

12 September, 2011

Text: Judges 11:30-40

THE VOW OF JEPHTHAH

Judges 11:30-31

1. Making of a vow to God

And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD **Judges 11:30a**

2. Condition of the vow

If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands **Judges 11:30b**

3. Content of the vow

Then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering. **Judges 11:31**

VICTORY OF JEPHTHAH OVER THE AMMONITES

1. The Lord delivered the Ammonites into Jephthah's hands **Judges 11:32**

2. The Ammonites defeated and subdued **Judges 11:33**

JEPHTHAH'S RETURN TO HIS HOME

1. His only child, his daughter went to greet him **Judges 11:34**

2. Jephthah's sorrow

a) He tore his clothes (expression of deep sorrow)

b) He felt he could not go back on his vow **Judges 11:35**

DAUGHTER OF JEPHTHAH

1. Courage of the daughter **Judges 11:36a**

2. Urged her father to keep his word to the Lord **Judges 11:36b**

3. Ask for some time to spend with her friends before she dies **Judges 11:37**

CARRYING OUT OF THE VOW

He carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man. **Judges 11:39**

DOCTRINE OF VOWS

1. It is an oath

2. It is a solemn promise made to God

3. It is meant to be kept **(Ecclesiastes 5:1-7)**

EVALUATION OF JEPHTHAH'S VOW

1. It was unnecessary

2. It was foolish

3. It was wrong

a) Human sacrifice is wrong

b) God would not accept this "burnt offering" **(Psalm 50)**