

THE CONTROVERSY OVER JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER

- Jephthah, the Judge who liberated the northern tribes
- Jephthah vowed that in return for victory over Ammon he would make an 'Olah to the Lord
- His daughter was the first to greet him, so she became the object of the sacrifice
- Did Jephthah actually carry through on his vow?



ONLY AFTER 500 A.D. DID SCHOLARS SAY DAUGHTER NOT KILLED

- The original Hebrew says that Jephthah would sacrifice the first PERSON who came out of his door!
- He likely expected his chief house servant to greet him
- Book of Hebrew lists Jephthah as a bible hero
- Judges 12 reveals more of Jephthah's flawed character



JUDGES 12: LOOSE ENDS & AN END OF THE ERA



- Tribe of Ephraim had an overblown sense of self-importance
- Largest of all the tribes at this time
- Ephraim complains that they weren't consulted before the battle with Ammon
- Same complaint they made with Gideon years earlier

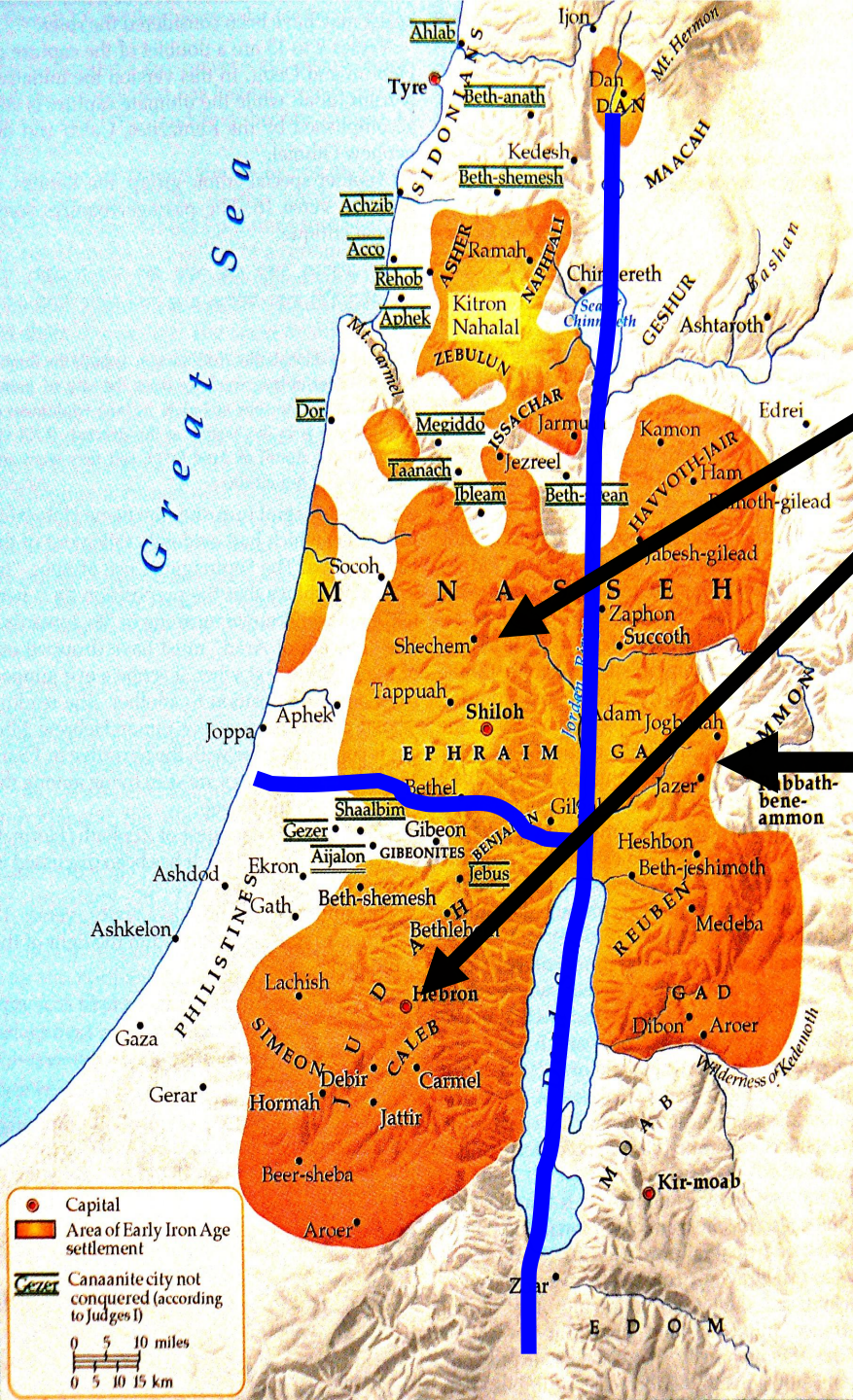
JEPHTHAH REACTS VIOLENTLY TO EPHRAIM'S THREATS

- Jephthah had already dismissed his army, and now calls them back to fight Ephraim
- Ephraim insults Jephthah by saying his men are nothing but deserters from Ephraim and Manessah
- Says the men of Gilead are not noble enough to rule



12 TRIBES DIVIDED

- Ephraim was a rival with Judah
- Both lived on the west side of the Jordan River
- Gilead on the east side of the Jordan, treated as another nation by those in Canaan
- Fight with Ephraim occurs mainly on the east bank of the Jordan



SHIBBOLETH



- Soldiers from Ephraim tried to disguise their identity
- Everyone trying to ford the Jordan was asked to say ***“Shibboleth”***
- Ephraim couldn't pronounce **“sh”**, instead only **“s”**
- Deep divisions had so isolated one Israelite tribe from another that they had developed different dialects!
- 42,000 Ephraimite soldiers were killed

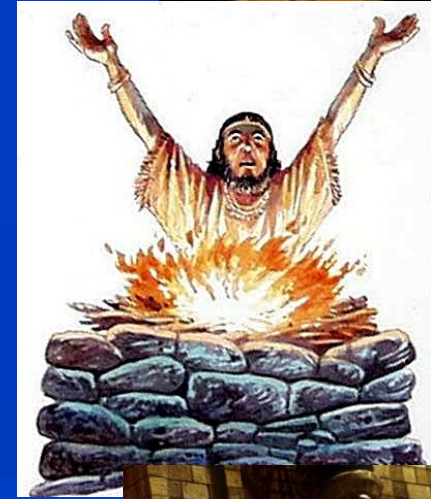
JEPHTHAH JUDGES FOR ONLY 6 YEARS

- The original Hebrew says he was buried in the “cities” of Gilead (plural)
