

# Calvary Chapel Cajon

## *Women's Bible Studies*

### **Judges 9-12**

### **Lesson 5**

This section of Judges mentions seven men who judged Israel. The accounts of most of those men are minimal. In this lesson we will focus on three: a judge who wanted to be king, his brother who challenged his reign and lastly, a social outcast who gained favor because he stepped up to God's calling - one a man born right who did wrong, his brother who was born right and did right, and a man born wrong but who lived right. The only option left would be to be born wrong and live wrong. Judges 9-12 doesn't cover that kind of life. However, may we see that life, just as the other three, as a choice rather than a destiny. We can be born right and live wrong; we can be born wrong and live right. May we choose the path of the ones who end up right. That is what God is longing for.

#### **DAY ONE: Judges 9 – Born Right; Lived Wrong**

1. Read Judges 8:33-35. Describe the state of the *children of Israel*, at the time recounted in chapter 9.
2. Judges 9 begins with Abimelech, the son of Jerubbaal (Gideon). Verse 2 reveals his ambition. What was it?
  - a. When his father, Gideon, was offered rule of the people, what did he say? Judges 8:23
3. Abimelech's downfall began with selfish-ambition. Of itself, ambition is not an evil thing. When is ambition evil?
  - a. Record from verse 4 what Abimelech did.
    - 1.) What might be an equivalent of this sin today?
4. Judges 9:5 tells us that Abimelech killed Gideon's 70 sons – only one, Jotham, the youngest, escaped. After this horrendous murder, what does verse 6 tell us the people did?

a. What does this tell you about the spiritual state of the people?

1.) How does the reaction or non-reaction of people today parallel this attitude?

## DAY TWO: Born Right; Lived Right

1. When the people *told Jotham, he went and stood...and lifted his voice and cried out...* verse 7 Complete what he said to them in this verse by filling in the blanks.

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, you men of Shechem, that \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_!

a. As you observed from reading Judges 9:1-7, Abimelech broke many of God's laws as did the people by supporting him. What is the warning of Psalm 7:14-16?

b. How is this a warning to you, personally?

2. Judges 9:8-15 is Jotham's message. It was given in the form of a parable. His message was to remind the people of the honor of his father Gideon and of Gideon's refusal to rule the people (represented by the trees). But, the trees settled for the bramble (Abimelech). A bramble was not of much value. According to verse 15, what did the *bramble* tell the people to do if they would *anoint him as king*?

a. How much protection does a *bramble* provide?

b. Not only is a bramble unable to protect, its real value is only to be fuel for fire. Jotham challenged them as to whether they were honoring Jerubbaal (Gideon) in making Abimelech king (verse 16-20). What curse did he put upon them if they dishonored his father by choosing Abimelech? verse 20

3. Judges 9:21 tells us that after speaking, *Jotham ran away and fled...for fear of his brother*. His job was done. He did what he felt he had to do. These actions would appear to show us that Jotham had no ambition to be king, but rather to honor God and his father. What can we learn from Jotham's example?

4. What does verse 22 tell us that reveals the people did not listen to Jotham?

a. Might their refusal to heed Jotham's words be an indication that his message was not of God? Why or why not?

5. What was right about Jotham's message and what he did?
- a. What might be a parallel to this today? (Note: there are more parallels to this than political examples)
6. Judges 9:23-57 describes some of the Abimelech's victories in battle, but also the downfall that had been set in place against him and the men who endorsed him. Describe that downfall using the following verses:
- 23
- 27 (speaking of the people who had once followed Abimelech)
- 53
- 54
- 56
- 57
- a. What is the observation quoted in Job 4:8?

- 1.) What have you personally observed?

### **DAY THREE: Judges 10, The Deliverer**

1. Judges 10 records the names of two judges (Tola and Jair) whom God raised up to deliver Israel during a period covering about 45 years. Underline (on your observation worksheet) the phrase *did evil in the sight of the LORD* (verse 6). What *evil* did Israel *do*?
- a. According to verse 7, what was God's reaction?
2. After 18 years of suffering with enemy occupation, Israel *cried out to the LORD*. What did Israel pray? verse 10

3. Using your observation worksheet for chapter 10, mark the keyword *deliver/delivered*. It is used five times in verses 11-16.
  - a. Using the word *deliver*, describe the conversation between God and the people in these verses.
  
