



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JUDGES 10:10-18

LESSON: REBUKE AND REPENTANCE—November 5, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

10:6 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroath, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the Lord, and served not him. The Israelites did not obey God. They served the *Baalim and the Ashtoreth and the many gods of the people of Syria, Zidon, Moab, Ammon, and Philistine. They turned away from the Lord and they did not serve Him anymore.

10:7 And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon. God's anger with them was hot, and He allowed the Philistines and the people from Ammon to conquer them.

10:8 And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that were on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. The people of Philistine and Ammon (Ammonites) were very cruel and unkind, crushing them; and for 18 years oppressed the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan in Gilead, the country where the Amorites lived. Note: Ammonites and Amorites are not the same; different people.

10:9 Moreover the children of Ammon passed over Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim; so that Israel was sore distressed. The people from Ammon went over the Jordan river, also fighting against Judah's tribe, Benjamin's tribe, and also Ephraim's tribe. At this time Israel's people were very unhappy.

I. CONFRONTATION WITH GOD JUDGES 10:10-14

10:10 And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, saying, We have sinned against thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim. We're looking at double sins: one, forsaking God, and two, servicing Baalim. The Israelites finally confessed again that they messed up with God and they cried out for help, acknowledging their sins. Notice that when the Israelites were at the end of their rope, they did not look to their heathen gods for help, but to the only True God who was really able to help them and save them. ¹Israel was not just aware that she was sinning against God, but she realized why, and in what way she had sinned against God. Most believers, when put under severe discipline, usually have a clue as to why they are under discipline. They might blame others to start with, but God will always find a way to shine the light on the circumstance—the sin of turning away from God! It gets more and more difficult as a society moves further and further from divine viewpoint. ²It's true of all of us - we have been created with a "God shaped vacuum" and if we will not worship the One True God, we will worship the god of self, of money, of power, etc. These latter gods make no moral demands "per se" on us and thus we can do as we please, doing whatever seems right in our own eyes. The Israelites were blind or simply stupid to ignore God's Law, but we do the same when we put God outside our daily events instead of at the center of them. But Israel acknowledged that they had abandoned God. This is their sign of repenting. They realized that they could not win against God!

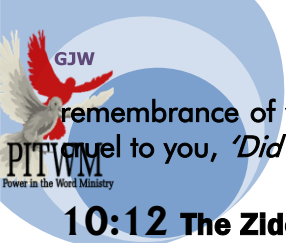
10:11 And the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Did not I deliver you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines?— The Lord answered them by bringing them to

¹ <http://kukis.org/Judges/Judges10.pdf>

² http://www.preceptaustin.org/judges_10_commentary.htm

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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remembrance of what He had already done for them. Egypt's people, the Amorites, and the people of Ammon were cruel to you, 'Did I not deliver you?' And the Philistines were cruel to you. 'Did I not deliver you?'

10:12 The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand,— God continued to remind Israel of her past history. The glory had been theirs because God Himself had delivered them from their many oppressors.

- ³The first here was **Egypt**. Egypt eventually enslaved Israel to the point where it was completely unbearable. Thus this became the Exodus (when they went out of Egypt).
- When on the east side of the Jordan, God had not ordered Israel to engage in any aggressive behavior. They implored the semi-hostile nations to allow them to pass through. Israel sent messages to Sihon, who was the king of the Amorites, asking for a peaceful and temporary passage through his country in Num.21:21–22. God had helped them to defeat the **Amorites**. (Look at the story about Sihon and Og).
- The **Ammonites** had oppressed Israel along with the Moabites in the time of Ehud (Jdgs.3:12) but God delivered through Ehud. He had also helped them to defeat the people from Ammon through Jephthah. (*Read the entire chapter 11 of Judges, with such moving scriptures*).
- The fourth hostile group mentioned here are the **Philistines**. Only one direct altercation with the Philistines has been mentioned previously in Judges, was when Shamgar struck down 600 Philistines with an ox-goad (Jdgs.3:31).
- The Canaanites' border was from Sidon unto Gaza (Gen.10:15). When Joshua was taking the northern portion of Israel, he chased the enemies all the way to **Zidon**, indicating that he did not go into Sidon and take it (Josh.11:8). **The point is:** the Lord delivered them into the **Zidonians** hands; they had yet to be subdued (Jdgs.1:31).
- The **Amalekites** went against Israel after they came out of Egypt, coming to the land of Canaan. Joshua and his men went to fight the army of Amalek. As long as Moses held the rod up they were winning. He became tired and Aaron and Hur rolled a stone for him to sit on and they stood on each side holding up his hands. As a result, Joshua and his troops crushed the army of Amalek (Ex. 17:10-13). And when the Amalekites sided with the Moabites and Ammon (Jdgs. 3:13), God delivered them.
- Israel's people had also defeated the **Maonites**, meaning either the old inhabitants of Maon, a city in the mountains of Judah, near to which was a wilderness of this name, (Josh.15:55) or probably those same people from Midian. Not too much is known about the Maonites. The Midianites were the oppressors whom Gideon had driven out of the land (Judges 6, 7).

God reminded them how much He had helped them to escape from their oppressors when they cried out. He delivered the Israelites from seven different tribes. That's completion!

