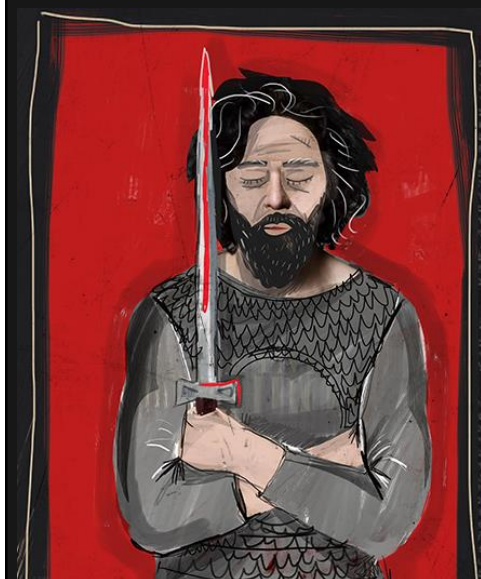




Image: 929.org.il

Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father



Context

Post-Egypt, Pre-Kingdom

Jephthah ≠ Japheth

Jephthah = *Yiftach* יפתח ("he opened")

- Gen. 8:6 Noah opened the window
- Num. 2:28 God opened the donkey's mouth
- Mark 7:34 *Ephphatha* means, "Be opened!"

Mentioned in

- Jdg. 11-12
- 1 Sam. 12:11
- Heb. 11:32



Judges 10:6a (ESV 2016)

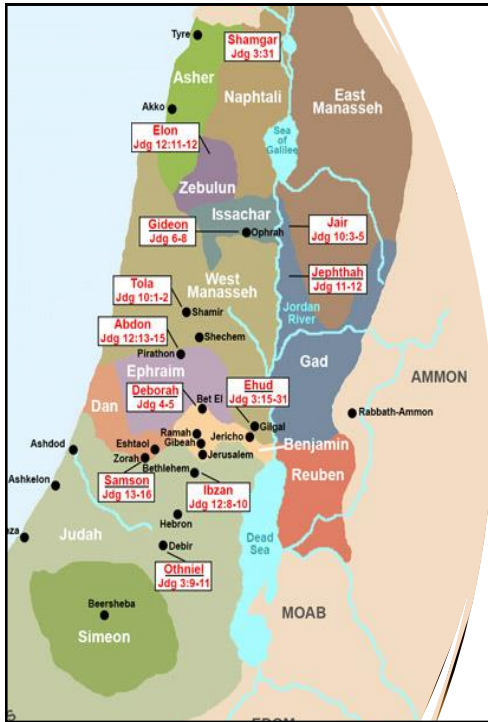
Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines.



Judges 10:6b-7

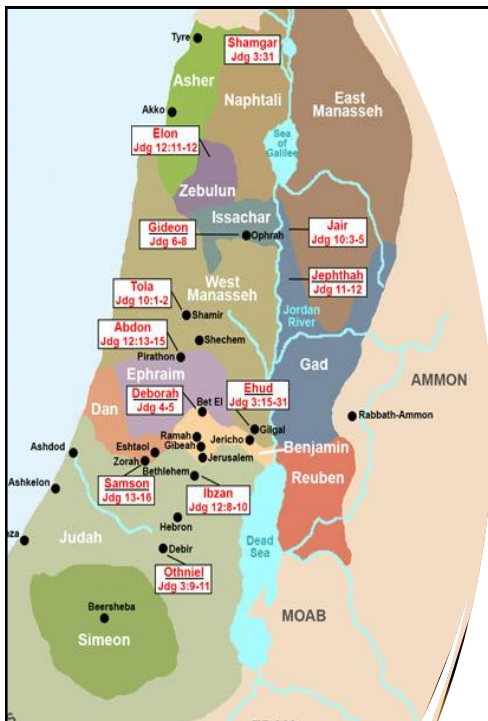
They forsook the LORD and did not serve him.

So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites.



Judges 10:8

For eighteen years they oppressed all the people of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead.



Judges 10:9-10

And the Ammonites crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah and against Benjamin and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed.

