

## JEPHTHAH THE 9<sup>TH</sup> JUDGE IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES IN THE BIBLE

Jephthah is the 9 Judge in the Book of Judges in the Bible I wrote a 15 page study on this story while serving as an inmate at Kingman State Prison in Kingman AZ from 2008 until 2010. I could not believe Jephthah would actually place his only daughter on the alter and sacrifice her as a burnt offering so I began digging through the Bible for answers led by the Holy Spirit.

This issue has been a debate by Theologians for centuries both sides have some very good points but the truth of the matter can be found in the book of Leviticus Chapter 27 Devoting something or someone was far more serious than dedicating it to sacred use. The devoted person or thing became totally the Lords.

Judges 11:29 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah. (That is key remember this) He crossed Gilead and Manasseh, passed through Mizpah of Gilead and from there he advanced against the Ammonites. And Jephthah made a VOW to the Lord

"If you give the Ammonites into my hands whatever comes out of my gate to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the Lords and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering."

Now when Jephthah returned home victorious to his shocking dismay his only daughter came out of his gate dancing. Now the question is did Jephthah place his only daughter on the alter as a burnt offering? I do not think so because only a madman would do such a thing without first going and talking to a Levite Priest to see if there was a way out. In the Book of Leviticus Chapter 27 we read that when a person makes a vow to God for a person then the Priest makes an a valuation based on the persons age and money is paid known as the redemption fee, girls from 5 years old to 20 was 10 shekels. The person can be dedicated to serving the Priests in the Temple or if there was no Temple at the time then they would still be placed in service with the Levite Priests, this service to the Lord was for life.

Deuteronomy 18:10 ESV /

There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer

We are told that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, if the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah then surely He would have stopped Jephthah from placing his

only daughter as a burnt offering and only a Levite can place the offering on the altar and we read that Jephthah went ahead with his vow and his daughter knew no man, It does not say she died a virgin the text reads she knew no man. She was Vowed to serve the Lord and that meant she would never marry or have children and thats why the woman of Israel mourned each year...

Thats the short end of the story, Jephthah is my favorite Judge he was like a Robin Hood Character, the story starts at Chapter 11 in the Book of Judges..... John 14:27

