

# From Outcast to Judge

## THE BOOK OF JUDGES

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Judges 10:1-2 *After the time of Abimelech, a man of Issachar, Tola son of Puah, the son of Dodo, rose up to save Israel. He lived in Shamir, in the hill country of Ephraim. 2Tola judged Israel twenty-three years, and when he died, he was buried in Shamir.*

God's people need a \_\_\_\_\_ who will save them from themselves.

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Judges 10:3-5 *Tola was followed by Jair the Gileadite, who judged Israel twenty-two years. 4He had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys. And they had thirty towns in the land of Gilead....*

The amazing \_\_\_\_\_ of Yahweh.

Judges 10:6 *And again the Israelites did evil in the sight of the LORD/Yahweh. They served the Baals, the Ashtoreths, the gods of Aram, Sidon, and Moab, and the gods of the Ammonites and Philistines. Thus they forsook/abandoned/turned away from the LORD/Yahweh and did not serve Him.*

You \_\_\_\_\_ from God, you stop serving, and end up serving something else.

Idolatry leads to \_\_\_\_\_ and enslavement leads to idolatry.

Judges 10:7-8 *So the anger of the LORD/Yahweh burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and Ammonites, 8who that very year harassed and oppressed the Israelites, and they did so for eighteen years...*

He stopped \_\_\_\_\_ them.

Romans 1:23-25 *And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. 24So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. 25They traded the truth about God for a lie.*

Judges 10:9-14 *The Israelites were in great distress. Finally, they cried out to the LORD/Yahweh for help, saying, "We have sinned against you because we have abandoned you as our God and have served the images of Baal." The LORD/Yahweh replied, "Did I not rescue you from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines, <sup>12</sup>the Sidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites? When they oppressed you, you cried out to me for help, and I rescued you. <sup>13</sup>Yet you have abandoned me and served other gods. So I will not rescue you anymore. <sup>14</sup>Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen! Let them rescue you in your hour of distress!"*

Judges 10:15-16 *But the Israelites pleaded with the LORD/Yahweh and said, "We have sinned. Punish us as you see fit, only rescue us today from our enemies." <sup>16</sup>Then the Israelites put aside their foreign gods and served the LORD/Yahweh. And He was grieved by their misery.*

\_\_\_\_\_ of sin is not the same as repentance.

## Signs of real repentance:

A sorrow for sin, not just \_\_\_\_\_.

A sorrow over motives, not just \_\_\_\_\_.

Judges 11:1-3 *Now Jephthah of Gilead was a great warrior. He was the son of Gilead, but his mother was a prostitute. 2Gilead's wife also had several sons, and when these half brothers grew up, they chased Jephthah off the land. "You will not get any of our father's inheritance," they said, "for you are the son of a prostitute." 3So Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob. Soon he had a band of worthless rebels following him.*

Your past may \_\_\_\_\_ you, but it does not \_\_\_\_\_ you.

You can not have Yahweh's \_\_\_\_\_ without accepting His rule.

Judges 11:11 *So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him their ruler and commander of the army. At Mizpah, in the presence of the LORD/Yahweh, Jephthah repeated what he had said to the elders.*

Judges 11:27-28 *Therefore, I have not sinned against you. Rather, you have wronged me by attacking me. Let the LORD/Yahweh, who is Judge, decide today which of us is right—Israel or Ammon." 28But the king of Ammon paid no attention to Jephthah's message.*

Judges 11:29 *At that time the Spirit of the LORD/Yahweh came upon Jephthah...*

Judges 11:30-31 *Jephthah made this vow to the LORD/Yahweh: "If indeed You will deliver the Ammonites into my hand, 31then whatever comes out the door of my house to greet me on my triumphant return from the Ammonites will belong to the LORD/Yahweh, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering."*

Judges 11:34-35 *When Jephthah returned home to Mizpah, his daughter came out to meet him, playing on a tambourine and dancing for joy. She was his one and only child; he had no other sons or daughters. 35When he saw her, he tore his clothes in anguish. "Oh, my daughter!" he cried out. "You have completely destroyed me! You've brought disaster on me! For I have made a vow to the LORD/Yahweh, and I cannot take it back."*

Judges 11:39 *When she returned home, her father kept the vow he had made, and she died a virgin.*

He didn't know Yahweh's \_\_\_\_\_ or His words.

## Lessons from Jephthah's mistakes:

Guard the \_\_\_\_\_ of your mouth.

Guard culture's \_\_\_\_\_ in your life.

Guard your view of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Judges 12:7 *Jephthah judged Israel for six years. When he died, he was buried in one of the towns of Gilead.*