And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD.



Judges 10:14

"Go and cry out to the gods whom you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress."



Judges 10:16 (NIV 2011)

Then they got rid of the foreign gods among them and served the LORD.

And He could bear Israel's misery no longer.

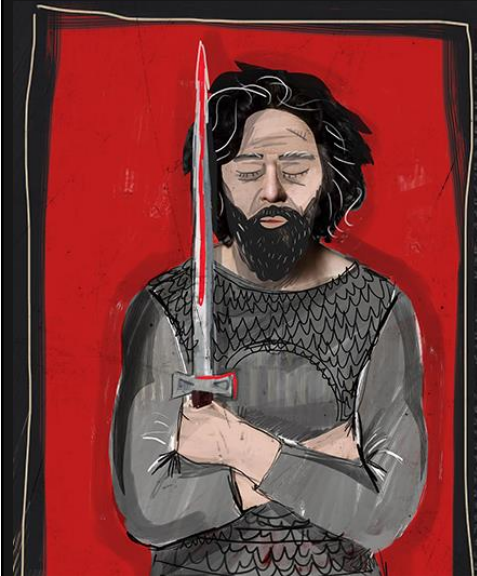


Judges 10:18 (ESV 2016)

And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said one to another, "Who is the man who will begin to fight against the Ammonites? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

Jephthah

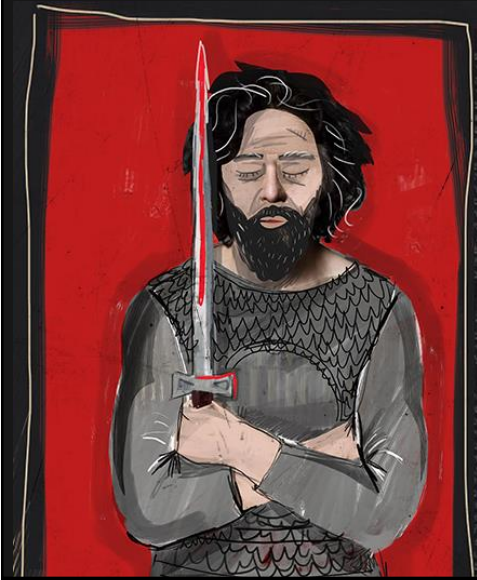
Fugitive | Fighter | Father



Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father

Judges 11:1-11



Judges 11:1

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the son of a prostitute.

Gilead was the father of Jephthah.





Judges 11:2-3

When [Gilead's] wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."

Then Jephthah fled from his brothers.



Judges 11:5-6

When the Ammonites made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob.

And they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our leader."



Judges 11:7

But Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me and drive me out of my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?"



Judges 11:9-10

"If you bring me home again to fight against the Ammonites, and the LORD gives them over to me, I will be your head."

And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be witness between us."



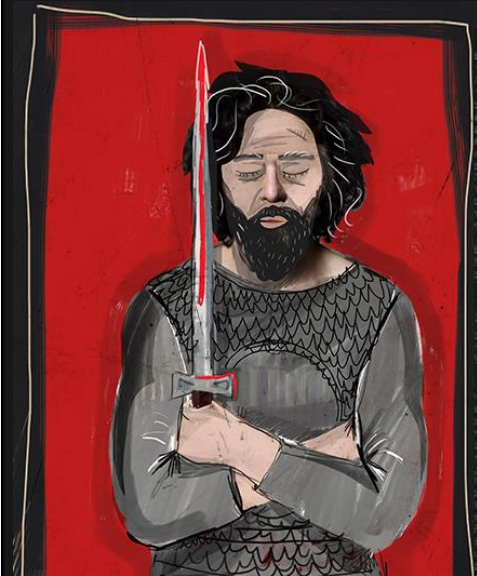
Judges 11:11

So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them.

And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah.

