



## “Jephthah’s Tragic Vow”

Judges 11:29-12:7

*II Kings 3:26-27*

- I. The Spirit of the Lord comes upon Jephthah enabling him to \_\_\_\_\_ and deploy an army for Israel (11:29).

*Judges 3:10; 6:34-35*

- a. No sooner had the Spirit enabled Jephthah to amass a great army than Jephthah sought to assure God’s \_\_\_\_\_ by making a drastic vow (11:30-31).

*Deuteronomy 12:31; Luke 18:5-8*

- b. God \_\_\_\_\_ Israel the victory (without regard to Jephthah’s vow) (11:32-33).

- II. Jephthah returns home and it is his \_\_\_\_\_ who comes out to meet him, dancing with tambourines to celebrate his victory (11:34).

- a. Both Jephthah and the daughter he loves agree that such a vow cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ (11:35-36).

*Leviticus 27:2-8*

- b. Jephthah’s daughter takes a time for mourning her virginity, an event so significant as to have touched the nation, and he “did with her according to the \_\_\_\_\_ that he had made” (11:37-40).

*Exodus 38:8; Deuteronomy 7:16; Genesis 22:12*

- III. The men of Ephraim, left out of the skirmish, are \_\_\_\_\_ over not being included in the fight (12:1).

*Deuteronomy 2:19*

- a. Jephthah claims that Ephraim rejected his call for \_\_\_\_\_ and it was for this reason that he crossed the Jordan and fought them himself (12:2-4).
- b. Jephthah \_\_\_\_\_ a significant number of the Jews of Ephraim (12:5-7).

*Romans 3:19-22, John 3:16*

Questions for tonight:

1. What evidences or rationale might Bible students see that Jephthah did not kill his daughter in a sacrifice?
2. What are the possible morals to the story of Jephthah?
3. What are ways in which we are tempted to syncretize our cultures religions (whether secular humanism, atheism, universalism, Islam, or works-based “Christianity”) into our worship of God?