

Sunday Sermon | Calvary Chapel Waterford
Judges 10 - 12 Sermon Outline Pastor John Mikolay

1. The Cycle of Rebellion - Judges 10:1-16

- *After the minor judges Tola and Jair, Israel again falls into deep spiritual decay.*
- *God responds by allowing the Ammonites and Philistines to oppress them for 18 years.*
- *The Lord challenges Israel to seek deliverance from the false gods they chose.*
- *True repentance begins when they put away foreign gods and turn to the Lord.*

2. An Unlikely Deliverer - Judges 11:1-11

- *Jephthah, a "mighty man of valor" but the son of a harlot, is cast out by his family and society.*
- *He builds a reputation as a leader of "worthless men" in the land of Tob.*
- *The elders of Gilead, desperate for a commander, swallow their pride to ask for his help.*
- *Jephthah acknowledges that victory depends solely on the Lord's deliverance.*

3. Diplomatic and Historical Defense - Judges 11:12-28

- *Jephthah attempts to settle the dispute with the Ammonite king through reason and logic.*
- *He provides a historical defense, noting that Israel did not steal the land but received it after being attacked by the Amorites.*
- *Since Israel had occupied the land for 300 years, he challenges the legitimacy of the Ammonite claim.*
- *He appeals to "the Lord, the Judge" to render judgment between the two nations.*

4. A Rash Vow and Its Consequences - Judges 11:29-40

- *The Spirit of the Lord comes upon Jephthah for battle, yet he makes a foolish and unnecessary vow attempting to secure God's favor.*
- *He promises to offer as a burnt offering whatever first comes out of his house.*
- *Upon his victorious return, his only child, his daughter, is the first to greet him.*
- *The tragedy highlights that loyalty to God not informed by His Word can lead to disaster.*

5. Internal Division and Civil War - Judges 12:1-15

- *The men of Ephraim complain about being left out of the battle, threatening Jephthah out of jealousy.*
- *The Ephraimites do not set aside their jealousy and begin a civil war with the Gileadites.*
- *42,000 Ephraimites are killed in the battle and Gileadites use the word "Shibboleth" as a linguistic test to identify fleeing Ephraimites.*

Scripture Cross References

Judges 10 - 12

Judges 10:17-18: *Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in Mizpah. And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, "Who is the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."*

Numbers 21:22: *"Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into fields or vineyards; we will not drink water from wells. We will go by the King's Highway until we have passed through your territory."*

Exodus 38:8: *He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.*

Deuteronomy 12:29-31: *"When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.*

Deuteronomy 23:21-22: *"When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you.*

Ecclesiastes 5:2-5: *Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words. When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed--Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.*

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

Judges 8:1-3: *Now the men of Ephraim said to him, "Why have you done this to us by not calling us when you went to fight with the Midianites?" And they reprimanded him sharply. So he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer? God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.*

Ezekiel 33:31-32: *So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.*

John 14:15: *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*