

# Hebrews 11

## JEPHTHAH

Hebrews 11:32c

### Introduction

Hebrews 11 has mentioned Jephthae/Jephthah as an example of faith to follow after or learn from. There is interesting details that have been recorded for us to learn about the life of Jephthah. There is an accurate, faithful record concerning his faith and his folly. For some reason, when we think of certain people, we too often remember them by their failures. Take king David for example, or Solomon, or even Abraham, Rahab, Peter...you

see what I'm getting at. It's not that I'm trying to address this as a right or wrong thing, just simply want to bring the reality that that is what we often do. Whereas the Lord in Hebrews 11 has chosen still to use these different ones that have evident and gross failures in their life to point back to their works of faith.

Jephthah was the one that foolishly vowed to offer "whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me" the he would offer that as a burnt offering, which so happened to be his daughter. It's interesting to note that he said "whatsoever" not "whosoever" indicated that he never actually considered that it would be his daughter to come out of the doors.

Nevertheless, we endeavour to touch on this vow and seek to find what it was about the faith of Jephthah that God would have us to learn.

<b>Born:</b>	➤ <i>Unknown BC</i>
<b>Barak's account is Found:</b>	➤ Judges 10:6-12:7
<b>Jephthah's name mentioned 30 times in Scripture:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Judges 11:1-3 (5),</li> <li>➤ Judges 11:5-15 (12),</li> <li>➤ Judges 11:28-30 (3),</li> <li>➤ Judges 11:32,</li> <li>➤ Judges 11:34,</li> <li>➤ Judges 11:40,</li> <li>➤ Judges 12:1-2 (2),</li> <li>➤ Judges 12:4,</li> <li>➤ Judges 12:7 (2),</li> <li>➤ 1Samuel 12:11</li> <li>➤ Hebrews 11:32</li> </ul>
<b>Some points of character:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Faithful</li> <li>➤ Fervant</li> <li>➤ Foolish</li> </ul>
<b>Death</b>	➤ <i>Unknown BC</i>
<b>Key Verses</b>	➤ Judges 11:29,32

# **OUTLINE SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE ACCOUNT OF JEPHTHAH**

## **Judges 10:**

- 6 Israel forsook the LORD
- 7 Israel is delivered up to the Philistines and the hands of the Ammonites
- 8-10 After 18 years of oppression Israel cries out to God
- 11-14 The LORD reminds them of His faithfulness in past deliverances and tells them to cry unto the gods they have chosen to deliver them
- 15-16 Israel repents and God grieves over their misery
- 17 Enemy gets ready for battle
- 18 Israel seek a deliverer and captain to fight for them

## **Judges 11:**

- 1 Jephthah, a mighty man of valour
- 2-3 Jephthah is cast out
- 4-6 Jephthah is called back to help them
- 7-9 Jephthah rebukes them for using him when they want and he proves them
- 10-11 They appoint Jephthah as head and captain over them before the LORD
- 12 Jephthah questions Ammonites for their reason to war
- 13 Ammonites respond with their accusation and demand
- 14-27 Jephthah clearly clarifies their accusation and simply tells them that the land belongs to God and not them
- 28 Ammonites didn't want to hear it
- 29 The Spirit of God comes on Jephthah
- 30-31 Jephthah's foolish vow
- 32-33 The LORD delivered up the enemy to Jephthah
- 34-40 Jephthah's dilemma because of his hasty words

## **Judges 12:**

- 1 Ephraim offended with Jephthah
- 2-3 Jephthah clears their accusation though they didn't want it
- 4 Jephthah defeats Ephraim
- 5-6 Jephthah maintained guard against Ephraimites
- 7 Jephthah was a judge for 6 years and then died

In this lesson concerning the faith of Barak we will look at two things:

1. A **Fervant Faith** – Judges 11:1-22,32-33 – *Jephthah was Faithful*

2. A **Foolish Faith** – Judges 11:30-31 – *Jephthah was Flippant*

**Memory verse:** (Hebrews 11:32) *And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

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## 1. A **FERVANT FAITH**

### I) **THE PEOPLE APPOINTED**

“And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, The LORD be witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words. Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh.”

*(Judges 11:10-11)*

### II) **THE LORD CONFIRMS**

“Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over *unto* the children of Ammon.”

*(Judges 11:29)*

### III) **JEPHTHAH GOES IN FAITH**

“So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands. And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, *even* twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.”

*(Jdg 11:32-33)*

**Conclusion:** **JEPHTHAH WAS FAITHFULL**

**Application:** **FAITH IS BEING FAITHFULL**

## 2. A FOOLISH FAITH

### I) JEPHTHAH'S FOOLISH VOW

#### a. Jephthah spoke hastily before the LORD

“And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.”

*(Judges 11:30-31)*

#### ***FAITH IS NEVER HASTY***

#### b. Jephthah's dilemma

“And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she *was his* only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back. And she said unto him, My father, *if* thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, *even* of the children of Ammon. And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows. And he said, Go. And he sent her away *for* two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her *according* to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel, *That* the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.”

*(Jdg 11:34-40)*

#### ***FAITH IS NEVER FOOLISH***

## II) THINGS TO CONSIDER

### a. The LORD does not commend hasty words (quick to speak)

Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

(Pro 29:20)

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

(Jas 1:19)

### b. The LORD does not condone human sacrifice

And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through *the fire* to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I *am* the LORD.

(Leviticus 18:21)

Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever *he be* of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth *any* of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones. And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name. And if the people of the land do any ways hide their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his seed unto Molech, and kill him not: Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people.

(Leviticus 20:2-5)

Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

(Deuteronomy 12:31)

When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

(Deuteronomy 18:9-12)

c. The LORD does not want us to vow flippantly

(5:2) Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

(5:3) For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice *is known* by multitude of words.

(5:4) When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for *he hath* no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

(5:5) Better *is it* that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

(5:6) Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it *was* an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

(5:7) For in the multitude of dreams and many words *there are* also *divers* vanities: but fear thou God.

*(Ecclesiastes 5:2-7)*

**“MANY OF CHRISTIANS MAKE UNNECESSARY DEALS WITH GOD WHEN THEY ALREADY HAVE GOD’S SPIRIT AND GOD’S WORD”  
(A BROTHER IN THE LORD)**

**“MANY CHRISTIANS IN THEIR MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE MAKE PROMISES TO GOD THAT THEY CANNOT KEEP AND WONDER WHY THEY GET DISCOURAGED WHEN THEY EITHER DON’T PERFORM, OR COME TIME TO PERFORM.”  
(A BROTHER IN THE LORD)**

When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.  
*(Deuteronomy 23:21)*

(Also read Numbers 30 to better understand a vow)

**Conclusion: JEPHTHAH SPOKE FLIPPANTLY**  
**Application: FAITH IS NOT FLIPPANT**

# SUMMARY

## 1. A FERVANT FAITH

Conclusion: **JEPHTHAH WAS FAITHFULL**

Application: **FAITH IS BEING FAITHFULL**

## 2. A FOOLISH FAITH

Conclusion: **JEPHTHAH SPOKE FLIPPANTLY**

Application: **FAITH IS NOT FLIPPANT**

ACCORDING TO THE RECORD OF GIDEON'S ACCOUNT AND  
COMMENDATION OF FAITH:

**FAITH IS FERVANT  
FAITH IS NOT FLIPPANT**