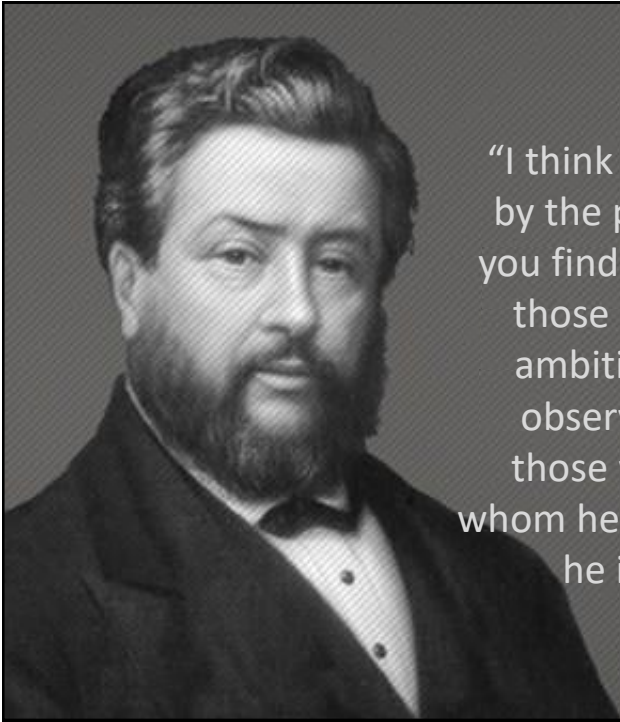
Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father



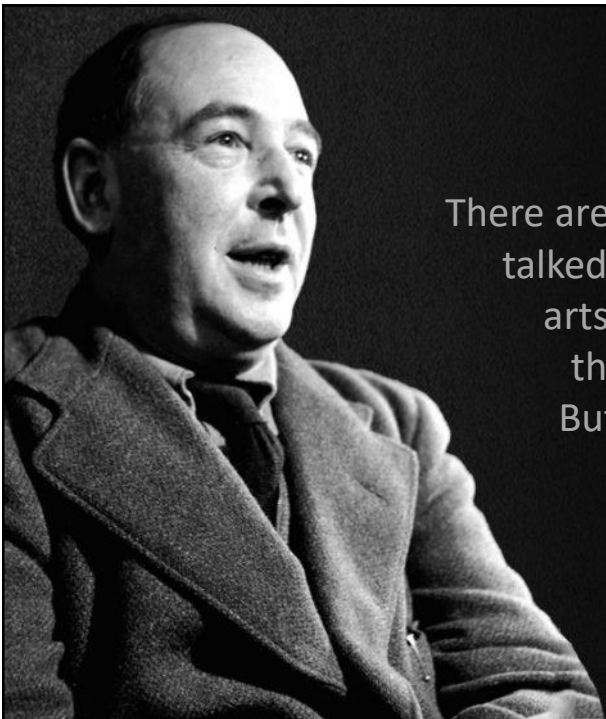
Judges 11:1-11

Jephthah feted by former foes



"I think you may judge of a man's character by the persons whose affection he seeks. If you find a man seeking only the affection of those who are great, depend upon it he is ambitious and self-seeking; but when you observe that a man seeks the affection of those who can do nothing for him, but for whom he must do everything, you know that he is not seeking himself, but that pure benevolence sways his heart."

- C.H. Spurgeon



There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit.

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

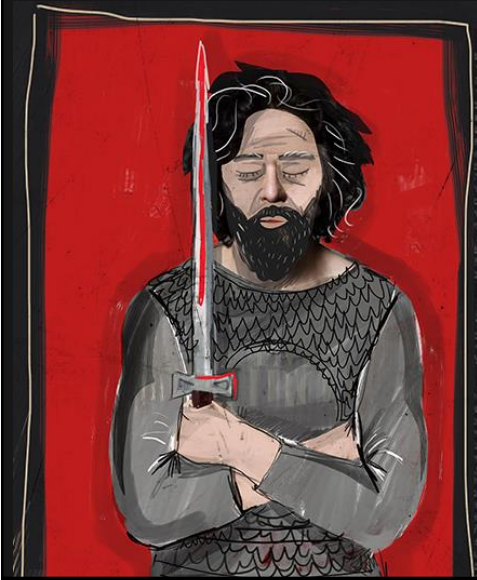
Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father

