

Title: 'As We See Fit': A study of the book of Judges- Part 12- "The Outcast Warrior"

Key text: Judges 11:1-28

Suppl. texts: Ex. 15:3, Is. 42:13, Col. 2:15, Rev.

Introduction: Last time, we saw the peaceful forty-five-year reigns of two judges: Tola & Jair. Though Israel experienced a long period of peace, they actually wasted their time of safety & security. We identified four cultural failures: 1. *No one removed the Canaanites from the Promised Land*, 2. *No one was discipling the next generation to follow Yahweh*, 3. *The priesthood seems non-existent & the people aren't worshipping God acceptably*, & 4. *The people did what was right in their own eyes*. How did God react to their sliding society? God sold them again into slavery to the Philistines & the Ammonites until they confessed their sins, repented, & turned back to Him. We left Israel preparing for battle & needing another mighty warrior to lead them. Tonight, we begin the story of the unwanted warrior, Jephthah.

Outline: read Judges 11:1-10.

1. A warrior king?

- **Types & shadows.** Jephthah's story points to an **underrealized** attribute of Christ.
- We often **sing** about & **call** Jesus the King of kings. But few of us probably think of Jesus in terms of a warrior. We probably have a more **peaceful** view of Jesus.
- However, in the O.T., Jesus is described as our Warrior King.
- **Exodus 15:3**; *"The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is His Name."*
- **Isaiah 42:13**; *"The LORD will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior He will stir up His zeal; with a shout He will raise the battle cry and will triumph over His enemies."* This is also the case in the N.T.
- **Colossians 2:15**; *"And having **disarmed the power and authorities**, He made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross.**"*
- **Rev. 19:11-16**; *"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. **With justice He judges and makes war.** His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one knows but He Himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God. **The armies of heaven were following Him**, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which **to strike down the nations.** **"He will rule them with an iron scepter."** **He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.** On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**"*
- Define **typology**: people, events, or structures that **prefigure** (foreshadow) Christ.

2. The son of a prostitute

- We are immediately told two important facts about Jephthah in chapter 11.
- First, Jephthah is a mighty warrior.
- **Vs. 1;** *"Jephthah the Gileadite **was a mighty warrior**. His father was Gilead; his mother was a prostitute."*
- Second, Jephthah was an outcast & rejected from birth since we are told that he is the offspring of a prostitute.
- **Vs. 2;** *"Gilead's wife also bore him sons, and when they were grown up, **they drove Jephthah away**. "You are not going to get any inheritance in our family," they said, "because you are the son of another woman." Motivated by financial gain.*
- The text starts with Jep's primary attribute; he's a mighty warrior & that is what we are to focus on. However, it doesn't hide the fact that he was an illegitimate child.
- Oddly enough, Jephthah is a Gileadite, & his father's name is Gilead as well.
- Remember in the story of Abimelech, he used money to buy the services of reckless wanderers who became a murderous mob around him. However, we are told a group of adventurous men are drawn to Jep's warrior spirit.
- **Vs. 3;** *"So Jephthah fled from his brothers and settled in the land of Tob, where a group of adventurers gathered around him and followed him."* He has a reputation.
- Jep's identity is in being a mighty warrior & these men with no identity themselves find theirs in him.
- *Many see typology in this part of Jep's story. Many wrongly called Jesus an illegitimate child; His people, the Jews, for the most part, saw Him as an outcast & rejected Him. Jesus drew to Himself twelve men who became His disciples, & we, as Christ followers, find our identity in Christ alone.*
- The next part picks up where chapter 10 leaves off; Israel & Ammon are staged for conflict. Israel doesn't have a true military leader; **a warrior search team** is formed.
- **Vs. 6-8;** *"Come," they said, '**be our commander**, so we can fight the Ammonites.' Jephthah said to them, '**Didn't you hate me and drive me from my father's house?** Why do you come to me now, when you're in trouble?' The elders of Gilead said to him, '**Nevertheless, we are turning to you now; come with us to fight the Ammonites, and you will be our head over all who live in Gilead.**'"*
- Jep is inclined not to trust them. Ever have a 'friend' who only calls you when they need something? They only want him because of his skill in battle.
- **Vs. 9-10;** *"Jephthah answered, 'Suppose you take me back to fight the Ammonites and the LORD gives them to me-will I really be your head?' The elders of Gilead replied, "The LORD is our witness; we will certainly do as you say." They had to swallow their pride & admit that they needed the assistance of the son of a prostitute. They wanted a castaway to be their leader. They swore an oath.*