4. Although God told Israel to go to the gods they had been serving to deliver them, and gave them no apparent hope for His deliverance, what did Israel do? verse 16
  - a. How does their action show true repentance?
  
  - b. What awesome, incredible words does verse 16b reveal about the heart of God?
    - 1.) Read the account of God's dealings with His people in Psalm 106:42-45. What did you learn?
  
    - 2.) Describe what you have personally discovered about the heart of God when you sin?

#### **DAY FOUR: Judges 11:1-28 – Born Wrong, Lived Right**

1. Judges 11 introduces us to Jephthah. Read verses 1,2 and list what you learned about him.
  
2. Born wrong, bad start. When Jephthah *fled from his brothers*, who does verse 3 tell us *banded together* with him?
  - a. What are some synonyms you think of when you consider *worthless* men?
  
  - b. Jephthah was a *man of valor*, yet circumstances led him to *band with worthless men*. Seeing Jephthah's bravery and knowing his reputation to lead in the *raids*, what does verse 6 tell us the people said to Jephthah in preparation of the imminent attack by the *people of Ammon* (verses 4,5)?
    - 1.) What does this say to you of a person's potential to rise above circumstances?

3. Note (or mark on your observation worksheets) the word *LORD* in verses 9-11. Notice how Jephthah brought the Lord into the situation. What did Jephthah say?
  - a. How did the people respond?
  - b. What example can we learn from this?

**DAY FIVE: Born Wrong, Lived Right (continued) – Judges 11:29-12:15**

1. Before going into battle with the *people of Ammon*, Jephthah, like Gideon, needed some reassurance. But, rather than putting out a fleece, Jephthah made a vow. What did he vow? verses 30,31
2. Judges 11:32 tells us that *the LORD delivered them into his (Jephthah's) hands*. Who came out of Jephthah's house to meet him? verse 34
3. Let's look at how Jephthah and his daughter responded by completing the chart below:

Verse	Jepthah	Daughter
35		-----
36	-----	
37	-----	
38		
39		

- a. How seriously did Jephthah and his daughter consider this vow?
- b. According to Deuteronomy 23:21-23, how seriously does God consider our vows?

Challenge: Consider the vow made by Jephthah and discuss whether or not you believe he actually sacrificed his daughter as a burnt offering.

5. Jephthah regretted his vow. Since vows were commonly used in the Old Testament and God responded to them, what can we learn from this story?
6. Chapter 12 records the conclusion of Jephthah's battles and life, along with the mention of judges Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon. Jephthah was born wrong, but finished right. What does Hebrews 11:32-34 reveal?

## **DAY SIX: Review Judges 9-12**

### **Chapter 9**

1. What risks do you think Jotham took in standing up to Abimelech and the people of Shechem?
2. What did you learn about the sovereignty of God from the story of Abimelech?

### **Chapter 10**

3. How were the Philistines and Ammonites able to defeat Israel? verses 6-8
  - a. What lesson can we learn from this?
4. What caused Israel to recognize and repent of their sin?

### **Chapters 11,12**

5. In what ways did the life of Jephthah encourage or challenge you?

*The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;  
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*  
- Psalm 18:2

