

JUDGES

Fallen People < Faithful God

Stars, Extras
And Providence

Judges 12:1-15

The men of Ephraim were called to arms, and they crossed to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, “Why did you cross over to fight against the Ammonites and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire.” And Jephthah said to them, “I and my people had a great dispute with the Ammonites, and when I called you, you did not save me from their hand.

And when I saw that you would not save me,
I took my life in my hand and crossed over
against the Ammonites, and the LORD gave
them into my hand. Why then have you
come up to me this day to fight against me?"

Then Jephthah gathered all the men of
Gilead and fought with Ephraim. And the
men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they
said, "You are fugitives of Ephraim, you
Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim and
Manasseh."

And the Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. And when any of the fugitives of Ephraim said, "Let me go over," the men of Gilead said to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" When he said, "No," they said to him, "Then say Shibboleth," and he said, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it right. Then they seized him and slaughtered him at the fords of the Jordan. At that time 42,000 of the Ephraimites fell.

Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried in his city in Gilead. After him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel. He had thirty sons, and thirty daughters he gave in marriage outside his clan, and thirty daughters he brought in from outside for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years. Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem. After him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel, and he judged Israel ten years. Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

After him Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel. He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy donkeys, and he judged Israel eight years. Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried at Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

Judges 12:1

The men of Ephraim were called to arms, and they crossed to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, “**Why** did you cross over to fight against the Ammonites and **did not call us to go with you**? We will burn your house over you with fire.”

“What about us? Why did you ignore us when you fought the Ammonites? Why didn't you call us to go with you?” That is Ephraim's gripe; they are somebodies and you don't treat somebodies like that!

- Dale Ralph Davis



Judges 8:1-2

Then the men of Ephraim said to him, “What is this that you have done to us, not to call us when you went to fight against Midian?” And they accused him fiercely. And he said to them, “What have I done now in comparison with you?”

It was through pride that the Devil
became the Devil. It is the
complete, anti-God state of mind.
- C. S. Lewis



Judges 11:12

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?”

Judges 12:4

Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought with Ephraim.

And the **men of Gilead struck Ephraim**, because they said, “You are fugitives of Ephraim, you Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim and Manasseh.”

And the Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. And when any of the fugitives of Ephraim said, “Let me go over,” the men of Gilead said to him, “Are you an Ephraimite?” When he said, “No,” they said to him, “Then say **Shibboleth**,” and he said, “**Sibboleth**,” for he could not pronounce it right. Then they seized him and slaughtered him at the fords of the Jordan. At that time **42,000 of the Ephraimites** fell.

Jephthah was careful to be diplomatic and peaceful when his own position was at stake. But here he does not hesitate to strike out at those within God's people who oppose him. He treats God's people far worse than he does himself.

- Tim Keller



After him **Ibzan** of Bethlehem judged Israel... And he judged Israel seven years. Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem. After him **Elon** the Zebulunite judged Israel, and he judged Israel ten years. Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the land of Zebulun. After him **Abdon** the son of Hillel judged Israel... Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried at Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

The book of Judges shows us that the Bible is not a “Book of Virtues;” it is not full of inspirational stories. Why? Because the Bible (unlike the books on which other religions are based) is not about following moral examples. It is about a God of mercy and long-suffering, who continually works in and through us despite our constant resistance to his purposes.

- Tim Keller

