Rejected by Man - Accepted by God

Judges 10:6 – 11:27

Introduction:

In verses 1-5 Two Judges are Mentioned:

Tola

“After Abimelech there ﻿﻿arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in the mountains of Ephraim. ﻿He judged Israel twenty-three years; and he died and was buried in Shamir. (10:1-2)

Jair

“After him arose Jair, a Gileadite; and he judged Israel twenty-two years. ﻿Now he had thirty sons who ﻿﻿rode on thirty donkeys; they also had thirty towns, ﻿﻿which are called ﻿﻿“Havoth Jair” to this day, which *are* in the land of Gilead. ﻿5﻿ And Jair died and was buried in Camon” (10:3-5)

The passage for today will sound a very familiar refrain. It’s the cycle of sin. It happens seven times in the book of Judges.

1. Israel falls into idolatry
2. Israel is enslaved
3. Israel cries out to the Lord
4. The Lord raises up a judge
5. Israel is delivered
6. Israel serves the Lord
7. That Judge dies
8. The cycle starts again.

I. Israel’s Disobedience – 10:6-16

A. Rebellion – 10:6

“Then ﻿﻿the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and ﻿﻿served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, ﻿﻿the gods of Syria, the gods of ﻿﻿Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him.”

This is the Sixth time for this Cycle of Sin.

When they came into the land (see Joshua) God told them to drive out the inhabitants. They failed to do so. Seven false religions are still there.

These false religions promoted the most perverted and depraved practices in the history of mankind. They even sacrificed their children to these gods. Three times in this one verse it is stated that they abandoned the Lord.

B. Retribution – 10:7-9

“So the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel; and He ﻿﻿sold them into the hands of the ﻿﻿Philistines and into the hands of the people of ﻿﻿Ammon. From that year they ﻿﻿harassed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen years—all the children of Israel who *were* on the other side of the Jordan in the ﻿﻿land of the Amorites, in Gilead. Moreover the people of Ammon crossed over the Jordan to fight against Judah also, against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed.”

God’s anger was HOT against them.

He sold them into captivity to the Philistines and the Ammonites for 18 years.

God gave them up to their own desires. This is not the only time God did that. In Romans 1:24, 26, 28 we read the same thing -

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the ﻿﻿incorruptible ﻿﻿God into an image made like ﻿﻿corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them over (παρέδωκεν) to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, ﻿﻿to dishonor their bodies ﻿﻿among themselves. For this reason God gave them over to ﻿﻿vile passions. For even their ﻿﻿women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the ﻿﻿men, leaving the natural use of the ﻿﻿woman, burned in their lust for one another, ﻿﻿men with ﻿﻿men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things ﻿﻿which are not fitting;

C. Repentance – 10:10

“And the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, saying, “We have ﻿﻿sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!”

We have changed our minds - Μετανοέω = a change of mind.

Many commentaries make an unscriptural interpretation in verse 10 and verses 15 and 16.

Neither of these words regret nor repentance occurs in this passage, but their use in the commentaries makes this discussion necessary.

In verse 10 the commentaries call regret, --------

It is in fact Repentance – Μετανοέω

They say that if there is no change of direction there is no repentance.

In verses 15 and 16 they call it “repentance” – It is in fact Conversion - ἐπιστρέφω (“Reversal” in the outline).

D. Reminder 10:11-14

“So the Lord said to the children of Israel, “*Did I* not *deliver you* ﻿﻿from the Egyptians and ﻿﻿from the Amorites and ﻿﻿from the people of Ammon and ﻿﻿from the Philistines? Also ﻿﻿the Sidonians ﻿﻿and Amalekites and ﻿﻿Maonites ﻿﻿oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand. ﻿﻿Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore I will deliver you no more. Go and ﻿﻿cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress.”

Before we criticize them too much, we need to look at our own lives. Give them their due, they turned away from their sin and turned to God.

E. Reversal (Conversion) – 10:15-16a

“And the children of Israel said to the Lord, “We have sinned! ﻿﻿Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray.” ﻿﻿So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord.

F. Recovery – 10:16b

“And ﻿﻿His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel.”

When they (and we) turn from our sin, then God will pour out His grace and mercy on us.”

