

## **The Cycle Continues Judges 10-12**

### **I. Apostasy Again – Judges 10**

1. Tola judged Israel for 23 years – 1, 2  
This book is not meant to give a complete history  
Certain Judges are highlighted as examples  
We know very little about Tola & his deliverance
2. Jair judged Israel for 22 years – 3-5  
Again we know very little of his deliverance  
We simply learn of his 30 sons and their 30 cities
3. The children of Israel did evil again – 6  
They worshipped the gods of their neighbors  
They forsook the Lord and did not serve Him
4. God was angry & sold them to enemies – 7-9  
Philistines on the west and Ammon on the east
5. Israel Cried out to God – 10  
They acknowledged their sin to God  
But were they willing to forsake their sin?
6. The Lord challenged them in this – 11-14  
Lord heard their cry & delivered in the past  
But they went right back into the same sin  
Why not ask your gods to deliver?
7. Israel promises to repent & obey God – 16  
They put away false gods and served the Lord
8. Israel looked for a leader – 17-18

### **II. Jephthah, Unlikely Leader – 11:1-11**

1. God uses “things that are despised” 1Cor. 1:28  
Jephthah was “a mighty man of valor” – 1  
But he was the son of a harlot & despised – 1, 2  
Fled from his brothers, gathered a band of men-3
2. War began & they looked for a leader – 4-6  
Jephthah was now their choice  
God would humble men of Gilead in this
3. Jephthah agreed with conditions – 7-11  
Will they reject him again when war is over?  
He made a commitment “before the Lord” – 11

### **III. Diplomacy – 11:12-28**

1. Jephthah is ready for war but seeks peace  
Sent messengers to the King of Ammon – 12  
Ammon calls for restoration of their land – 13
2. Jephthah reasons with Ammon – 14-27  
He gave history of how land came to Israel  
Ammon refused to let Israel pass through  
God gave them victory & the land as spoils – 21  
Wouldn't you take land your god gave you? – 24  
This all happened 300 years ago – 26  
Jephthah did nothing to provoke Ammon – 27
3. King of Ammon refused to listen – 28

### **IV. Deliverance – 11:29-33**

1. Jephthah is God's man to deliver – 29-31  
He is a man of faith – Hebrews 11:32  
He is empowered by God's Holy Spirit – 29  
He makes a vow to God – 30-31  
He seeks God's help as he faces the enemy
2. God gives Jephthah a great victory – 32-33  
The Lord delivered them into his hands  
Jephthah made a complete conquest of Ammon  
Ammon was subdued before Israel

### **V. Dilemma – 11:34-40**

1. Jephthah is greeted by his only child – 34  
His daughter greets him celebrating his victory
2. He is in mourning because of his vow – 35  
He is committed & cannot set aside his vow  
Compare his commitment with Abraham - Gen 22  
Compare his vow with Hannah – 1 Sam. 1:11
3. His daughter supports keeping his vow – 36  
Integrity before God is important (Psalm 15:4)
4. The result is Jephthah's line ends - 37-40  
Either death or perpetual virginity his line ends  
The cost is high but he is true to his word

### **VI. Dissension – 12:1-7**

1. As with Gideon Ephraimites are envious – 1  
They threaten to burn down his house
2. He invited them but they refused – 2-3  
Now with victory they want to fight him
3. God gave him victory over Ephraim - 4-6  
42,000 men of Ephraim died in battle
4. Jephthah judged Israel for 6 years – 7
5. Three more judges are mentioned – 8-15  
Ibzan – was judge for 7 years – 8-10  
Elon – judged Israel for 10 years – 11-12  
Abdon – he judged Israel 8 years – 13-15