



Wednesday
February 03, 2021

Judges

1

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Tola 10:1-2
 - Tola was a namesake of one of the sons of Issachar and consequently one of the clans of Issachar. (Genesis 46:13 and Numbers 26:41)
 - Led Israel in a period of 23 years of peace.

2

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Jair 10:3-5
 - An ancestor of this Jair with the same name captured the villages from the Amorites which he named Havvoth-jair before the Israelites crossed the Jordan. Numbers 32:41
 - Led Israel into an additional 22 years of peace.
 - Seems that his sons did not carry on his leadership.
 - The observation has been made that they were wealthy but not warriors.

3

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Another cycle of sin, oppression and cries for deliverance. 10:6-17
 - Although the focus will be on the Ammonites for the time being, we are now introduced to the oppression by the Philistines who will play an increasingly prominent role in the oppression of God's people.
 - Ammonite oppression began with the Israelites adjacent to them on the east side of the Jordan and then they crossed over the Jordan to fight against tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim.
 - God responded (probably through a prophet although no detail is given) rehearsing His faithfulness to Israel in the past and pointing out their unfaithfulness to Him.

4

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Another cycle of sin, oppression and cries for deliverance. 10:6-17
 - God chides them by suggesting that they call out to the pagan gods they have been serving but the people have now, once again, realized that Yahweh is the only one true and living God and began to return to Him.
 - The aggressive action of the Ammonites provides the occasion for God to bring relief to His people.

5

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Jephthah 11:1-12:7
 - Born the son of a prostitute and driven from his home by the other sons of Gilead to keep him from any inheritance from his father.
 - Jephthah had already distinguished himself as a mighty warrior and perhaps part of the motivation to drive him from the land was the fear that people would be drawn to him and he would pose a threat.
 - At the new threat of the Ammonites, the leaders of the territory offer to make Jephthah their leader if he will come lead the fight against the Ammonites.

6

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Jephthah 11:1-12:7
 - Jephthah reveals his negotiating skills by
 - Reminding them of their poor treatment of him in the past.
 - Making them admit their state of desperation in coming to him.
 - Eliciting a vow to Yahweh from them that he will be their leaders if Yahweh blesses him with success over the Ammonites.

7

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Jephthah 11:1-12:7
 - Jephthah first attempted a negotiated peace with the Ammonites.
 - He asked the reason for the aggression of the Ammonites
 - They replied that Israel has taken land that was rightfully theirs when the Israelites came up out of Egypt.
 - Jephthah rightly pointed out that this was land they had lost to the Amorites and the Israelites had possessed the land after defeating Sihon. In doing so, Jephthah shows a familiarity with the events of Numbers 21.

8

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Jephthah 11:1-12:7
 - Jephthah first attempted a negotiated peace with the Ammonites.
 - He then pointed out the inability of their false god, Chemosh, to help them keep their land.
 - He further pointed out their inability over the ensuing years to repossess the land.
 - He ends with the point that their claim that the Israelites took the land from them is not accurate; therefore, their claim on the land has no merit.

9

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Jephthah 11:1-12:7
 - The Ammonites refuse to listen, and Jephthah took the fight to the Ammonites.
 - Jephthah made a vow to Yahweh that he would offer as a burnt offering, the first thing that came out of his house if Yahweh would give him victory over the Ammonites.
 - Jephthah successfully waged war against the Ammonites.

10

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Jephthah 11:1-12:7
 - Much to his dismay, the first person out of his house at his return was Jephthah's only child, a daughter.
 - Jephthah expressed his grief but considered himself bound to complete his vow.
 - Jephthah's daughter accepted her fate but asked for a period of two months to mourn over a life cut short.
 - Jephthah fulfilled the vow.
 - A yearly commemoration of Jephthah's daughter was practiced by the women of Israel.

11

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Jephthah 11:1-12:7
 - Much to his dismay, the first person out of his house at his return was Jephthah's only child, a daughter.
 - Some interpretations attempt to mitigate this incident by claiming that the daughter was devoted to a life of solitude and isolation. There are suggestions that this was similar or perhaps foreshadowing a cloistered woman such as a nun.
 - The language used in the passage along with Jephthah's reaction when the daughter came out of the house would argue against these interpretations.

12

Observations

- God allows and uses the course of the events of the world to accomplish His purpose.
 - Note that there is no indication of God’s call of Jephthah to be a judge.
 - There is no inquiry by the people before choosing Jephthah to rule over them.
- The same person who allows himself to be mightily used of God on one occasion can woefully fail in another.

13

Observations

- Our behavior reveals what we believe about God.
- It is important to consider the whole counsel of God. (see Deuteronomy 12:31)
- God does not practice a “cancel culture”. (see 1 Samuel 12:11; Hebrews 11:32)

14