Judges 11:1-11

Jephthah feted by former foes

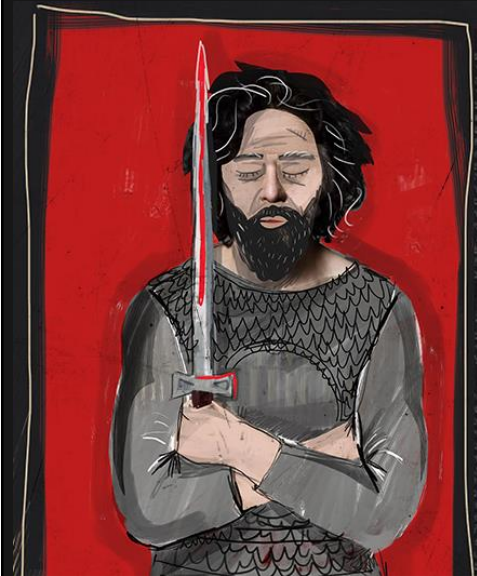
- Be careful who you scorn
- "Do unto others..." Matt. 7:12

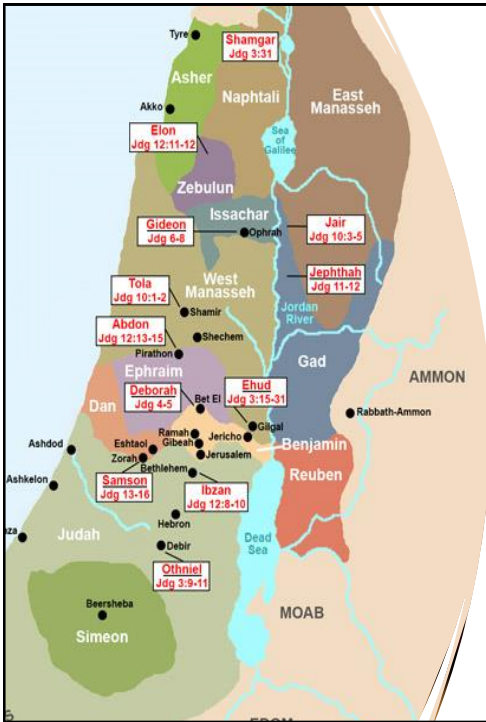


Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father

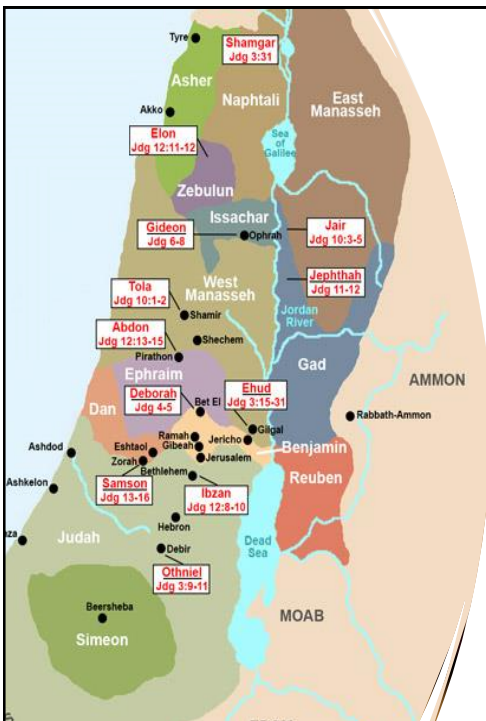
Judges 11:12-29





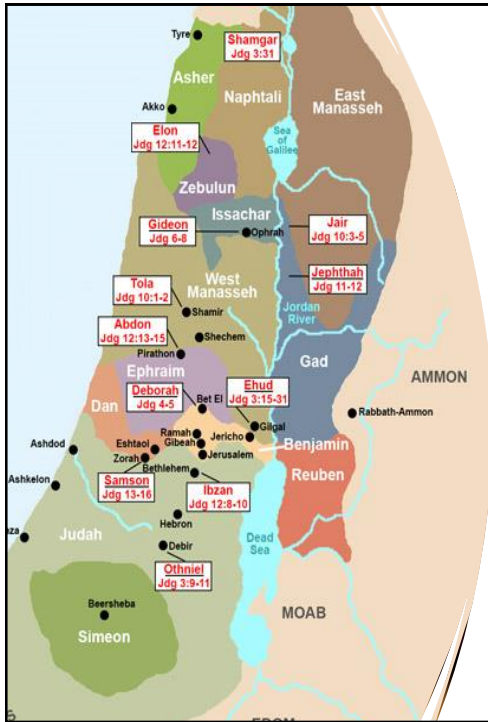
Judges 11:12

Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites and said, "What do you have against me, that you have come to me to fight against my land?"



