

# JUDGES

Wednesday, October 17, 2018  
**Week 15: Civil War & Divine Peace**

## Scripture Reading: Judges 12:1-15

### 1. Pointless division (verses 1-7)

- Context: **Judges 10:9** and leading up to 12:1
- The Ephraimites are hostile in verse 1
  - They have always been noble fighters
  - They have some pride & anger issues
- Jephthah's accusations in verses 3 & 4
  - Jephthah has a pride & anger issue too!
  - Ephraim justifies their actions by lying
- Control of the water & **the password game** in verses 5 & 6
  - Achsah from Chapter 1
  - *Shibboleth vs. Sibboleth*
- Pointless civil war & sin brings devastating results: 42,000 dead
- Jephthah dies in verse 7. He is not remembered for "*saving Israel*" like some judges before him

## 2. Surprising unity (verses 8-15)

- We now meet the **LAST 3 MINOR JUDGES**:
  
- Ibzan is the NINTH judge:
  - Like Jair (Chapter 10), he had 30 sons
  
  - He **unites** Israel by arranged marriages
    - “*outside his clan*”
  
- Elon is the TENTH judge:
  - Keeps the **peace** for another 10 years
  
- Abdon is the ELEVENTH judge:
  - Deuteronomy 17
  
- **What do we learn from Judges 12:1-15?**
  - *Be patient with one another, especially Christians*
  
  - *God is always faithful*
    - 1 Thessalonians 5:24
  
  - *God always provides peace*