancing. Now she was his one and only child; besides her he had no son or daughter.
- 35 And it came about, when he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you are among those who trouble me; for I have opened my mouth to Yahweh, and I cannot take [it] back.”
- 36 And she said to him, “My father, you have opened your mouth to Yahweh; do to me according to what came out of your mouth, since Yahweh has avenged you of your enemies, the sons of Ammon.”
- 37 And she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me; let me alone two months, that I may leave and go up to the mountains and weep because of my virginity, I and my companions.”
- 38 Then he said, “Go.” So he sent her away for two months ....
- 39 And it happened, at the end of two months she returned to her father, and he did to her his vow that he vowed; and she had no relations with a man. Thus it became a custom in Israel:
- 40 year after year the daughters of Israel went to commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite, four days in the year.
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## Judges 12

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- 7 So Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died ....

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