

Scorned, Rejected
Then Embraced

Judges 10:6-18

The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him. So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites

and they crushed and oppressed the people of Israel that year. For eighteen years they oppressed all the people of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. And the Ammonites crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah and against Benjamin and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, “We have sinned against you, because we

have forsaken our God and have served the Baals.” And the LORD said to the people of Israel, “Did I not save you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites, from the Ammonites and from the Philistines? The Sidonians also, and the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to me, and I saved you out of their hand. Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; therefore I will save you no more. Go and cry out to the gods whom you have chosen; let

them save you in the time of your distress.” And the people of Israel said to the LORD, “We have sinned; do to us whatever seems good to you. Only please deliver us this day.” So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD, and he became impatient over the misery of Israel. Then the Ammonites were called to arms, and they encamped in Gilead. And the people of Israel came together, and they encamped at Mizpah.

And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said one to another, “Who is the man who will begin to fight against the Ammonites? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

Judges 10:6

The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him.

It is as though Israel's obsessive greed for idolatry could only be satisfied by idols flooding into the land from every point of the compass. This also demonstrates that the spiritual poison was beginning to penetrate and infect the bloodstream of the whole nation, and not just a few tribes on the borders.

- David Jackman

Judges 10:7-8

So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites, and they crushed and oppressed the people of Israel that year.

It is interesting to notice that not only does idolatry lead to slavery, but slavery to idolatry. You would think that, once a nation was oppressing and enslaving Israel, Israel would absolutely hate the gods of that nation! But though the Ammonites had oppressed Israel in 3:13, here is Israel serving their gods, leading to enslavement to the Ammonites again. Despite their pain and misery, Israel continued to worship the same idols that let them down and brought them into trouble.

- Tim Keller

A Truly Miserable Scenario

The Judgment Is **Total**

they **crushed** and oppressed the people of Israel
that year.

The Judgment Is **Lengthy**

For **eighteen years** they oppressed all the people
of Israel

The Judgment Is **Universal**

And the Ammonites **crossed the Jordan** to fight also
against Judah and against Benjamin...

Judges 10:10

And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, “We have sinned against you, because we have forsaken our God and have served the Baals.”

Judges 10:11-13

And the LORD said to the people of Israel, “Did I not save you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites, from the Ammonites and from the Philistines?... Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; therefore **I will save you no more.**”

Judges 10:14

Go and cry out to the gods whom you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress.”

The Lord is saying, “I know what this cry of yours is. It is merely a cry for help, which might just as well be addressed to the Baals as to me.”

- Michael Wilcock

Judges 10:15

And the people of Israel said to the LORD,
“We have sinned; do to us whatever seems
good to you. Only please deliver us
this day.”

Judges 10:16

So they put away the foreign gods from
among them and served the LORD, and he
became impatient over **the misery** of Israel.

That is why we have this seeming tension between judgment and grace in Scripture, a tension not merely in the texts of Scripture but in the character of Yahweh himself, for he is the God whose holiness demands he judge his people yet whose heart moves him to spare his people. If it is a tension, its origin is in the bosom of God himself.

- Dale Ralph Davis

Judges 11:1-3

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a **mighty warrior**, but he was the **son of a prostitute**. Gilead was the father of Jephthah. And Gilead's wife also bore him sons. And when his wife's sons grew up, **they drove Jephthah out** and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman." Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob, and **worthless fellows collected around Jephthah** and went out with him."

Judges 11:4-6

After a time the Ammonites made war against Israel. And when the Ammonites made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob. And they said to Jephthah, “Come and be our leader, that we may fight against the Ammonites.”

Judges 11:7-9

But Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “Did you not hate me and drive me out of my father’s house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?” And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “That is why we have turned to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the Ammonites and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

Theme	Chapter 10	Chapter 11
Rejection	They forsook the Lord (v6)	They drove Jephthah out (v2)
Misery	They crushed/oppressed the people (v8)	Ammonites made war against Israel (v4)
Repentance	“We have sinned against you” (v10)	“Come and be our leader” (v6)
Objection	“Cry out to the gods whom you have chosen” (v14)	“Did you not hate me-drive me out of my father’s house?” (v7)
Appeal	“We’ve sinned- do whatever seems good to you” (v15)	“Be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.” (v8)
Acquiescence	He became impatient over the misery of Israel (v16)	“I will be your head.” (v9)

Judges 11:12-13

Then Jephthah **sent messengers** to the king of the Ammonites and said, “What do you have against me, that you have come to me to fight against my land?” And the king of the Ammonites answered the messengers of Jephthah, “Because **Israel** on coming up from Egypt **took away my land**, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and to the Jordan; now therefore **restore it peaceably.**”

Although Jephthah was a mighty warrior, he seems also to have been a shrewd diplomat. He begins his campaign not by mobilizing the army, but in negotiation with the enemy. By seizing the initiative, he is able to occupy a position of moral strength.

- David Jackman

Jephthah's Counter Argument

Historical

Ammonites never “owned” the land- the Amorites did and God took it from them when they refused Israel safe passage (15-22)

Theological

“You take the land ‘Chemosh’ has given you; we’ll take the land Yawheh has given us.” (23-24)

Legal

Ammonites have had 300 years to take the land and never have until now? Statute of limitations? (25-26)

Judges 11:27-28

I therefore have not sinned against you, and you do me wrong by making war on me.

The LORD, the Judge, decide this day between the people of Israel and the people of Ammon.” But the king of the Ammonites **did not listen to the words** of Jephthah that he sent to him.

Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted
with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their
faces
he was despised, and we esteemed
him not.

We follow a Savior whose truth was mocked, and whose righteousness was ignored, and yet who compromised on neither. Jephthah partially, and Christ supremely, have left us an example of how to answer unfair accusations.

- Tim Keller