

Judges 12 – Jephthah & the Ephraimites

12:1-7

1. Following Jephthah's victory over the _____, the tribe of _____ decided to take issue with him. They were _____ that he fought the Ammonites without first _____ them to battle. For this alleged slight, they threatened to _____ his _____ down on top of him. Jephthah countered their accusation by claiming that he had _____ them, but that they had _____ responded. While there is no _____ of his calling them in the text, this does not mean that his claim was _____. Jephthah further _____ with the Ephraimites that he went ahead with his _____ against the Ammonites since he had not _____ from Ephraim.
2. The next thing we know, Jephthah is _____ Ephraim because they claimed the Gileadites were _____ from Ephraim. Whatever they meant by this, it was a _____ and apparently a taunt sufficiently _____ to cause Jephthah to go to war against them. You may recall that years earlier the _____ were angered following _____ victory over the Midianites in chapter _____.
3. At any rate, the Ephraimites were _____ and a unique situation arose when their stragglers attempted to recross the _____ to get back home. They were challenged to say the word "_____", which means "ear of wheat" or "branch". Those unable to _____ the word correctly were _____ as it was known that Ephraimites had trouble pronouncing this word. The text tells us that _____ Ephraimites were killed in this totally _____ conflict and that Jephthah judged Israel _____ years.

Why? What prompted the Ephraimites to be so problematic? Neither of the circumstances with regard to Gideon or Jephthah encroached on their _____. If _____ with the rest of Israel was the issue, why attempt to resolve such a family issue with _____? Why did there seem to be no _____ towards _____ for the victories he gave their brethren over their enemies? I am convinced that God told us what happened without _____ so that we might be provoked to _____.

12:8-15

4. Jephthah was the _____ judge of Israel and was followed by _____ who was from _____ and had _____ sons and as many daughters. Next was _____ from the tribe of _____. Elon was followed by _____ who had 40 sons and 30 _____ who rode on 70 _____. So far this makes for a total of _____ judges.