3. Conflict & Confrontation

- While the armies are assembled, Jephthah questions the reason for the fight.
- **Vs. 12-13;** *"Then Jephthah sent messengers to the Ammonite king with the question: 'What do you have against us that you have attacked our country?' The king of the Ammonites answered Jephthah's messengers, 'When Israel came up out of Egypt, they took away my land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, all the way to the Jordan. Now give it back peaceably.'"*
- After the response, Jephthah gives a history lesson to the Ammonite king.
- **Vs. 14-23;** *"Jephthah sent back messengers to the Ammonite king, saying: 'This is what Jephthah says: **Israel did not take the land of Moab or the land of the Ammonites.** But when they came up out of Egypt, Israel went through the desert to the Red Sea and on to Kadesh. Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, 'Give us permission to go through your country,' but the king of Edom would not listen. They sent also to the king of Moab, and he refused. So Israel stayed at Kadesh. "Next they traveled through the desert, skirted the lands of Edom and Moab, passed along the eastern side of the country of Moab, and camped on the other side of the Arnon. They did not enter the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was its border. "Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon, and said to him, 'Let us pass through your country to our own place.' Sihon, however, did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. He mustered all his men and encamped at Jahaz and fought with Israel. **"Then the LORD, the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all his men into Israel's hands, and they defeated them. Israel took over all the land of the Amorites who lived in that country, capturing all of it from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the desert to the Jordan. "Now since the LORD, the God of Israel, has driven the Amorites out before his people Israel, what right have you to take it over?"** Israel was only victorious because of the LORD!*
- **Vs. 24;** *"Will you not take what your god Chemosh gives you? Likewise, whatever the LORD our God has given us we will possess."*
- This is a bit of a taunt against their false god Chemosh. Your god was not stronger than the One true God, Yahweh. Chemosh didn't save your land; our God took it.
- The history lesson continues as Jep says that they have had plenty of time to take the land back up until now if they wanted it so badly. *"Why didn't you retake them during that time?"* Then, Jep pivots to say that your offense is not with me!
- **Vs. 27;** *"I have not wronged you, but you are doing me wrong by waging war against me. Let the LORD, the Judge, decide the dispute this day between the Israelites and the Ammonites."* The king of Ammon was not impressed by Jep's response.
- **Vs. 28;** *"The king of Ammon, however, paid no attention to the message Jephthah sent him."*

As We See Fit

A Study of the Book of Judges- Part 12

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1. A _____ king?

- _____ & _____. Jephthah's story points to an _____ attribute of Christ.
- We often _____ about & _____ Jesus the King of kings.
- We probably have a more _____ view of Jesus.
- Define _____: people, events, or structures that _____ Christ.

2. The son of a _____

- We are immediately told _____ important _____ about Jephthah in chapter 11.
- First, Jephthah is a mighty warrior.
- Second, Jephthah was an outcast & _____ from birth since we are told that he is the offspring of a prostitute.
- The brothers are motivated by _____ gain.
- The text starts with Jep's _____ attribute; he's a mighty warrior & that is what we are to focus on.
- However, it doesn't hide the fact that he was an _____ child.
- He has a _____.
- A warrior _____ is formed.
- Jep is _____ not to _____ them.
- They wanted a _____ to be their leader. They _____ an _____.

3. _____ & _____

- While the armies are assembled, Jephthah _____ the _____ for the fight.
- After the response, Jephthah gives a _____ to the Ammonite king.

- Israel was only _____ because of the LORD!
- This is a bit of a _____ against their false god Chemosh. Your god was not _____ than the One true God, Yahweh. Chemosh didn't save your land; our God took it.
- The history lesson continues as Jep says that they have had _____ of _____ to take the land back up until now if they wanted it so badly.
- Then, Jep pivots to say that your _____ is not with me!
- The king of Ammon was not _____ by Jep's response.

Small Group Questions:

1. Do you read & study the bible looking for the types & shadows of Christ in the Old Testament? Do you realize that Jesus is the whole point of the Bible? Discuss the attributes of Christ that you see in the life of Jephthah.

2. Before tonight, did you think of Christ as a warrior? Discuss what it means that Jesus is the Warrior King.

3. What does this story reveal about the motives of people when they are in dire straits? Consider how you handle the stresses of life. Do you immediately pray & trust the outcome to God's mighty hands or crumble in worry & fear?

4. Was Jephthah right or wrong to distrust the people now seeking his leadership & skill? Do you have 'friends' who only call on you when they want something? How does that make you feel? Is that the definition of a true friend? Have you been guilty of the same?

5. When we experience conflict with others in this life, how do you respond? Do you try & reason with them? Avoid them? Or burn the world down immediately? How should we respond biblically?