

Jephthah Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Jephthah might have been considered an “at risk child” born illegitimately to a prostitute and then driven away by his half-brothers. What did he do despite all this to make something of his life?

What is commendable about the decision of the elders to recruit him to lead their army?

How did his knowledge of the history of the area strengthen his cause and weaken that of the enemy?

Do we see a situation today of a people losing territory in a battle they started and claiming it is still theirs?

Do we understand how the LORD causes people to rally to a cause, like they did to Jephthah, when it is his will?

Is a vow to the LORD a serious thing?

How does a person impulsively make a foolish vow?

What is the lesson for us?

What might have happened if Jephthah had broken the vow?

How did his daughter show commendable maturity and faith?

What might she have done instead?

Why is it that sometimes, people who should be celebrating a victory, instead complain about the way it is won.

Have you ever been surprised by unexpected opposition from friends?

In Jephthah’s case could his response, killing 42,000, be called self-defense?

Is God’s “Hall of Faith” reserved for perfect people?

What others, besides Jephthah, would you have questioned if you were choosing? (Hebrews 11)