

## The Faith of Jephthah

(Hebrews 11:32)

### Introduction:

1. In Hebrews 11 we read about a number of men and women from the Old Testament who showed how faith will enable a person to be in good standing with God.
2. In vs.32 Jephthah is mentioned.
3. Jephthah was one of Israel's judges.
  - a. (Judges 10:6-9) The Israelites sinned by serving pagan gods, and the Lord punished them by selling them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites.
  - b. (Judges 10:10-18) The Israelites cried out to God for deliverance.
  - c. (Judges 11 - 12:7) God used Jephthah to deliver Israel from the Ammonites.

### Discussion:

- I. (Judges 11:1-3) JEPHTHAH HAD A DIFFICULT BACKGROUND
  - A. He is introduced as "*a mighty man of valor.*"
  - B. However, his mother was a harlot, and he was cast out of the family.
  - C. He also became associated with "*vain men*" (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- II. (Judges 11:4-11) JEPHTHAH WAS ASKED TO BE CAPTAIN OF THE ARMY
  - A. Earlier, the people of Gilead did not consider him to be good enough to live with them.
  - B. During war, however, they were willing to have him serve as their leader.
  - C. The Israelites treated Jephthah like they treated God.
    1. When they were not at war they rejected God.
    2. When war started they cried out to Him for deliverance.
- III. (Judges 11:12-28) JEPHTHAH HAD A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMMONITE KING
  - A. (vs.12) Jephthah asked the king why he had come to fight in Gilead.
  - B. (vs.13) The king accused Israel of taking his land.
  - C. (vs.14-27) Jephthah showed the king that God had given Israel its land.
  - D. (vs.28) The king did not listen to Jephthah's words.
- IV. (Judges 11:29-31) JEPHTHAH MADE A VOW TO GOD
- V. (Judges 11:32-33) JEPHTHAH DEFEATED THE AMMONITES
- VI. (Judges 11:34-40) JEPHTHAH RETURNED HOME AND WAS MET BY HIS DAUGHTER
- VII. (Judges 12:1-7) JEPHTHAH AND THE PEOPLE OF GILEAD FOUGHT AGAINST THE EPHRAIMITES