

Jephthah's Deliverance of Israel From the Ammonites

(Judges 11:1-40)

I. Historical Setting

- A. Israel failed to fully conquer the land
- B. Israel committed idolatry
- C. God repeatedly disciplined and then delivered Israel

II. Deliverance From the Ammonites

A. The need for a deliverer (10:17-18)

- 1. Oppression from the Ammonites for 18 years (cf. 10:8)
- 2. God's decree of judgment (cf. 10:13)
- 3. Gilead's call for a volunteer to lead their military attack

B. Jephthah – An Unlikely Candidate (11:1-3)

- 1. He was a valiant warrior
- 2. He was the son of a prostitute
- 3. He was cast out of Gilead
- 4. He lived in the land of Tob
- 5. He gathered a band of worthless followers

C. Negotiations for the Services of the Deliverer (11:4-11)

- 1. The Gileadites were acting out of desperation
- 2. Jephthah recognizes their desperation
- 3. Jephthah seizes the opportunity

D. Jephthah's attempted negotiations with the Ammonites (11:12-28)

- 1. Historical argument (vv. 16-22)

2. Theological argument (vv. 23-24)

3. Personal argument (v. 25)

4. Chronological argument (v. 26)

E. A Tarnished Victory (11:29-31)

1. Jephthah's rash vow (vv. 29-31)

2. Jephthah's slaughter of the Ammonites (vv. 32-33)

3. A tragic celebration (vv. 34-40)

### III. Lessons

A. There is tension between God's holiness and God's compassion and mercy.

B. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" Jer. 17:9 (ESV)

C. The hand of God should be recognized in all our good works.

D. Our relationship with God is not transactional.