

- b. A suggestion from Mr. Harding.
- 1) When you read this story, God is not going to contradict himself and there is not going to be a human sacrifice. Remember the burnt offering signifies the dedication of the person who offered it to the Lord. And where you read that story carefully, it is very interesting that when Jephthah's daughter came out and Jephthah saw it, she knew she had to be offered to the Lord.
 - 2) She said, "I am going to be a virgin for the rest of my life. Now let me go into the mountains and spend a couple of months with my friends and then give me over to the Lord."
 - 3) Mr. Harding would suggest that this means that she is going to be given over to the Lord to be a virgin for the rest of her life. She'll never be married. And she'll serve with the women in the court of the tabernacle.
 - 4) Human sacrifice would be inconsistent with the character of the Lord.
 - 5) This can't be proved conclusively, but it seems to fit with the facts.
 - 6) Jephthah vowed to offer up a burnt offering, but it is what the burnt offering signifies that is important. The burnt offering signified the complete dedication of the offerer to the Lord. The burnt offering is given over completely to the Lord. And so she is offered up completely to the Lord.
 - 7) Look at 11:36-39
 - i) When he did as he had vowed, she was a virgin.
 - ii) And that meant she would never marry.
 - iii) That meant in ^{all} probability that she serve the Lord right there in the tabernacle.

J. Ibzan, Elon, Abdon (12:8-15) - unknown

1. Ibzan judged Israel for 7 years.
2. Elon judged Israel for 10 years.
3. Abdon judged Israel for 8 years.

K. Samson (13-16) - Philistine

1. Here again you have a relapse into idolatry.
2. When the relapse takes place, the Philistines are the ones whom the Lord sends to punish Israel.
3. The Philistines oppress Israel for 40 years.
4. Then Israel again repents.