

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

YOU BE THE JUDGE: A SERIES ON THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Lesson Seven = Trouble At Home

Judges 10:6-12:15

Introduction: Why is it that the home has so much influence on the nation? In our last lesson we noticed that many times a father has more influence on his children than he could ever imagine. Unfortunately the days of great men leading as judges for several decades is over for now. The people were confused as to the difference between “godliness” and “spirituality.” The life of Jephthah is a tragic illustration of that great contrast. And the Judges that followed him didn’t improve things much. Let’s study together

Discussion:

I. The Leniency of the Israelites (10:6-18)

- A. Sin: Evil in the Sight of the Lord (v.6).
- B. Slavery: Philistines and Ammon, 18 years (vs.7-9).
- C. Sorrow: The Sons of Israel Cried to the Lord (vs.10-18).

II. The Leadership of Jephthah (11:1-12:7)

- A. Jephthah’s Dysfunctional Family (11:1-3)
 - 1. His birth (v.1)
 - 2. His rejection (vs.2-3)
- B. Jephthah’s Definite Future (11:4-11)
 - 1. The appeal (vs.4-5)
 - 2. The negotiations (vs.6-11)
- C. Jephthah’s Defiant Foes (11:12-28)
 - 1. Ammon’s accusation (vs.12-13)
 - 2. Jephthah’s rebuttal (vs.13-27)
 - 3. Ammon’s rejection (v.28)
- D. Jephthah’s Dedicated Fury (11:29-33)
 - 1. His empowerment (v.29)
 - 2. His vow (vs.30-31)
 - 3. His victory (vs.32-33)
- E. Jephthah’s Disrespectful Foolishness (11:34-40)
 - 1. The greeting (v.34)
 - 2. The grieving (vs.35-38)
 - 3. The offering (vs.39-40)
- F. Jephthah’s Dogmatic Followers (12:1-7)
 - 1. The rebuke (vs.1-3)
 - 2. The persecution (vs.4-6)
 - 3. The death of Jephthah (v.7)

III. The Leadership of Ibzan (12:8-10)

- A. The Home of Ibzan (v.8)
- B. The Family of Ibzan (v.9)
- C. The Death of Ibzan (v.10)
 - Notice that he only served for seven years.

IV. The Leadership of Elon (12:11-12)

- A. The Work of Elon (v.11)
- B. The Death of Elon (v.12)
 - Notice that he only served for ten years.

V. The Leadership of Abdon (12:13-15)

- A. The Background of Abdon (v.13)
- B. The Children & Grandchildren of Abdon (v.14)
- C. The Death of Abdon (v.15)
 - Notice that he only served for eight years.

Conclusion: As a complete polar opposite from last week's study, the first part of our study looked positive and ended on a sad note. Why? The mistakes of fathers make tremendous impacts upon the nation. When our leaders cannot be trusted who can we trust? A spiritual person may choose his own god and do what is right in his own eyes; a godly person will worship the One God and does what is right in His eyes. What happens next? We will see