
Old Testament Israel: Law, **Judges**, Kingdoms

Story of Jephthah

Scripture **Judges 10-12**

Judges 10:1-5	Judges Tola and Jair
Judges 10:6-10	Same old song & dance...
Judges 10:11-16	God of Isreal
Judges 10:17-11:11	Jephthah
Judges 11:12-28	Diplomacy fails
Judges 11:29, 32-33	The delivery of Israel
Judges 11:30-31, 34-40	The oath and its fulfillment
Judges 12:1-7	Gilead vs Ephrium
Judges 12:8-15	Judges Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon

Discussion:

Note the statement about riding donkeys was a wealth-status thing – think luxury car.

Discuss the emotional commentary regarding God in 10:16

Note how people become tribes and tribes become cities – Gilead was a grandson of Manasseh, now Jephthah's father is (a later) Gilead, apparent head of the Gileadites – the people of the land of Gilead, generally all of the region East of the Jordan.

Consider carefully the story of Jephthah. How did this go down, was this God's will? Note the practice of human sacrifice was done frequently by the Ammorites, and nothing else that was "first out of the house" would have been any significant sacrifice! After the oath was made was it right to carry it out?

Discuss the lack of national unity evidenced again in Judges 12

Open Question:

What kind of oaths do we make to the Lord? How serious is that?