

JEPHTHAH the JUDGE

Judges (p. 214)

Within a decade of renewing their vows to God (Joshua 24:16), Israel had turned from God into apostasy. How quickly we forget!

A. Sin of Idolatry 2:10-17

The people believed the Baals had power over crops, livestock and even cities. Baal-zebub (*Lord of Flies*) was the name used by some Philistines. Jesus used Beelzebub (a form of the same name) when referring to Satan (Mt.10:25).

What gods do we worship? What do we treat as more important than God?

B. Cycle of Sin 2:18-20

God's anger is a most compelling reason to strive against sin!

Psalm 103:9

C. Half-hearted Repentance 10:6-18

God wants whole-hearted submission. Do we want God or just what He can do for us? God wants relationship.

1Tim.2:3, 4

D. Jephthah the Judge

1. Jephthah the Disowned 11:1-8

God uses all sorts of people to reveal His greatness.

2. Jephthah the Diplomat 11:12-28

3. Jephthah the Doubter 11:29-31

Christians have the Spirit of God, the Word of God and the people of God so as to avoid such foolishness.

4. Jephthah the Defender 11:32-33

God never delights in the demise of souls He created.
2Pet.3:9

5. Jephthah the Daddy 11:34-39

The meaning of the phrase *will belong to the LORD* (31) is more significant than the *manner of consecration*. If it were an animal, the means of giving it to the Lord would, no doubt, be burnt offering. But when people were given to the Lord in dedication, it was as a *living sacrifice*.