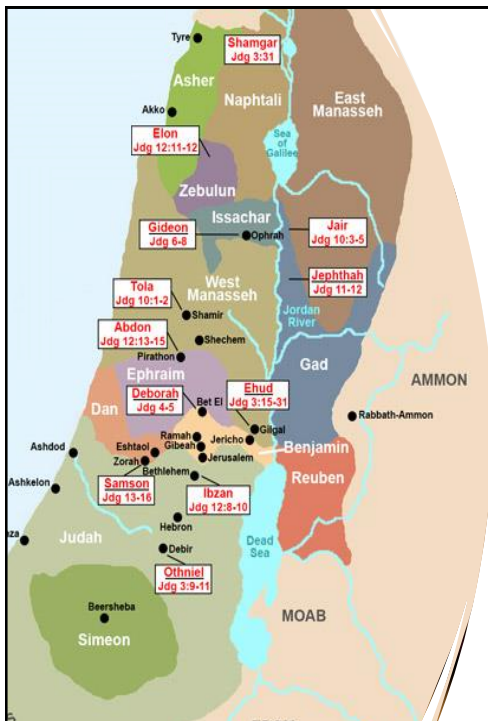
Judges 11:13

And the king of the Ammonites answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel on coming up from Egypt took away my land, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and to the Jordan; now therefore restore it peaceably."



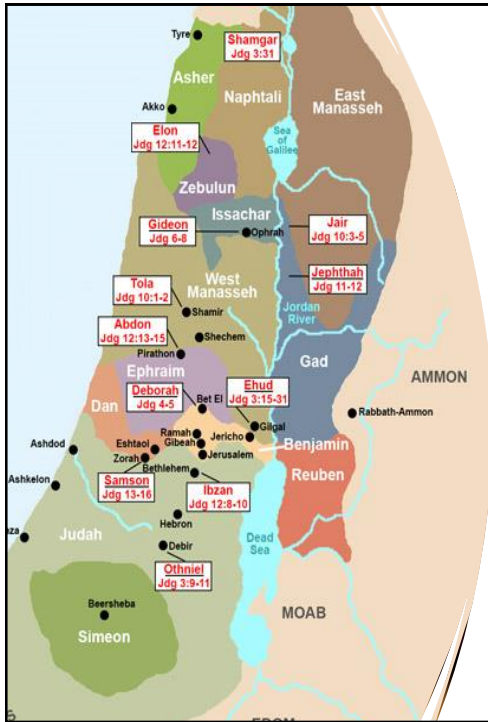
Judges 11:15-16

Thus says Jephthah: "Israel did not take away the land of Moab or the land of the Ammonites, but when they came up from Egypt, Israel went through the wilderness to the Red Sea and came to Kadesh."



