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STRANGE BUT TRUE
STORIES IN THE BIBLE

JEPHTHAH'S TRAGIC VOW

JUDGES 11 : 29 - 40

Rebellion › Oppression › Crying Out › Redemption › Peace

“The LORD said to the Israelites, “When the Egyptians, Amorites, Ammonites, Philistines, Sidonians, Amalekites, and Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to me, did I not deliver you from them? But you have abandoned me and worshiped other gods. Therefore, I will not deliver you again. Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen. Let them deliver you whenever you are oppressed.”

Judges 10:11-14 CSB

“You are not to sacrifice any of your children in the fire to Molech. Do not profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.”

Leviticus 18:21 CSB

“The LORD spoke to Moses: “Say to the Israelites: Any Israelite or alien residing in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech must be put to death; the people of the country are to stone him. I will turn against that man and cut him off from his people, because he gave his offspring to Molech, defiling my sanctuary and profaning my holy name. But if the people of the country look the other way when that man gives any of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death, then I will turn against that man and his family, and cut off from their people both him and all who follow him in prostituting themselves with Molech.”

Leviticus 20:1–5 CSB

“They have built high places to Baal on which to burn their children in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, something I have never commanded or mentioned; I never entertained the thought.”

Jeremiah 19:5 CSB

“The Spirit of the LORD came on Jephthah, who traveled through Gilead and Manasseh, and then through Mizpah of Gilead. He crossed over to the Ammonites from Mizpah of Gilead.”

Judges 11:29 CSB

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Judges 11:29 CSB

Having the Holy Spirit is not the same as living by the Holy Spirit.

Jephthah made this vow to the LORD: “If you in fact hand over the Ammonites to me, whoever comes out the doors of my house to greet me when I return safely from the Ammonites will belong to the LORD, and I will offer that person as a burnt offering.”

Judges 11:30–31 CSB

**Our relationship with God is
not transactional.**

Our relationship with God is not transactional; it's covenantal.

When he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, “No! Not my daughter! You have devastated me! You have brought great misery on me. I have given my word to the LORD and cannot take it back.” Then she said to him, “My father, you have given your word to the LORD. Do to me as you have said, for the LORD brought vengeance on your enemies, the Ammonites.” She also said to her father, “Let me do this one thing: Let me wander two months through the mountains with my friends and mourn my virginity.”

Judges 11:35–37 CSB

We need to know our God.

We need to know God for ourselves.

What about Genesis 22?

“What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?”

Romans 8:31-32 CSB