



Sowing the Word



Judges 11-12

Dec 29 - Jan 4

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

(Nehemiah 8:8)

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Helpful Study Resource:
Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Online Help:
http://preceptaustin.org/judges_commentaries.htm

Commentary:
**The commentary used with permission throughout
this booklet is:**
With the Word Bible Commentary
by Warren W. Wiersbe.
ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

Outline

REVIEW AND PREVIEW (1:1—3:6)

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Looking Forward (2:11—3:6)

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Othniel (3:7—11)

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Israel's Misery (10:6—18)

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Samson's Godly Heritage (Chap. 13)

Samson's Feast and Riddle (Chap. 14)

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Samson Duped by Delilah (Chap. 16)

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Micah's Religious Establishment (Chap. 17)

Micah and the Danites (Chap. 18)

The Levite and His Conqubine (Chap. 19)

The War and Benjamin (Chaps. 20,21)

-MacDonald, William, Believer's Bible Commentary, "Judges

With the Word Bible Commentary

Judges 11

No person should be blamed for the circumstances surrounding his or her birth. Why permit the things you cannot control to burden your life? Learn to accept them, and the Lord will work out His purposes in His own time (Ps. 139:13–16). Opposition will one day give way to opportunity.

There is every evidence that Jephthah was a sincere worshiper of the Lord. He negotiated with the elders in the hearing of the Lord and he knew the Scriptures. He was a man of faith and courage (Heb. 11:32) who depended on God's power for victory (v. 29).

Jephthah knew that God's law prohibited human sacrifices, and certainly the Lord would not have given victory on the basis of such an offer. Jephthah's daughter was dedicated to serve the Lord at the tabernacle and therefore remained unmarried. As a result, Jephthah had no descendants to carry on his great name. If she had been sacrificed, it is not likely that the maidens would have been allowed to commemorate the event annually, for that would have been imitating the heathen around them.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Jdg 11:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson

Judges 12

The men of Ephraim could never rejoice in another's victory as long as they were left out (Judg. 8). Jephthah was not as patient and tactful as Gideon, and the result was a civil war that took 42,000 lives. "See how great a forest a little fire kindles!" (James 3:5). Proverbs 17:14 offers good counsel.

The word shibboleth is in the English dictionary and means "a test to determining if you belong." If you do not conform exactly to what a group demands, you are rejected. Some Christians make these minor matters a test of spirituality and fellowship and bring division to the church.

We do not even know where Jephthah was buried! No matter; the Lord keeps the records, and this brave man will get His reward.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Jdg 12:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson

"His soul was grieved for the misery of Israel."

Judges 12:6

Written By: *F B Meyer*

Taken From: *Our Daily Homily*

And he said, Sibboleth.

It was only the omission of "h," but it meant the death of the man who missed it. One little letter, and the whole wonder and beauty of a human life was forfeited. It is only recently that the peace of an empire was in jeopardy, because a full-stop was misplaced. This scene has become proverbial of those who exact compliance with some arbitrary test, before admitting their fellows into their sect or church. But how thankful we should be, that our admission to the privilege of the Kingdom of God does not depend upon our pronunciation; that the reality of the new-birth is not tested by the accuracy with which we utter the creed; that we shall not be excluded from the gates of the New Jerusalem because we fail in the utterance of an "h"!

Our acceptance with God does not depend on how much we believe. The woman who was healed had very inadequate notions of faith and Christ. She thought that His garment would communicate blessing, yet she was cured. The dying thief had but a glimmering ray of knowledge of the majesty and power of Jesus, but he entered Paradise in His company. The prime necessity with us, is not faith in the sense of creed, but as standing for TRUST. It is not our belief about Christ, but our trust in Him; not our ability to answer the questions of the Catechism, but our coming to Him, and finding rest to our souls - this only is necessary to pass us across the fords of Jordan. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom 10:10).