## Judges Chapter Nine

<sup>1</sup>Then Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his mother's brothers, and spoke with them and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Please speak in the hearing of all the men of Shechem: 'Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or that one reign over you?' Remember that I *am* your own flesh and bone." <sup>3</sup>And his mother's brothers spoke all these words concerning him in the hearing of all the men of Shechem; and their heart was inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother." <sup>4</sup>So they gave him seventy *shekels* of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men; and they followed him. <sup>5</sup>Then he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, because he hid himself. <sup>6</sup>And all the men of Shechem gathered together, all of Beth Millo, and they went and made Abimelech king beside the terebinth tree at the pillar that *was* in Shechem. <sup>7</sup>Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and cried out. And he said to them: "Listen to me, you men of Shechem, that God may listen to you! <sup>8</sup>"The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them. And they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us!' <sup>9</sup>But the olive tree said to them, 'Should I cease giving my oil, with which they honor God and men, and go to sway over trees?' <sup>10</sup>"Then the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come *and* reign over us!' <sup>11</sup>But the fig tree said to them, 'Should I cease my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to sway over trees?' <sup>12</sup>"Then the trees said to the vine, 'You come *and* reign over us!' <sup>13</sup>But the vine said to them, 'Should I cease my new wine, which cheers *both* God and men, and go to sway over trees?' <sup>14</sup>"Then all the trees said to the bramble, 'You come *and* reign over us!' <sup>15</sup>And the bramble said to the trees, 'If in truth you anoint me as king over you, *then* come *and* take shelter in my shade; but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon!' <sup>16</sup>"Now therefore, if you have acted in truth and sincerity in making Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him as he deserves-- <sup>17</sup>for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian; <sup>18</sup>but you have risen up against my father's house this day, and killed his seventy sons on one stone, and made Abimelech, the son of his female servant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother-- <sup>19</sup>if then you have acted in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, *then* rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you. <sup>20</sup>But if not, let fire come from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and Beth Millo; and let fire come from the men of Shechem and from Beth Millo and devour Abimelech!" <sup>21</sup>And Jotham ran away and fled; and he went to Beer and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother. <sup>22</sup>After Abimelech had reigned over Israel three years, <sup>23</sup>God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech, <sup>24</sup>that the crime *done* to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might be settled and their blood be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who aided him in the killing of his brothers. <sup>25</sup>And the men of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who passed by them along that way; and it was told Abimelech. <sup>26</sup>Now Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brothers and went over to Shechem; and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him. <sup>27</sup>So they went out into the fields, and gathered *grapes* from their vineyards and trod *them*, and made merry. And they went into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech. <sup>28</sup>Then Gaal the son of Ebed said, "Who *is* Abimelech, and who *is*

Shechem, that we should serve him? *Is he* not the son of Jerubbaal, and *is not* Zebul his officer? Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem; but why should we serve him? <sup>29</sup>If only this people were under my authority! Then I would remove Abimelech." So he said to Abimelech, "Increase your army and come out!" <sup>30</sup>When Zebul, the ruler of the city, heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was aroused. <sup>31</sup>And he sent messengers to Abimelech secretly, saying, "Take note! Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and here they are, fortifying the city against you. <sup>32</sup>Now therefore, get up by night, you and the people who *are* with you, and lie in wait in the field. <sup>33</sup>And it shall be, as soon as the sun is up in the morning, *that* you shall rise early and rush upon the city; and *when* he and the people who are with him come out against you, you may then do to them as you find opportunity." <sup>34</sup>So Abimelech and all the people who *were* with him rose by night, and lay in wait against Shechem in four companies. <sup>35</sup>When Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood in the entrance to the city gate, Abimelech and the people who *were* with him rose from lying in wait. <sup>36</sup>And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Look, people are coming down from the tops of the mountains!" But Zebul said to him, "You see the shadows of the mountains as *if they were* men." <sup>37</sup>So Gaal spoke again and said, "See, people are coming down from the center of the land, and another company is coming from the Diviners' Terebinth Tree." <sup>38</sup>Then Zebul said to him, "Where indeed *is* your mouth now, with which you said, 'Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him?' *Are* not these the people whom you despised? Go out, if you will, and fight with them now." <sup>39</sup>So Gaal went out, leading the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech. <sup>40</sup>And Abimelech chased him, and he fled from him; and many fell wounded, to the *very* entrance of the gate. <sup>41</sup>Then Abimelech dwelt at Arumah, and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers, so that they would not dwell in Shechem. <sup>42</sup>And it came about on the next day that the people went out into the field, and they told Abimelech. <sup>43</sup>So he took his people, divided them into three companies, and lay in wait in the field. And he looked, and there were the people, coming out of the city; and he rose against them and attacked them. <sup>44</sup>Then Abimelech and the company that *was* with him rushed forward and stood at the entrance of the gate of the city; and the *other* two companies rushed upon all who *were* in the fields and killed them. <sup>45</sup>So Abimelech fought against the city all that day; he took the city and killed the people who *were* in it; and he demolished the city and sowed it with salt. <sup>46</sup>Now when all the men of the tower of Shechem had heard *that*, they entered the stronghold of the temple of the god Berith. <sup>47</sup>And it was told Abimelech that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together. <sup>48</sup>Then Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who *were* with him. And Abimelech took an ax in his hand and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it and laid *it* on his shoulder; then he said to the people who were with him, "What you have seen me do, make haste *and* do as I *have done*." <sup>49</sup>So each of the people likewise cut down his own bough and followed Abimelech, put *them* against the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire above them, so that all the people of the tower of Shechem died, about a thousand men and women. <sup>50</sup>Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and he encamped against Thebez and took it. <sup>51</sup>But there was a strong tower in the city, and all the men and women--all the people of the city--fled there and shut themselves in; then they went up to the top of the tower. <sup>52</sup>So Abimelech came as far as the tower and fought against it; and he drew near the door of the tower to burn it with fire. <sup>53</sup>But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull. <sup>54</sup>Then he called quickly to the young man, his armorbearer, and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, lest men say of me, 'A woman killed him.'" So his young man thrust him through, and he died. <sup>55</sup>And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was