II. Israel’s Deliverer – 10:17-11:27

A. The Search for a Leader – 10:17-18

“Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in ﻿﻿Mizpah. And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, “Who *is* the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall ﻿﻿be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

B. The Selection of a Leader – 11:1-6

1. Jephthah was an outsider.

a. He was born of a harlot - like Abimelech. [Look at chart]

b. He was cast out by his family and city.

c. He gathered some men around him at Tob.

d. In the process he learned how to fight.

2. Ammon gathered to make war.

a. The people of Gilead went out to find Jephthah.

“Then they said to Jephthah, “Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon.” (11:6)

b. Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead:

﻿“Did you not hate me, and expel me from my father’s house? Why have you come to me now when you are in ﻿﻿distress?” (11:7)

c. The elders responded:

“That is why we have ﻿﻿turned ﻿﻿again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be ﻿﻿our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

C. The Success of a Leader – 11:1-27

1. The Courage of Leadership – 11:1

He was a mighty man of valor.

A leader needs to be a take-charge kind of guy.

He needs to have the courage of his convictions.

Say “yes” when others say “maybe”

He needs to have a plan and express it in a way that encourages others to accept it.

2. The Confidence of Leadership – 11:2-8

Israel had seen his confidence.

“That is why we have ﻿﻿turned ﻿﻿again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be ﻿﻿our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.” (11:8)

They admired his courage and confidence in light of all the adversity he had overcome. This is not arrogance. Confidence is knowing who you are, but more than that, whose you are. (God don’t make no junk!)

And you can’t wreck you life to the point where God can’t use it if you turn it back over to Him!

So, whatever your problem is, whatever your background is, whatever you think is keeping you from being what God wants you to be is not from God.

God is able and willing to take us from where we are right now and make us what He wants us to be. Amen?

3. The Cautions of Leadership – 11:9-10

“So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “If you take me back home to fight against the people of Ammon, and the Lord delivers them to me, shall I be your head?” And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, ﻿﻿“The Lord will be a witness between us, if we do not do according to your words.”

4. The Connection of Leadership – 11:11

“Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him ﻿﻿head and commander over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words ﻿﻿before the Lord in Mizpah.”

5. The Conviction of Leadership – 11:12-27

Jephthah tried to negotiate with the Ammonites: “let’s find out why we are fighting.” So he sent a message to Ammon.

a. What is your Problem?

“And the king of the people of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, ﻿﻿“Because Israel took away my land when they came up out of Egypt, from ﻿﻿the Arnon as far as ﻿﻿the Jabbok, and to the Jordan. Now therefore, restore those *lands* peaceably.” (11:13)

b. Here is my Answer:

* Check your History – 11:15-22

God brought us to this land (1500BC) - When we tried to pass through the land of the Edom and Moab. They would not let us pass through. We circled their land.

When we tried to pass through the land of the Amorites, they fought against Israel and God gave us victory and gave us their land.

Also, we got our land from the Amorites, not the Ammonites. You can’t even spell!

* Check your Theology – 11:23-25

This is the land that God promised us (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6)

What our God has given us, we will keep.

“Will you not possess whatever ﻿﻿Chemosh, your god, gives you to possess? So whatever ﻿﻿the Lord our God takes possession of before us, we will possess.” (11:24)

* Check your logic 11:26-27

We have held this land for 300 years.

You have not laid claim to it in all this time.

It’s too late now to for “native land claims”

c. The Basis of his Answer

Jephthah answer was based on truth

The truth of God’s promise

The truth of God’s provision

The truth of God’s preservation.

That is where we must stand – on the truth of God’s Word.

The atheists are getting bolder. We will not defeat them by our intelligence or our personal opinions, but by the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

Conclusion:

ABIMELECH

1. Son of a concubine

2. Shunned by his brothers

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

3. Plotted against his brothers

4. Killed 69 of his brothers

5. Not a judge

6. Killed by a woman

7. Buried in disgrace

8. Not mentioned again in the

Bible

JEPHTHAH

1. Son of a harlot

2. Shunned by his brothers

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

3. Helped his brothers

4. Delivered his brothers

5. Was a judge of Israel for 6 years

6. Died in his bed

7. Was buried with honor in Gilead

8. In the Hall of Faith Heb. 11:32