

Judges 10 New American Standard Bible

Oppression by Philistines and Ammonites

Now after Abimelech *died*, Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, rose up to save Israel; and he lived in Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim. ²He judged Israel for twenty-three years. Then he died and was buried in Shamir.

³After him, Jair the Gileadite rose up and judged Israel for twenty-two years. ⁴And he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities in the land of Gilead that are called Havvoth-jair to this day. ⁵And Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

⁶Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; so they abandoned the Lord and did not serve Him.

⁷And the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the sons of Ammon. ⁸And they ^[c]afflicted and oppressed the sons of Israel that year; for eighteen years they *oppressed* all the sons of Israel who were beyond the Jordan, in Gilead in the land of the Amorites. ⁹And the sons of Ammon crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah, Benjamin, and the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was in great difficulty.

¹⁰Then the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord, saying, “We have sinned against You, for indeed, we have abandoned our God and served the Baals.” ¹¹And the Lord said to the sons of Israel, “*Did I not save you from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the sons of Ammon, and the Philistines?*” ¹²And when the Sidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites oppressed you, you cried out to Me, and I saved you from their hands.

¹³Yet you abandoned Me and served other gods; therefore I will no longer save you. ¹⁴Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress.” ¹⁵Then the sons of Israel said to the Lord, “We have sinned, do to us whatever seems good to You; only please save us this day.” ¹⁶So they removed the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord; and He could no longer endure the misery of Israel.

¹⁷Then the sons of Ammon were summoned, and they camped in Gilead. And the sons of Israel gathered together and camped in Mizpah. ¹⁸And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, “Who is the man who will begin to fight

against the sons of Ammon? He shall become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. Tola reigned for twenty three years and he only gets a few lines recorded in this chapter, and most of it is about his family tree. Clearly he made no marked impression on Samuel, the writer of this book.
2. Jair reigned about the same amount of time and he only gets a few lines more. The most impressive thing about Jair was the number thirty.
3. He had thirty sons, who rode on thirty donkeys, who had thirty cities called Havvoth-Jair
4. I guess from silence we could argue these two judges kept Israel on track as a faithful people of God.
5. After their death Israel rebelled and turned away from God, His laws and His ways.
6. They turned to the pagan gods of the nations who they were supposed to of driven out. These gods they should not have worshipped.
7. What is it to forsake the Lord and not serve Him?
8. Can you imagine the burning anger of God against you?
9. How did God sell the nation of Israel into the hands of the Philistines and Ammon, the enemy of Israel?
10. The nation of Israel were held captive for eighteen years, they were crushed and beaten down.
11. Ammon even attempted to attack Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim in their desire to control Israel.
12. In great distress Israel cry out to the Lord for deliverance from their enemy.
13. They acknowledged they had sinned against God and disobeyed His word.
14. They confess their sin by declaring ‘we have forsaken our God and served the idols’.
15. Being specific in our confession is a very important thing to do, if we hope to gain our freedom from those who have ensnared us.

16. God gives Israel a history lesson; He reminds them of His incredible compassion and mercy that He has already shown them.
17. But still Israel had forsaken God and served the false Gods of the nations.
18. There came a point when God could not resist Israel's cry for mercy any longer.
19. God invites Israel to seek deliverance from the so called 'gods' who had no power to deliver.
20. What is it to be in a time of distress?
21. Israel pleads despite God's unwillingness to act for them.
22. They continue to cry; they take full responsibility and demonstrate deeds of repentance by putting away the false god's they had served.
23. In their repentance they make their declaration to serve the living God. Again God is unable to resist their cry for deliverance.
24. The people prepare to go into battle against the enemy of the land.