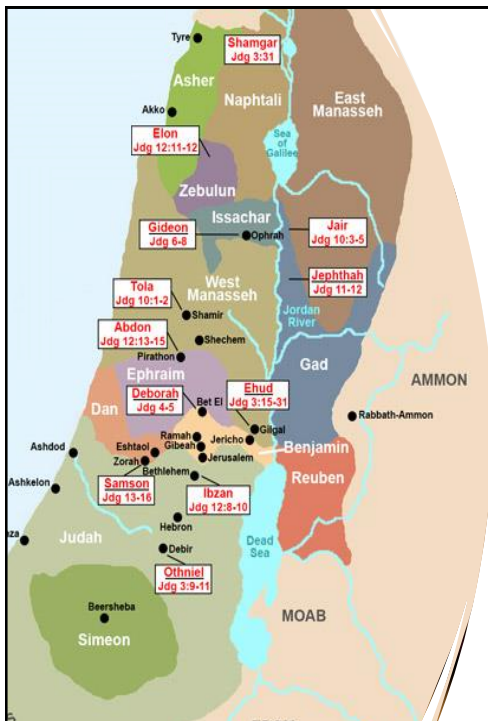
Judges 11:18a

"Then they journeyed through the wilderness and went around the land of Edom and the land of Moab and arrived on the east side of the land of Moab and camped on the other side of the Arnon."



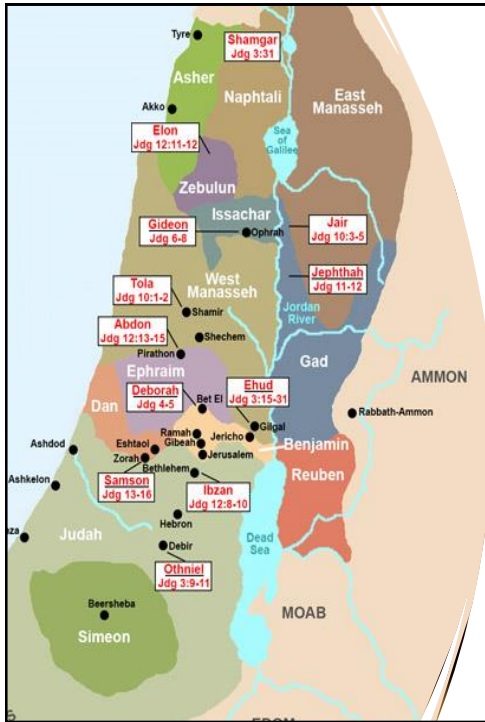
Judges 11:19-20

“Israel then sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites... ‘Please let us pass through your land to our country,’ but Sihon did not trust Israel to pass... so Sihon gathered all his people together... and fought with Israel”



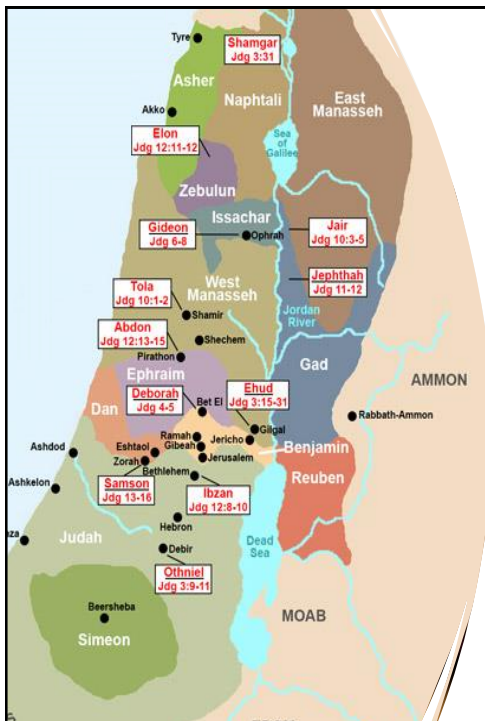
Judges 11:21-22

“And the LORD, the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them... And they took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from the Arnon to the Jabbok.”