dead, they departed, every man to his place. <sup>56</sup>Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by killing his seventy brothers. <sup>57</sup>And all the evil of the men of Shechem God returned on their own heads, and on them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

## Chapter Ten

<sup>1</sup>After Abimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in the mountains of Ephraim. <sup>2</sup>He judged Israel twenty-three years; and he died and was buried in Shamir. <sup>3</sup>After him arose Jair, a Gileadite; and he judged Israel twenty-two years. <sup>4</sup>Now he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys; they also had thirty towns, which are called "Havoth Jair" to this day, which *are* in the land of Gilead. <sup>5</sup>And Jair died and was buried in Camon. <sup>6</sup>Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him. <sup>7</sup>So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon. <sup>8</sup>From that year they harassed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen years--all the children of Israel who *were* on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, in Gilead. <sup>9</sup>Moreover the people of Ammon crossed over the Jordan to fight against Judah also, against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed. <sup>10</sup>And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!" <sup>11</sup>So the LORD said to the children of Israel, "*Did I* not *deliver you* from the Egyptians and from the Amorites and from the people of Ammon and from the Philistines? <sup>12</sup>Also the Sidonians and Amalekites and Maonites oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand. <sup>13</sup>Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore I will deliver you no more. <sup>14</sup>Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress." <sup>15</sup>And the children of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray." <sup>16</sup>So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD. And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel. <sup>17</sup>Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in Mizpah. <sup>18</sup>And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, "Who *is* the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

## Chapter Eleven

<sup>1</sup>Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he *was* the son of a harlot; and Gilead begot Jephthah. <sup>2</sup>Gilead's wife bore sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out, and said to him, "You shall have no inheritance in our father's house, for you *are* the son of another woman." <sup>3</sup>Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob; and worthless men banded together with Jephthah and went out *raiding* with him. <sup>4</sup>It came to pass after a time that the people of Ammon made war against Israel. <sup>5</sup>And so it was, when the people of Ammon made war against Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob. <sup>6</sup>Then they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon." <sup>7</sup>So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me, and expel me from my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?" <sup>8</sup>And the elders of Gilead said to

