

JUDGES

Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Week 14: Diplomacy & Tragedy

Scripture Reading: Judges 11:12-40

1. Jephthah the diplomat (verses 12-28)

- Jephthah challenges the Ammonite king in **three ways**:
 - He corrects his history
 - Numbers 20
 - He corrects his theology
 - He corrects his strategies of war
 - It's been 300 years since Numbers 20!
- Jephthah acknowledges **2 things** about “the Judge” in **verse 27**:
 - God is his king
 - He turns the entire matter over to “the Judge”
- The Ammonite king ignores everything he says in **verse 28**

2. Jephthah the promise keeper (verses 29-40)

- A familiar phrase returns in **verse 29**: *“The Spirit of the Lord was upon...”*
 - *This is the third time we've seen it in Judges*

- A perplexing promise in **verses 30-31**. **Three things to see:**
 - What's the difference between a vow and an oath?
 - *“whatever comes out my doors”*
 - 1 Kings 16
 - He promises to offer up a burnt offering
- The Israelites **destroy 20 cities** because of Jephthah
- An emotional response from **verse 34**
- **Two red flags from verse 35:**
 - Jephthah half-blames his daughter for this predicament
 - Jephthah doesn't fully understand God's law
 - Leviticus 18:22, 20:2 & 5:4-6
- She responds maturely & his sinful vow is acted upon. She becomes a myth-like figure that Israelite women mourn after 4 days out of the year.
- **What do we learn from Judges 11:12-40?**
 - *Be mindful of what you say*
 - Psalm 141:3
 - *Be mindful of what you promise*
 - Hebrews 11:32
 - *Be firm in your faith with what God's Word teaches*
 - Jephthah tragically suffered from **syncreticism**
 - Romans 12:1