Judges 11:26

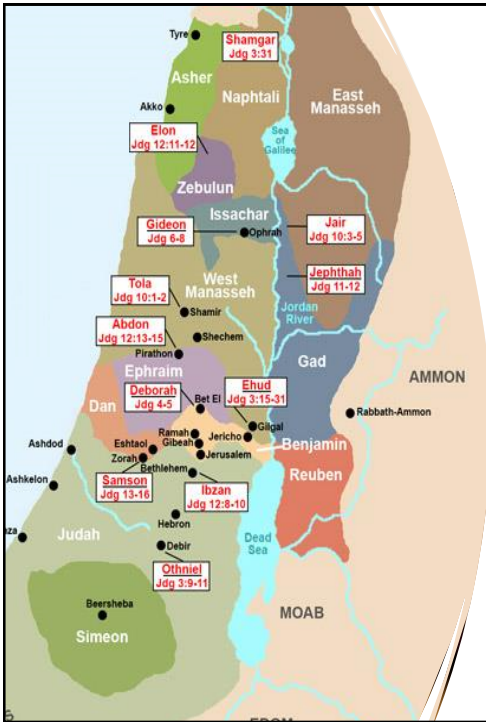
“While Israel lived in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are on the banks of the Arnon, 300 years, why did you not deliver them within that time?”



Judges 11:27

“I therefore have not sinned against you, and you do me wrong by making war on me.

The LORD, the Judge, decide this day between the people of Israel and the people of Ammon.”



Judges 11:28-29

But the king of the Ammonites did not listen to the words of Jephthah that he sent to him.

Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah, and... he passed on to the Ammonites.



Numbers 20:21

Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory, so Israel turned away from him.



Numbers 21:11 (NLT)

Then they went on to Iye-abarim, in the wilderness on the eastern border of Moab.



Deuteronomy 2:4-5

“You are about to pass through the territory of your brothers, the people of Esau... Do not contend with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as for the sole of the foot to tread on, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession.”



Deuteronomy 2:9

“Do not harass Moab or contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land for a possession, because I have given Ar to the people of Lot for a possession.”



Deuteronomy 2:19

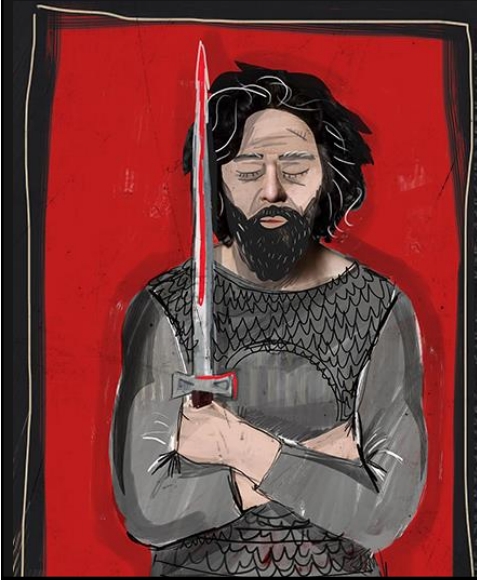
“And when you approach the territory of the people of Ammon, do not harass them or contend with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot for a possession.”

Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father

Judges 11:12-29

Jephthah forestalls the fighting



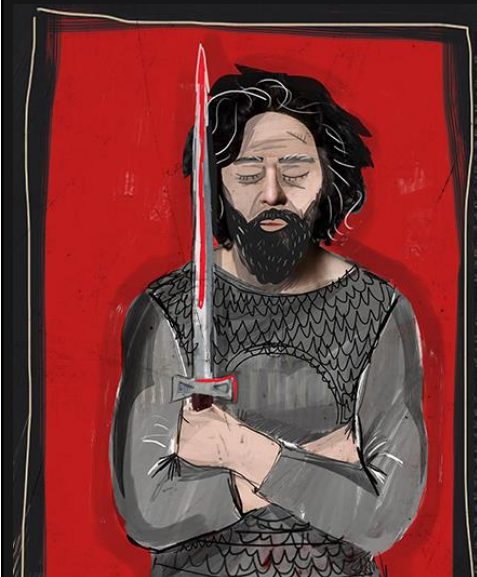
Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father

