

JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTERS DEATH

Jgs. 11:30-35

*"And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, "If Thou wilt indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand, 31 then it shall be that **whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, it shall be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering.**" 32 So Jephthah crossed over to the sons of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD gave them into his hand. 33 And he struck them with a very great slaughter from Aroer to the entrance of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim. So the sons of Ammon were subdued before the sons of Israel.*



Jgs. 11:34 *When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, behold, **his daughter was coming out to meet him with tambourines and with dancing.** Now she was his one and only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter. 35 And it came about when he saw her, that he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you are among those who trouble me; for **I have given my word to the LORD, and al cannot take it back.**"* A vow is the strongest form of someone asserting or affirming themselves or their spoken word.

Here we see perhaps some of the most sad verses in our bible. In Jephthah's case he made a vow to Adonai that would cost him his own daughter. Jephthah had made a vow hastily and the consequences were the death of his own child. Our bible tells us in many verses to be very careful what comes out of our mouth, that it can be a blessing or a curse, that it can bring life or take life (James 3:10, 5:12) . In this example, it took life. That is why Yeshua said so clearly: "say yes or no" when asked things (Matt. 5:37). **Matt. 5:37 "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is of evil."** Jephthah was very happy about how Yah helped him win the battle and he wanted to express himself. He however spoke words as the result of emotions rather than with wisdom. We see this explained in the scroll of Numbers. **Num. 30:2 "If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his**

mouth." I believe the story of Jephthah's terrible vow was probably used for many centuries as a reminder to those who said things without thinking back in biblical times, and of course the idea still stands today.

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Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Nov 30/16)