

Hebrews 11:32 – continued Jephthah

KJV	International Children's Bible	English Standard Version
³² And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:	³² Do I need to give more examples? I do not have time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets.	³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—

And of Jephthae (Jephthah) – Jephthah (means he will open) is introduced to us in Judges Chapters 11-12. Yet, Judges 10:17-18 helps us understand why the Israelites called upon him. Let's read these verses. The Ammonite people gathered for war and camped in Gilead. So, the people of Gilead desperately needed a leader. The next chapter tells us they called on Jephthah.

- Joshua 11:1 gives us three details about Jephthah:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- And Judges 11:2-3 lets us know that Gilead, his father, tried to raise his illegitimate son in his household with his legitimate sons, but the legitimate sons ostracized and kicked Jephthah out. I guy named "he will open" gets the door of his family closed to him. We also get the character of Jephthah. Does he fight for rights? _____

His brothers probably had support from the leadership in the tribe. Read Deuteronomy 23:2. Still God is going to use him. Write down Isaiah 55:8-9 _____

Does he complain about the unfairness of his half brothers and the people? _____

Does he wallow and despair over his banishment? _____

What do the following scriptures tell us: 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 and Romans 8:38-39

The Bible teaches that despair is not God's will for His children. Instead, it calls us to trust in His presence, renew our hope daily, and rely on His strength. By meditating on these verses and praying, we can resist the pull of despair and walk in God's peace.

- Jephthah goes to the land of Tob (which means "good") and he became a leader of "vain men...went out with him", "worthless men began to follow", "worthless fellows

collected around." The translations are misleading. The men are called "worthless" because they have no land. Jephthah becomes their leader of a band of warriors for hire – mercenaries.

- Judges 11:5-6 Jephthah's prowess in fighting must have become well known because his people called on him to defeat the Ammonites and lead them.
- Judges 11:7-10 – Jephthah questions their sincerity to make him their leader. They indicate that "The Lord be witness between us." Jephthah accepts God's witness.
- In Judges 11:11 who does Jephthah talk with? _____

What does Isaiah 30:21 and Matthew 6:33 tell us _____

Clearly Jephthah knows God and the following verses tell us he knows Israelite history.

- Judges 11:12 – Jephthah tries diplomacy and asks the King of the Ammonites why he is waging war on the Jews.
- Judges 11:13 – the King of the Ammonites claims that Israel took their land when they left Egypt.
- Judges 11:14 – 27 -Jephthah reminds the Ammonite king of Israel's peaceful past relations with Moab and Ammon. Read Deuteronomy 2:9,19. He also referenced God's authority over Israel's land from Numbers 21:24-26. Jephthah recounts the true history that Israel did not take land from the Moabites or the Ammonites. Remember Israel asked the Amorite King Sihon to pass through his land. King Sihon sent his army, and God gave Israel the victory and Israel took over the lands that the Amorites had conquered. Jephthah declares that Israel will live in the land God has given them.
- Judges 11:28 the Ammonites ignored this message from Jephthah
- Judges 11:29 the Spirit of God entered Jephthah.
- Judges 11:30-31 Jephthah makes a vow to make a burnt offering for the first thing that comes out of his house if God allows him to defeat the Ammonites.
- Judges 11:32 – 33 The Lord allowed Jephthah to defeat the Ammonites.
- Judges 11:34-40 Jephthah daughter was the first out of his house and he honored his vow to God. There are two interpretations for this vow:

Death View	Dedicated View
Some scholars argue that Jephthah literally sacrificed his daughter as a burnt offering,	Others suggest that she was dedicated to lifelong service to the LORD. She would provide lifelong service at the tabernacle, possibly in a form of perpetual virginity.

Death View	Dedicated View
Judges 11:30-31 states whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me on my return... I will offer it up as a burnt offering"	Judges 11:39 states, "After two months, she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed. And she never had relations with a man."
Jephthah was influenced by the pagan society he lived in.	Jephthah was influenced by the pagan society he lived in yet knew the law.
Like a sheep or bull	Like Hannah with Samuel.

Jephthah's vow raises questions about the nature of vows, the seriousness with which they should be taken, and the consequences of rash promises. The narrative highlights the importance of understanding God's will and the potential dangers of making vows without divine guidance. It also reflects the cultural and religious context of the time, where vows and sacrifices were integral to worship and relationships with God. Paraphrase Number 30:2 and Ecclesiastes 5:4-5.

Jephthah was covered by the Holy Spirit. Why would he need to make some deal with the Lord?

Jephthah did honor his vow, whether he killed his daughter or dedicated her to the church, the same result for him remained. His only child would never give him offspring to carry on his name. He honored his commitments and oaths, keeping his solemn vow to God to his own severe personal hurt. This tragic story underlines the significance of being cautious with our words according to Matthew 12:36-37

Also, the respect we should have for God's commands Psalm 119:20.

- Judges 12:1-3 provides insight into the nature of God, man's tendency to self-destruction, the importance of unity among believers, and the power of right communication. Jephthah encounters the Ephraimite forces, leading to a civil war. The tribe of Ephraim confronts Jephthah about not calling them to fight against the Ammonites. Often when something good happens for you, people get jealous for being overlooked. This leads to unnecessary conflicts. Jephthah gives God the glory.

Write down your understanding of Proverbs 13:10 and James 4:1 _____

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- Judges 12:4-6 - The "Shibboleth" incident vividly illustrates the power of words to both unite and divide. It shows how slight differences in speech, representing deeper cultural or tribal differences, can lead to discrimination and devastating violence. It reminds us of the teaching in James 3:5. What does it say about the tongue?
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- Judges 12:7 - Despite the violence and chaos, Jephthah's six-year rule demonstrates God's sovereignty. Amidst human failures, God is able to work His purpose, reminding us of Romans 8:28.

Like many figures in the Book of Judges, Jephthah was an imperfect leader—an outcast with a troubled past who made severe human errors but remained an instrument of God's deliverance.