10:13 Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more,— We see God takes a different position with the Israelites after they had cried out to Him in their sin this time. God says this is a no, no, you left me and you have served other gods, so I will not save you anymore. What made it so different this time; because they had repeated this scenario so many times? You know a parent keeps giving a child chance after chance because they are hoping they would turn from doing wrong. Eventually, the parent finally gives over to tough love and turns them over to God. Well, God now quits the deliverance phase, telling them what they didn't want to hear. They literally took God for granted! He usually comes through is what they probably said to themselves. Well at this point, God is showing His tough love on them. As I said three weeks ago in another lesson, (one way to put it is): *'if you like sin so much or idolatry so much, I'll let you be with them as slaves, because that's what sin is—slavery!'*

10:14 Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation. When God saw that the people of Israel had turned their backs on Him, He reprimanded them for serving other gods. In sarcasm He told them to, *"Go and cry unto the gods which they had chosen; and let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation."* WoW! This kind of ruling put Israel in the kind of perspective which they could understand. They knew

³ <http://kukis.org/Judges/Judges10.pdf>
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that when they stopped and thought about it, no other god could deliver them, for He's the only One, true to His holy Word. If they looked back at the last seven tribes He had delivered them from, they would believe, and truly repent instead of continuingly going back to repeatedly sin. They had forsaken God, and God was forsaking them! So, for them to hear "no" from God, had to have hit a nerve; tested their seriousness to change; hit them so hard to the core.

II. CONFRONTATION WITH AMMON JUDGES 10:15-18

10:15 And the children of Israel said unto the Lord, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good. When you're in this position, you'll do anything to get it right! And the children of Israel realized the desperate plight into which they had fallen...

- They made a confession of their sin in the simplest terms they understood it by saying only, "**We have sinned.**"
- At the same time, they threw themselves completely upon the mercy of God. **They asked Him to "do unto them whatever seemed good unto Him."** Also, God would deliver them from the oppressors who were besieging them.
- Also, **Deliver us only, we pray thee, this day.**
 - In reply, they removed their foreign gods (**10:16**). Although they only changed their ways a little, God was ready to forgive them because of their misery.

10:16 And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the Lord: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel. The people of Israel tore down the idols which they had erected. They changed their ways and began to worship God in the manner which He had prescribed. When God saw this kind of complete about-face on the part of His people, it is said, "*His soul is grieved for the misery of Israel*" meaning he couldn't bear Israel's misery any longer. Their misery was not only the oppression brought on them by the Philistines and the Ammonites, but it was a misery of soul which had brought about their repentance.

10:17 Then the children of Ammon were gathered together, and encamped in Gilead, And the children of Israel assembled themselves together, and encamped in Mizpeh. Remember there is still war raging against Israel (**10:8-9**). In preparation for the ensuing encounter of the Ammonites' threat against Israel, the Ammonites assembled in that part of Gilead which they had possessed, while the Israelites got ready to defend themselves by assembling and encamping at Mizpeh. "*Mizpeh*" means "*watchtower*" and may be identical with the Mizpeh where Jacob and Laban piled the stones of witness between them. It may also be identified with Ramath-Mizpeh and Ramoth-Gilead (Deut.4:43; Josh.13:26; 1Kgs.4:13). When you get ready for war, you have to have the banner of God going before you.

10:18 And the people and princes of Gilead said one to another, What man is he that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead. And at this same time, the Israelites were not prepared for battle because they did not have a recognized leader, so they thought. Therefore, **the people and princes of Gilead** began to ask **What man is to fight against the children of Ammon?** It was necessary for them as a people through their recognized leaders, their princes, to select one to be their captain or head because they always worked well with a judge over them; they were obedient when the judge was leading them. Until they had such a recognized leader, it was impossible for them to make a united effort against their oppressors. This would become their seventh judge. You notice all these sevens—completion! God is always bringing us to completion, unity, and of one accord. We've got to remember to always have a repentant heart. God will always show us how to get there to be delivered!

SUMMARY:





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The Israelites finally could not put up with the oppression of the other nations and began to cry out to the Lord, saying *"We have not obeyed you, we have sinned against you, and we have left our God and have served Baalim."* 11 The Lord answered them by bringing them to their remembrance of what He had already done for them. Egypt's people, the Amorites, and the people of Ammon were cruel to you, *'Did I not deliver you?'* And the Philistines were cruel to you. *'Did I not deliver you?'* 12 God continued to remind Israel of her past history. The Zidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites oppress them, and they cried to God, and He delivered them out of their hand, 13 but God takes a different position with the Israelites after they had cried out to Him in their sin this time. God says this is a no, no, you left me and you have served other gods, so I will not save you anymore. 14 When God saw that the people of Israel had turned their backs on Him, He reprimanded them for serving other gods. In sarcasm He told them to, *"Go and cry unto the gods which they had chosen; and let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation."* (10:10-14).

15 When you're in this position, you'll do anything to get it right! And the children of Israel realized the desperate plight in which they had fallen into. They said *"We have sinned, do thou unto us whatsoever seems good."* 16 The people of Israel tore down the idols which they had erected. They changed their ways and began to worship God in the manner which He had prescribed. When God saw this kind of complete about-face on the part of His people, it is said, *"His soul is grieved for the misery of Israel"* meaning he couldn't bear Israel's misery any longer. 17 Ammonites assembled in the part of Gilead which they had possessed, and the Israelites assembled and encamped at Mizpeh. 18 The leaders of the people of Gilead said to each other, *"Whoever will take the lead in attacking the Ammonites will be head over all who live in Gilead."* (10:15-18).