Jephthah, "That is why we have turned again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead." <sup>9</sup>So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you take me back home to fight against the people of Ammon, and the LORD delivers them to me, shall I be your head?" <sup>10</sup>And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be a witness between us, if we do not do according to your words." <sup>11</sup>Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD in Mizpah. <sup>12</sup>Now Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon, saying, "What do you have against me, that you have come to fight against me in my land?" <sup>13</sup>And the king of the people of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took away my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and to the Jordan. Now therefore, restore those *lands* peaceably." <sup>14</sup>So Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon, <sup>15</sup>and said to him, "Thus says Jephthah: 'Israel did not take away the land of Moab, nor the land of the people of Ammon; <sup>16</sup>for when Israel came up from Egypt, they walked through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and came to Kadesh. <sup>17</sup>Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, "Please let me pass through your land." But the king of Edom would not heed. And in like manner they sent to the king of Moab, but he would not *consent*. So Israel remained in Kadesh. <sup>18</sup>And they went along through the wilderness and bypassed the land of Edom and the land of Moab, came to the east side of the land of Moab, and encamped on the other side of the Arnon. But they did not enter the border of Moab, for the Arnon *was* the border of Moab. <sup>19</sup>Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, king of Heshbon; and Israel said to him, "Please let us pass through your land into our place." <sup>20</sup>But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together, encamped in Jahaz, and fought against Israel. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them. Thus Israel gained possession of all the land of the Amorites, who inhabited that country. <sup>22</sup>They took possession of all the territory of the Amorites, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the wilderness to the Jordan. <sup>23</sup>And now the LORD God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel; should you then possess it? <sup>24</sup>Will you not possess whatever Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whatever the LORD our God takes possession of before us, we will possess. <sup>25</sup>And now, *are* you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive against Israel? Did he ever fight against them? <sup>26</sup>While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and its villages, in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities along the banks of the Arnon, for three hundred years, why did you not recover *them* within that time? <sup>27</sup>Therefore I have not sinned against you, but you wronged me by fighting against me. May the LORD, the Judge, render judgment this day between the children of Israel and the people of Ammon.'" <sup>28</sup>However, the king of the people of Ammon did not heed the words which Jephthah sent him. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced *toward* the people of Ammon. <sup>30</sup>And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands, <sup>31</sup>then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering." <sup>32</sup>So Jephthah advanced toward the people of Ammon to fight against them, and the LORD delivered them into his hands. <sup>33</sup>And he defeated them from Aroer as far as Minnith--twenty cities--and to Abel Keramim, with a very great slaughter. Thus the people of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel. <sup>34</sup>When Jephthah

came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she *was his* only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter. <sup>35</sup>And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot go back on it." <sup>36</sup>So she said to him, "My father, *if* you have given your word to the LORD, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon." <sup>37</sup>Then she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and I." <sup>38</sup>So he said, "Go." And he sent her away *for* two months; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains. <sup>39</sup>And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man. And it became a custom in Israel <sup>40</sup>*that* the daughters of Israel went four days each year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

## Chapter Twelve

<sup>1</sup>Then the men of Ephraim gathered together, crossed over toward Zaphon, and said to Jephthah, "Why did you cross over to fight against the people of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down on you with fire!" <sup>2</sup>And Jephthah said to them, "My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands. <sup>3</sup>So when I saw that you would not deliver *me*, I took my life in my hands and crossed over against the people of Ammon; and the LORD delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?" <sup>4</sup>Now Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, "You Gileadites *are* fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites *and* among the Manassites." <sup>5</sup>The Gileadites seized the fords of the Jordan before the Ephraimites *arrived*. And when *any* Ephraimite who escaped said, "Let me cross over," the men of Gilead would say to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No," <sup>6</sup>then they would say to him, "Then say, 'Shibboleth!'" And he would say, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce *it* right. Then they would take him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan. There fell at that time forty-two thousand Ephraimites. <sup>7</sup>And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried in among the cities of Gilead. <sup>8</sup>After him, Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel. <sup>9</sup>He had thirty sons. And he gave away thirty daughters in marriage, and brought in thirty daughters from elsewhere for his sons. He judged Israel seven years. <sup>10</sup>Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem. <sup>11</sup>After him, Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel. He judged Israel ten years. <sup>12</sup>And Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the country of Zebulun. <sup>13</sup>After him, Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel. <sup>14</sup>He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy young donkeys. He judged Israel eight years. <sup>15</sup>Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the mountains of the Amalekites.