Judges 11:12-29

Jephthah forestalls the fighting

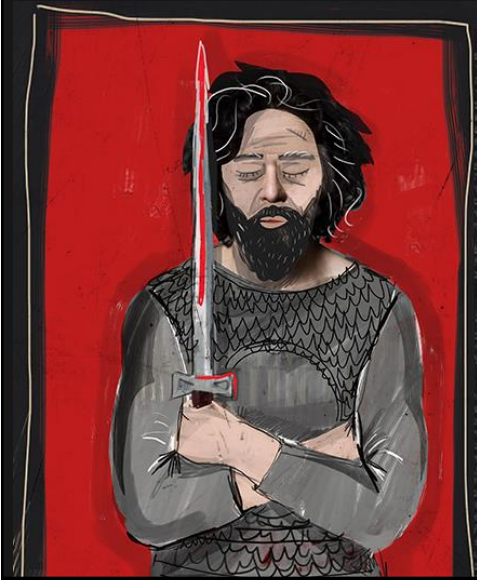
- Be careful what you say
- "Blessed are the peacemakers..." Matt. 5:9



Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father

Judges 11:30-40



Judges 11:30-31

And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering."





Judges 11:32

So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand.



Judges 11:34

Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah.

And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances.

She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter.



Judges 11:35

And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said,

“Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow.”



Judges 11:36

And she said to him,

“My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the LORD has avenged you on your enemies, on the Ammonites.”



Judges 11:37-38

“Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone two months, that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my companions.” So he said, “Go.”



Judges 11:39a

And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made.

She had never known a man.



Judges 11:39b-40

And it became a custom in Israel that the daughters of Israel went year by year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.



Jeremiah 7:31, 19:5, 32:35

Nor did it even enter My mind!



Deuteronomy 12:31

You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the LORD hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.



Numbers 30:2

If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

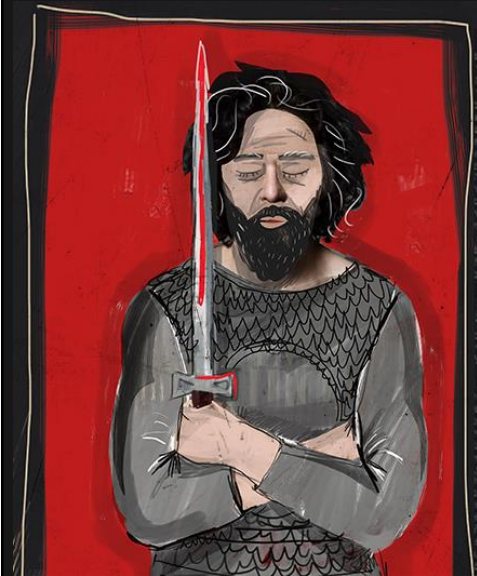


Leviticus 27:2-4

When anyone explicitly vows to the LORD the equivalent for a human being, the following scale shall apply... If the age is from five years to twenty years, the equivalent is ... ten shekels for a female

Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father



Judges 11:30-40

Jephthah foolishly forfeits his family

- Be careful how you speak
- "Simply let your yes be yes..." Matt. 5:37

Jephthah

The **Fugitive** feted by former foes

The **Fighter** forestalls the fighting

The **Father** foolishly forfeits his family

Jephthah

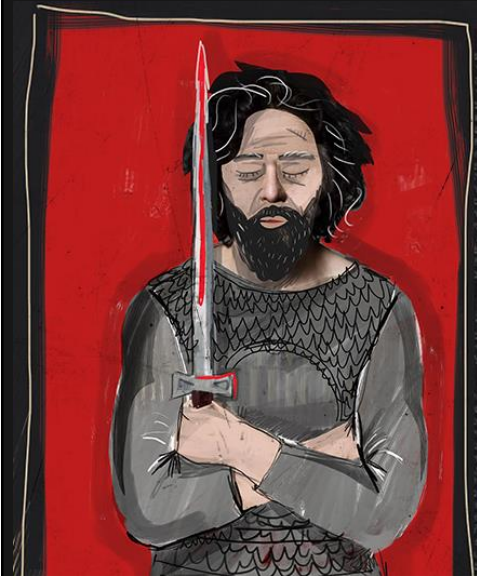
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Hebrews 11:32-33

And what more shall I say?

For time would fail me to tell of
Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah,
of David and Samuel and the
prophets—who through faith
conquered kingdoms...



Jephthah

Fugitive | Fighter | Father