

A Desperado Turned Deliverer Judges 10:1-11:33

What can happen when God is pushed to the limit. 10:1-16

- ◆ Israelite sin hits a low point, as they now worship even more gods!
- ◆ Crying out to God worked before (3:9,15, 4:3ff., 6:7ff.) but no longer.

- ◆ 16b = *His spirit was short*, cf. 16:16, Num. 21:4, Zech. 11:8. Is God wearied by Israel's miserable morality or their miserable oppression?

How a despised desperado became a deliverer. 10:17-11:33

- ◆ Unexpected twist—Jephthah is appealed to for help and he accepts! Compare Jephthah's background to Abimelech's. Any worries here?

- ◆ Compare the discussion between Gilead's elders and Jephthah and and the earlier discussion between the Israelites and God.

- ◆ Unexpected twist--Jephthah's message (based on Num. 21) aims to correct Ammonite revisionist history in hopes of avoiding war. The reference to *300 years* (v. 26) confirms an early 15th c. exodus date.
- ◆ Unexpected twist—the Spirit of the Lord now comes upon Jephthah. Why now? We will look at Jephthah's odd vow next week, but note he is at least looking to the Lord.



Would Jephthah have won this victory without the Spirit's enablement?

What do we learn about God from the way He interacts here with His sinful but repentant people and this once despised man who is now a deliverer?