

JEPHTHAH AND MINOR JUDGES: WHERE DEPRAVITY MEETS FAITH

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Judges 10-12—Central Baptist Church—July 16th, 2023

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

Judges 2:11–13—*[11] And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. [12] And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. [13] They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath.*

Judges' Cycle = sin, servitude, supplication, salvation

If we receive anything good from God, it is not because we have anything to offer God. If we receive anything good from God, it's because God is gracious.

REPENTANCE

The marks of true repentance

- Confession of sin
- Acceptance of consequences
- Desire to change
- Consecration to the Lord
- The compassion of the Lord

WISDOM

The story of Jephthah is a reminder to us that leadership is hard.

Hebrews 13:17—*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

FOLLY

The role of the Spirit

New Covenant = regeneration

Old Covenant = task-oriented

Great men of God are capable of doing very foolish things.

Jeremiah 17:5

*Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.*

The victory belonged to Jephthah because the Spirit of the Lord was upon him, not because of his foolish vow.

Deuteronomy 18:10—*There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer.*

Psalm 127:3

*[3] Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.*

All of these judges make evident our need for a better judge—one that can actually promote lasting peace.