

## Judges 10:6 – 12:7 – Jephthah

a **introduction:** Israel's oppression and cry for help (10:6-16)

- chronological note

b **diplomacy in response to Ammonite threat** (10:17 – 11:28)

- begins: Ammonites called to arms
- Ammonites cross over to Gilead to fight
- why have you come against me to fight against my land? (11:12)
- Jephthah first resorts to diplomacy which fails

c **Jephthah's vow** (11:29-31)

d **TURNING POINT: Yahweh gives victory** (11:32-33)

c' **Jephthah's vow sadly fulfilled** (11:34-40)

b' **diplomacy in response to Israelite threat; tragic civil war** (12:1-6)

- begins: Ephraimites called to arms
- Ephraimites cross over to Gilead to fight
- why have you come up against me today to fight against me? (12:3)
- Jephthah first resorts to diplomacy which fails

a' **conclusion:** summary of Jephthah's rule; his death and burial (12:7)

- chronological note

*The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*, David A. Dorsey

### Discussion:

What do we learn about Jephthah (his character, positive and negative)?

How would you rate Jephthah as a Judge?

Compare Abraham's sacrifice (Genesis 22:1-19) with Jephthah's sacrifice (Judges 11:29-40). What are the similarities and differences?

If you were Jephthah would you fulfill your vow to God? Why or why not?

What does this story tell us about God?

***Jephthah – Judges 10:6 – 12:7 – Bob Krepps***