

Bible Study. Jephthah Judges Chs. 10 and 11

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro I: Approaches to Jephthah's Tragedy

- a. Jephthah had no faith in God, although the Spirit of God came upon him.
- b. God was **silent** to the violence on Jephthah's daughter.
How do you understand God's silence?
- c. Jephthah's daughter became the cries of women in the masculine society.
Not only Jephthah, but the community had no faith in God.

3. Intro II: Baal

Baal is a common Semitic word that means "lord" or "owner." The title was given to the local god of nearly every city in Canaan. Because of the importance of rain to life in the dry lands of the Near East, these local gods were usually associated with fertility... Baal developed into a single, widely known god, called lord of the earth and lord of the rain and dew...

According to the tales, Yam, the sea god, demanded that Baal be made his slave. He sent messengers to Baal, asking him to surrender, but Baal attacked the messengers and drove them away. Baal then fought with Yam and, using two magic weapons, defeated him and seized control of the waters...

Baal had daughters, and Baal wanted them to live with him until marriage for safety, but he had no house. So the craft god, Kothar built Baal a fine house. (mostly from mythencyclopedia.com)

4. Read Judges Ch. 10

5. Discussion

- a. What do you think about the first 5 verses?
- b. Why do you think God's speech to the people in verses 11-13?
- c. How do you understand verse 18?

6. Read Ch. 11

7. Discussion

- a. How does the book describe Jephthah? Or how do you understand “Gidead was the father of Jephthah” in verse 1?
- b. What do you see in the conversation between the elders of Gilead and Jephthah?
- c. How do you understand, “if the Lord gives them over to me” in verse 9? Do you see his faith in God?
- d. How do you understand verse 11?
- e. What can you find out in the conversation between the king of the Ammonites and Jephthah?
- f. How do you understand the Spirit of God came upon Jephthah?
- g. How do you understand Jephthah’s vow? Do you think God accepted the vow by giving him a victory?
- h. Can you compare Jephthah with other judges?
- i. How do you understand verse 35?
- j. How do you understand Jephthah’s daughter, especially her response?

8. Closing Prayer