

- v. Then when Moses came up, he took it from Sihon.
- vi. The Ammonites come into Gilead.
- vii. The Gileadites say, "What are we going to do? Who are we going to get to lead us? We don't have any military leadership."
- viii. And then they thought of Jephthah and so they send for him.
 - a. Jephthah was a son of Gilead, but a son of Gilead by a prostitute.
 - b. As a result, he had been sent away.
- ix. Jephthah is wise and says, "You want me to come and be your leader. What is going to happen? Am I going to come, lead you into victory over the Ammonites and then are you going to turn around and drive me out again?"
- x. And they said, "No we are not going to do that. If you deliver us, you will be our leader. You will rule over us and we will submit to you."
- xi. The first thing Jephthah does is to contact the Ammonites and he asks them why they are going to war against Israel.
 - a. They spell it out.
 - b. It is because they want that land from Arnon to Jabbok.
 - c. They said, "If you give us the land, there's no war. If you don't give it to us, there's war."
 - d. Jephthah says, "Look. Moses conquered that land. That land has been in the possession of Israel for 300 years.
 - 1) That 300 year figure is important because that fits with the time period for judges of 336 years given earlier.
 - 2) It was about 1409 when Moses conquered the land and thus the time of Jephthah would be about 1109.
 - e. Jephthah goes onto say, "Israel has possessed this land for 300 years. You didn't try to take the land that time. Why are you trying to take it now?"
 - f. They said, "We want the land. If you give it to us there will be peace. But if you won't there will be war."
- xii. Since the Ammonites wouldn't pay any attention to Jephthah, he took the army to fight against the Ammonites.
 - a. When Jephthah went up to fight against the Ammonites, he made the Lord a promise and said, "The first thing that comes out of my house I will offer as a burnt offering unto you, *if you give me victory.*"
 - b. Jephthah goes and fights against the Ammonites and wins.
- xiii. When he comes back home, the first person to come out of his house is his daughter and his heart sinks.
 - a. That means he has to offer his daughter as a burnt offering to the Lord.