



BEYOND
and BETTER

Jephthah's Vow

Judges 11:29–40

BEYOND
and
BETTER

LESSONS FROM JEPHTHAH'S VOW

Who Was Jephthah?



- ◆ A mighty man of valor – vss. 1,6
- ◆ Called by the elders of Gilead to be their commander – vss. 5-11
- ◆ Acknowledged God's power to deliver & rule – vss. 9,11
- ◆ Offered treaty to Ammon according to the Law – vss. 12-14; cf. Deut 20:10-12
- ◆ Very familiar with God delivering Israel from Egypt and bringing them into the land of promise – vss. 15-28
- ◆ A man acknowledged by God to deliver Israel, zealous for God and Israel – vs. 29

LESSONS FROM JEPHTHAH'S VOW

Nature of His Vow?



Judges 11:34-35 (NKJV)

³⁰ And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands, ³¹ then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering."

LESSONS FROM JEPHTHAH'S VOW

Nature of His Vow?

Judges 11:34-35 (NKJV)



³⁴ When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she *was his* only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter. ³⁵ And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given

my word to the Lord, and I cannot go

LESSONS FROM JEPHTHAH'S VOW

Nature of His Vow?

Judges 11:36-37 (NKJV)



³⁶ So she said to him, “My father, *if* you have given your word to the Lord, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because the Lord has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon.” ³⁷ Then she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me: let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and

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Nature of His Vow?

Judges 11:38-39 (NKJV)

³⁸ So he said, "Go." And he sent her away *for* two months; and she went with her friends and bewailed her virginity on the mountains. ³⁹ And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed.

She knew no man.



LESSONS FROM JEPHTHAH'S VOW

Nature of His Vow?



- ◆ **God granted His petition** – vs. 32,33
- ◆ **Jephthah's only child is the first to greet him** – (*emphasized in the text*) – vs. 34
- ◆ **Jephthah grieves** – (*He expresses great sorrow & faithfulness to his vow*) – vs. 35
 - ❖ Many suggest that he was grieving because he knew he had to kill her.
 - ❖ Others suggest that he grieved due to his posterity being cut off, and her hope of motherhood was dashed in that she was wholly given to the Lord which required perpetual virginity.

LESSONS FROM JEPHTHAH'S VOW

Making Some Applications



- ◆ **God can use anyone who will trust in Him** – (11:1-11; Exo. 3:11; Judges; Acts 4:13; 1 Cor. 1:26)
- ◆ **We need to learn to trust and depend upon God** – (11:12-33; Mat. 6:19-34; Rom. 8:28-39)
- ◆ **We must take our commitments to the Lord seriously – We must count the cost** – (11:30-39; Luke 14:25-33; Eccl. 5:2-5; Mat. 5:33,37)
- ◆ **Our commitment to the Lord requires sacrifice and faithfulness** – (11:30-39; Rom. 12:1-3; Phil. 2:1-5)

LESSONS FROM JEPHTHAH'S VOW

Making Some Applications



- ◆ **Faithfulness to the Lord must come before family** – (11:35; Mark 12:28,29; Mat. 10:34-39)
- ◆ **Children - put the Lord first and submit to your parents, and encourage them to be faithful** – (11:36-39; Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20)
- ◆ **We need to weep with those who weep** – (11:38; Rom. 12:15)
- ◆ **We need to remember those who have sacrificed so much for us** – (11:39,40; 1 Cor. 11:24,25; Heb 12:1)