- Midrash in the Talmud says: ***“ Because he was stricken with leprosy as a punishment.....limbs fell off one by one.... Were buried in different cities where they happened to drop off”***
- Jephthah committed a ruthless and needless act of annihilation against his brother tribe of Ephraim
- Jephthah was a bloodthirsty man prone to violence and retribution, BUT.....he was still used by God for His own purposes

3 MINOR JUDGES FOLLOW JEPHTHAH



- *Ibzan* comes right after Jephthah. No tribal affiliation is given. Ruled for only 7 years.
- *Ibzan* had 30 sons, and 30 foreign daughters in law
- After *Ibzan* came *Elon* of Zebulun, ruled 10 years and died
- Next was *Abdon*
- 40 sons and 30 grandsons
- Aristocratic, wealthy family
- Ruled only 8 years then died



SAMSON

- Samson “not a typical judge”
- Each judge was very different, no real “judge” mold
- Samson lived during a time of Philistine oppression
- Philistine oppression began about the time Jephthah was dealing with Ammon
- Israel was dealing with aggression AND pagan social pressure on all fronts



SAMSON LIVED DURING AND AFTER ELI



- Ark of the Covenant already taken by the Philistines
- The term “oppression” is a bit strong concerning Samson’s era
- Many Israelites willingly adopted the advanced ways of the Philistines
- There was no mass murder of Israelites happening at the hands of the Philistines

ISRAELITES ATTRACTED TO IDOLS



- Much intermarriage between Israelites and Philistines
- Philistine versus Hebrew pottery from that era is indistinguishable
- Samson was an overgrown juvenile delinquent
- Women fell at his feet
- Men admired him
- Samson enjoyed his Nazarite status, but only stayed true to the long hair requirement

DID PAUL HAVE SAMSON IN MIND?

- Romans 7: 14 – 24
- *“I don’t understand my own behavior....I don’t do what I want to do, instead I do the very thing I hate!”*
- *“Who can rescue me from this body bound for death?”*
- *“Thanks be to God HE will, through Yeshua the Messiah....”*

