

# THE MESSENGER



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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## **Jephthah's Vow** **Judges 11:30-40** *by Dempsey Collins*

1. Vows were lawful and voluntary (Lev. 27; Num. 6).
2. A parent could vow or dedicate a child to the Lord (I Sam. 1:11).
3. Any person could vow or dedicate themselves to the Lord (Ex. 38:8).
4. There is no clear biblical evidence of human sacrifice among Israelites until the latter years of the monarchy, i.e., some 400 years later (II Kings 16:3 – Ahaz; 21:6 – Manasseh).
5. The burnt offering signified complete surrender to God (Lev. 1:3-17; 6:8-13).
6. Only the Aaronic priests were authorized to offer such sacrifices (Lev. 1ff).
7. Human sacrifice, particularly child sacrifice, was repugnant to God (Lev. 18:21; 20:1-5).
8. Anyone who offered the literal sacrifice of a child would face severe consequences from the Lord: “I will set my face against that man and cut him off from his people” (Lev. 20:3).
9. Jephthah had some knowledge and faith in Yahweh, the Law and Israel's history (11:12-28).

10. The Scriptures nowhere state: Jephthah killed his daughter; The people bewailed her death; The daughter wept in view of her death.
11. The Scriptures do state: Jephthah kept his vow, v. 39; The people wept because of his daughter's virginity, vv. 37, 38; The daughter wept because of her virginity, vv. 37, 38.
12. Judges 11:39 tells us Jephthah kept his vow "and she had no relations with a man".
13. Jephthah's daughter was his only child (v. 34), therefore his only hope of continuing his name in Israel.
14. Jephthah is listed as a man of faith and instrument of the Lord (I Sam. 12:11; Heb. 11:32).

## **Lessons from Judges**

1. The great patience and mercy of God.
2. The power and wisdom of God.
3. Man's tendency to forget the Lord.
4. The consequences of compromise.
5. The importance of trusting the Lord and humbling our hearts before Him.
6. The importance of good leadership.

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### **NOTES & NEWS:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."  
James 5:16*