



SUMMIT

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:7)

- Set the Stage – When?

- The period of the Judges began around 1360 BC.
- The events in Judges 10-12 took place between 1106-1100 BC, some 250 years into Israel’s “cycle of sin.”
- Saul became Israel’s first king 50 years later (1051 BC).

TRANSLATION: Things were not good in Israel.

Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:7)

- Set the Stage – Where?
 - Gilead: the region east of the Jordan River.
 - Tob: the region southeast of the Sea of Galilee.
 - Ammon: the region east of Gilead



Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:7)

- Set the Stage – Who?
 - Canaanite gods: Ba'als and Ashtaroths (Ishtar), Sidon (N), Aram (NE), Ammonite (E), Moab (SE), Philistines (SW).
 - Chemosh: The Moabite god. At times required child-sacrifice (2 Kgs 3:27).
 - Molech: The Ammonite god. At times required child-sacrifice (Lev 18:21).

Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:7)

- Set the Stage – Who?
 - Jephthah: the son of Gilead and a prostitute. His half-brothers from Gilead's wife drove him out. He became the leader of a gang in the region of Tob.
 - Unnamed Ammonite king.

Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:7)

- Set the Stage – What?
 - The Ammonites were attacking Gilead.
 - The elders of Gilead appealed to Jephthah for help.
 - Before Jephthah fought the Ammonites he made a vow that, if he defeated the Ammonites, whoever, or whatever greeted him through his door first would be his sacrifice to Yahweh.

Jephthah's Vow

- Was it legitimate?

I never commanded [to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech]—nor did it enter my mind—that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.

Jeremiah 32:35

Jephthah's Vow

- Was it legitimate?
- Was there a way out?

Suppose someone makes a special promise to set a person apart to serve the Lord. Here is how much it will cost to set that person free from the promise to serve . . . the cost for a female [between the ages of 5 and twenty] is 4 ounces of silver.

Leviticus 27:2, 5



Jephthah's Vow

- Was it legitimate?
- Was there a way out?
- Should Jephthah have carried out his vow?

You must not worship the Lord your God the way they worship their gods. When they worship, they do all kinds of evil things Yahweh hates. They even burn up their children in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.

Deuteronomy 12:31



Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:7)

- Jephthah did not know Torah.
- Jephthah did not know the character of Yahweh.
- Jephthah was so far gone he was acting just like the people he just defeated.
- Israel was so far gone, they wanted to be like these pagan nations.

We want a king just like the kings all the other nations have.

1 Samuel 8:5

Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:7)

- Contemporary Examples
- What about you?

Announcements

- Please be sure to sign in and print a name tag. It has your small group room in the corner.
- If you do not have a small group, stay in here and come to the front where Hil Bowman and Rob Heath will lead the Open Group.
- If your group meets in the West Tower, please use the skybridge.

