

### **Recap of 7/9/17 (Judges 11:36-12:7):**

1. The question in Judges 11 is what did Jephthah do with his daughter in light of his vow. Did he sacrifice her as a burnt offering; or did he devote her to serve God (at the Tabernacle), as a virgin, for the rest of her life (Exodus 38:8). The language of the passage can support either view. For the following reasons I believe that Jephthah did not sacrifice her as a burnt offering:

- the Mosaic Law did not allow child sacrifice (Deuteronomy 12:31; 18:10; Leviticus 18:21; 20:2-5).

- Jephthah's daughter mourned that she would never marry or bear children.

- It was permissible for a person to be redeemed from a vow by a monetary payment (Leviticus 27).

- It's hard to imagine a "hero of the faith" (Hebrews 11:32) practicing human sacrifice.

- “The language of the vow does imply that he might expect a human being to meet him at the door, but it does not imply that he had to sacrifice a human being to fulfill his vow.” (Dr. Thomas Figart)

- It is possible to translate the vow (11:31) as having two parts: “it will be the Lords’ “or” (not ‘and’ as in the NIV) “I will offer it for a burnt offering.”

- Judges 11:39 – “he did to her as he vowed” “and she was a virgin” (explaining the vow); implying “not execution but lifelong service” (Richards).

- A sacrifice would have necessitated a priest's involvement.

- The consequences of the vow was that she would bear no children (a cause for great grief), and Jephthah would have no posterity.

- She had done nothing to bring the curse upon herself, and an undeserved curse cannot be placed on one who does not deserve it (Proverbs 26:2)

2. Should Christians today make vows. “In the midst of personal turmoil, it is easy to make foolish promises to God. ...These promises may sound very spiritual when we make them, but they often produce only guilt and frustration when we are forced to fulfill them. ...Instead of pouring out promises to God for the future, commit to obey Him today.” (365 Life Lessons)