

JUDGES: LESSON 8

VIII. THE JUDGESHIP OF TOLA, JAIR, AND THE CHOOSING OF JEPHTHAH (10:1-11:28)

- A. The Judgeship of Tola (10:1-2)
 - 1. Of Issachar
 - 2. Dwelt in Shamir in hill country of Ephraim – buried there.
 - 3. Judged Israel for 23 years.
- B. The Judgeship of Jair (10:3-5)
 - 1. Of Gilead
 - 2. Judged Israel 22 years
 - 3. Had 30 sons who had 30 cities called Havvothjair (the towns of Jair).
 - 4. Buried in Kamon.
- C. The oppression of the children of Ammon (10:6-9)
 - 1. Cause: Children of Israel did evil – served many gods.
 - 2. Sold into hands of Philistines and children of Ammon
 - 3. Israel on east side of Jordan in Gilead oppressed for 18 years.
 - 4. Israel on west side of Jordan in Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim oppressed.
- D. The penitent cry of Israel unto Jehovah (10:10-16)
 - 1. Confession: “We have sinned against thee...”
 - 2. God reminds them that He has delivered them before...but no more.
 - 3. Repentance: “they put away the foreign gods...and served Jehovah.
 - 4. God’s heart grieved over their misery.
- E. Jephthah chosen by people as leader (10:17-11:11)
 - 1. Children of Israel camp in Mizpah to choose deliverer.
 - 2. Jephthah fled to land of Tob.
 - a. Ostracized by his half-brothers for he was the son of a harlot.
 - b. Leader of some bad men – “vain fellows”
 - 3. Elders of people fetch Jephthah to be their leader against children of Ammon.
 - 4. Upon vow of people, Jephthah agrees to lead.
- F. Jephthah’s message for king of children of Ammon (11:12-28).
 - 1. First message designed to find out the reason for children of Ammon making war on Israel (11:12-13)
 - a. Answer: Israel took away land that from Amorites not Moab of Ammon – restore peaceably.
 - 2. Second message: arguments showing Israel had not taken land from children of Ammon.
 - a. First argument: Israel took land from Amorites not Moab or Ammon (11:14-23).
 - (1). King Sihon of the Amorites had previously taken land between the Arnon and Jabbok Rivers (Numbers 21:24-26).
 - b. Second argument: You take what your god, CHEMOSH, gives you – we take what our God JEHOVAH gives us (11:24).
 - c. Third argument: Do you have better claim than Balak, king of Moab, who did not fight against Israel (11:25)?

- d. Fourth argument: While Israel dwelt in Heshbon for 300 years, you did not try to recover land (11:26)
 - e. Conclusion: Israel has not sinned against Ammon – let Jehovah be judge between Israel and Ammon (11:27).
3. King of Ammon does not hearken (11:28).

QUESTIONS:

1. After Abimelech died, who served as judge for Israel?
From what tribe was he?
How did he serve as judge in Israel?
2. Who was the Gileadite who judged Israel for 22 years?
How many sons did he have?
Give the name and the general location of the sons' cities.
3. What was the extent of Israel's evil committed against Jehovah?
4. The name of the god of Ammon and Moab was (a) Dagon (b) Baal (c) Chemosh (d) Ashtaroth.
5. What was the consequence of God's anger against Israel?
6. Of what did God remind Israel when they cried unto Him?
7. What did God tell the people to do when they cried unto Him?
8. Did Israel repent? Explain.
9. How did God look upon their misery?
10. Locate where the children of Israel gathered to find a leader against the children of Ammon.

11. Whom did they choose and upon what grounds did he accept?
12. Why did Jephthah flee to land of Tob?
13. What was the cause of war between the children of Ammon and Israel?
14. Between which two rivers was the land that was under question?
15. Had Israel taken the land from the children of Ammon?
Explain.
16. Give *three reasons* why Ammon should not war against Israel.