

Judges Session 7

The Career of Jephthah, Impetuous Outcast of Gilead 10:6-12:7

There seems to be no way Israel could sink deeper after the reprehensible career of Abimelech, the opportunist Judge “wanna-be” born of Gideon’s concubine. But just when you think they have struck bottom, it gets worse. While Abimelech (a concubine’s son), forced his way into power, now we see Jephthah (a prostitute’s son) being *invited* to take command.

Pressure is on from both sides of the Jordan, and the best they can muster is a foolhardy captain with a rag-tag army.

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| A. Israel chases after other gods | 10:6-7 |
| 1. Syria and Sidon to the north (Baal and Ashtaroath) | |
| 2. Moab and Ammon to the east (Chemosh and Molech) | |
| 3. Philistia to the west (Baal and Dagon) | |
| B. East-bank under Ammon and the Philistines 18 years | 10:8-16 |
| C. Ammonites muster in Gilead | 10:17-18 |
| D. Jephthah, a prostitute’s son, is recruited to fight Ammon | 11:1-11 |
| 1. Jephthah and the Ammonites exchange words | 11:12-28 |
| 2. Jephthah makes a foolish vow for victory | 11:29-40 |
| E. Strife between Gilead and Ephraim for six years | 12:1-7 |
| 1. Ephraim angry at not being invited | |
| 2. Jephthah angry they didn’t come when called | |
| 3. Ephraimites stuck on the east bank murdered at the ford as they tried to get home | |
| F. The Career of Ibzan of Bethlehem – 7years | 12:8-10 |
| G. The Career of Elon of Zebulun – 10 years | 12:11-12 |
| H. The Career of Abdon of Pirathon in Ephraim – 8 years | 12:13-15 |