

YIFTACH, SON OF GIDEON



- Judges 11 *Yiftach* = Jephthah
- Yiftach fled, formed a gang of desert pirates
- These bandits were regarded like Robin Hood
- Leading men of Gilead come to Jephthah and ask him to lead their army against the King of Ammon
- In return Jephthah would be made the leader over Gilead

**LIMITS OF ISRAELITE SETTLEMENT AND THE
LAND YET TO BE CONQUERED**

JOSH. 13:1-7; 15:6-3; 16:10; 17:11-18
JUDG. 1:1-3:6

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- City specified by Judges 1 as not taken by Israel
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Limit of Israelite control
- Areas yet to be conquered



AMMON'S BOGUS CLAIM OF LAND

- Ammon lay to the east of Gilead
- The Amorites ruled over the area that is now Gilead
- Never in history did Ammon ever control or rule over the area of Gilead
- Modern Palestinians were created in 1967
- Never a people or nation

JEPHTHAH IS ANOINTED BY THE RUACH OF GOD

- AFTER Yiftach chosen to be the leader of the army, God anoints him as a Judge
- **Labesh** = covered, like a garment
- **Hayyah** = spirit rests upon
- First thing Yiftach did was to travel through Manessah and Gilead to build up his militia



JEPHTHAH'S RASH VOW



- Jephthah vows to sacrifice the first thing that walks through his door when he returns from battle
- Jephthah's daughter greeted him first
- Yiftach felt he had no choice but to go through with his promise to God
- He saw a direct connection between the vow and his victory

DID YIFTACH ACTUALLY MAKE A HUMAN SACRIFICE?

- **“Whatever”** comes out first.....
- **Asher** does NOT mean what or whatever
- **Asher** = who, which, that
- This distinctly says that Jephthah expected a human to greet him first
- Unclean and clean animals lived together at the household
- Jephthah probably envisioned a household slave

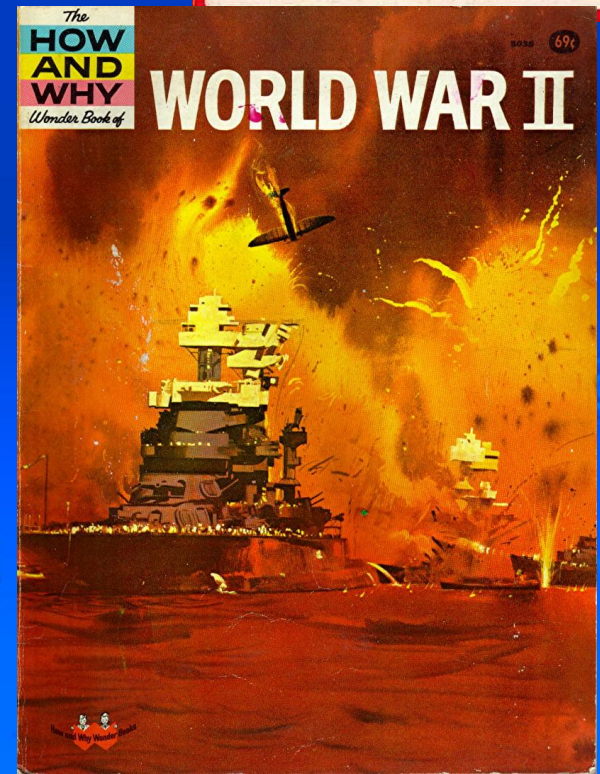




- ***Olah*** = burnt offering actually means “near offering”
- It means a gift to the Lord but it is usually given to Him by burning it up
- Not ONE commentary ever written or found before the Middle Ages that suggested that Jephthah’s daughter was spared death!

RE-WRITING HISTORY

- What was recorded during WW II was the most accurate info about cause, consequences, and the why's and how's
- After 50 years when someone writes a book about WW II and gives entirely different "facts" it should be met with skepticism
- After 300 years any book written about WW II is written by a person of a different culture who is entirely disconnected from that era
- The theory that Jephthah did NOT sacrifice his daughter didn't come about for 2000 years after the event!!



ARGUMENTS AGAINST JEPHTHAH SACRIFICING HIS DAUGHTER

- 1) Implication within wording of Scripture
- 2) Doctrinal view that God would not allow Yiftach to be considered a hero
- She asked for 2 months reprieve to mourn that she would not marry
- Returned, “father did as he had vowed”, she was still a virgin
- A yearly remembrance established to lament her



KEYWORD: VIRGINITY



- After 500 A.D. some scholars decided “virginity” was code for her not being killed
- Rather she remained a virgin her entire life, worked in the Tabernacle
- 1) Jephthah knew Law of Moses prohibited human sacrifice
- 2) Jephthah’s name appears as a “hero” in book of Hebrews
- 3) Yiftach had the Holy Spirit on him
- 4) Evidence of women working at Tabernacle
- 5) We should read vow terms of either/or regarding animal or person
- 6) Vs. 40 should say “praise” NOT “lament”

TANAH MEANS TO RETELL THE STORY

- The word *tanah* does NOT characterize the story, it just means to recount it
- “Lament” was a translator’s opinion
- Those whose opinion is that she was NOT killed, want to substitute the word “praise”
- Jephthah was a reasoned man
- He made a rash vow, but he was not a rash man!



WAS KING DAVID ANY BETTER THAN JEPHTHAH?



- King David committed adultery, fornication, murder, set up the Ark of the Covenant in a private tent, more
- The Lord will show mercy to whom He will
- The Lord will chose whom He chooses to use
- Jephthah a flawed man