

# AN ACTUAL PROCESS

## 1. What does it say: **observation?**

This is the most basic step to learning Scripture: observation!

- **Reading the text**
- **Reading the text in context**

11: 1-40

12: 1-7

How far back? (at least)

10: 17-18

10: 1-16

- **Reading the text in multiple translations**

This will help avoid silliness and idiosyncrasies

**Luke 22:39** And he came out, and went, **as he was wont** (κατὰ τὸ ἔθος), to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

<b>KJV:</b>	<b>Psalm 83:3</b> They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, And consulted <b>against thy hidden ones.</b>
<b>ESV:</b>	<b>Psalm 83:3</b> They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together <b>against your treasured ones.</b>
<b>NIV:</b>	<b>Psalm 83:3</b> With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot <b>against those you cherish.</b>
<b>NRSV:</b>	<b>Psalm 83:3</b> They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together <b>against those you protect.</b>
<p>על-צפונות: סוד וְיִתְעַצְּבוּ          Psalm 83:4          על-צפונות:</p>	<p>צפון          Basic ideas: to hide, to conceal, to store, and thereby to treasure, to protect...</p>

- **Reading the text in other languages - if possible**
- **Reading the text asking questions**
- **Reading the text making observations**

<p><b>Judges 11:1</b> Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.</p>	<p><b>Gileadite</b>  <b>Mighty man of valor</b>  <b>Son of a prostitute (the common word)</b>  <b>Gilead</b></p>
<p><b>Judges 11:2</b> And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.</p>	<p><b>Legitimate sons</b>  <b>Hatred</b>  <b>Expulsion</b>  <b>Another = stranger woman</b></p>
<p><b>Judges 11:3</b> Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob (טוב): and there were gathered <b>vain men</b> (אנשים) to Jephthah, <b>and went out with him.</b></p> <p><b>Judges 11:1</b> Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour (גבור חיל והוא בן-אשה זונה), and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.</p>	<p><b>He fled</b>  <b>Land of Tob (טוב)</b>  <b>He gathered a following → a leader</b></p> <p><b>Psalm 62:9</b></p>

	<p>Surely <b>men of low degree</b> (בְּנֵי־אֲדָמָה) are vanity, and <b>men of high degree</b> (שֵׂרֵי־אֲדָמָה) are a lie: To be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.</p> <p><b>Psalm 8:4</b> What is man (אִי־אָדָם), that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man (בְּנֵי־אָדָם), that thou visitest him?</p>
<b>Judges 11:4</b> And it came to pass in process of time, that the children of Ammon made war against Israel.	<b>War against Ammon</b>
<b>Judges 11:5</b> And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob:	<b>Get Jephthah</b> <b>The Elders must have recognized his leadership ability &amp; probably wanted his army</b>
<b>Judges 11:6</b> And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon.	<b>1<sup>st</sup> offer of leadership</b>
<b>Judges 11:7</b> And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?	<b>Questioning the offer</b>
<b>Judges 11:8</b> And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.	<b>Re-offer</b>
<b>Judges 11:9</b> And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, <b>If</b> ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, <b>and</b> the LORD deliver them before me, shall I be your head?	<b>His conditions</b>  <b>He recognizes God's sovereignty</b>
<b>Judges 11:10</b> And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, The LORD be witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words.	<b>All done – as God is our witness</b> <b>So both Jephthah &amp; the Elders were before the Lord</b>
<b>Judges 11:11</b> Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh.	<b>“Coronation”</b> <b>Again before the Lord</b>
<b>Judges 11:12</b> And Jephthah sent messengers unto the king of the children of Ammon, saying, What hast thou to do with me, that thou art come against me to fight in my land? <b>Judges 11:13</b> And the king of the children of Ammon answered unto the messengers of Jephthah, Because Israel took away my land, when they came up out of Egypt, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and unto Jordan: now therefore restore those lands again peaceably.	<b>Parlay for peace...or for something?</b>
<b>11:15-28</b>	<b>A fairly substantial history and answer:</b> <b>11:21 (theology)</b> <b>11:23-24</b> <b>Chemosh???</b>  <b>11:27 more theology &amp; very accurate history</b> <b>11:26 → 1 Kings 6:1</b>

<b>Judges 11:28</b> Howbeit the king of the children of Ammon hearkened not unto the words of Jephthah which he sent him.	<b>Ammon's response</b>
<b>Judges 11:29</b> Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.	<b>Jephthah takes charge</b> <b>Author's viewpoint: by the Spirit of God</b>
<b>Judges 11:30</b> And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, <b>If</b> thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine <b>hands</b> , <b>Judges 11:31</b> <b>Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when</b> I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, <b>and</b> (וְהָיָה לַיהוָה) I will <b>offer it up</b> for a burnt offering.	<b>Jephthah's vow!?</b>

### 11:14-27 History, theology, and logic:

- **Israel didn't take your land! 11:15**
- **In fact, Israel didn't even enter your land! 11:16-18**
- **Israel did defeat the Amorites and took their land! 11:19-23**
- **Israel possesses only what God has given them 11:24**
- **And why now? Israel has been here 300 years! 11:25-26**
- **Israel has done nothing wrong → let God be the judge 11:27**

<b>Judges 11:32</b> So <b>Jephthah</b> passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the <b>LORD</b> delivered them into his hands. <b>Judges 11:33</b> And <b>he</b> smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.	<b>War and victory from the Lord</b>
<b>Judges 11:34</b> And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. <b>Judges 11:35</b> And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, <b>Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.</b>	<b>The joy and agony of victory.</b>
<b>Judges 11:36</b> And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon.	<b>The daughter is highly submissive</b>
<b>Judges 11:37</b> And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows.	<b>Request to bewail her virginity</b>
<b>Judges 11:38</b> And he said, Go. And he sent her away for two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains.	<b>2 months with her friends</b>

<p><b>Judges 11:39</b> And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel,</p>	<p><b>Jephthah fulfilled his vow</b></p> <p><b>What happened?</b></p>
<p><b>Judges 11:40</b> That the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.</p>	<p><b>A custom is Israel</b></p> <p><b>Why not just visit her?</b></p>

<p><b>Judges 12:1</b> And the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said unto Jephthah, Wherefore passedst thou over to fight against the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thine house upon thee with fire.</p>	<p><b>A threat</b></p>
<p><b>Judges 12:2</b> And Jephthah said unto them, I and my people were at great strife with the children of Ammon; and when I called you, ye delivered me not out of their hands.</p>	<p><b>Facts</b></p>
<p><b>Judges 12:3</b> And when I saw that ye delivered me not, I put my life in my hands, and passed over against the children of Ammon, and the LORD delivered them into my hand: wherefore then are ye come up unto me this day, to fight against me?</p>	<p><b>More facts about the Lord</b></p>
<p><b>Judges 12:4</b> Then Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim: and the men of Gilead smote Ephraim, because they said, Ye Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites, and among the Manassites.</p>	<p><b>War → with incentives</b></p>
<p><b>Judges 12:5</b> And the Gileadites took the passages of Jordan before the Ephraimites: and it was so, that when those Ephraimites which were escaped said, Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said unto him, Art thou an Ephraimite? If he said, Nay;  <b>Judges 12:6</b> Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand.</p>	<p><b>The taking of the fjords</b>  <b>Shibboleth (שִׁבּוֹלֶֿת)</b>  <b>Sibboleth (סִבּוֹלֶֿת)</b></p>
<p><b>Judges 12:7</b> And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then died Jephthah the Gileadite, and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.</p>	<p><b>Jephthan was a judge</b>  <b>For 6 years</b>  <b>Buried someplace</b></p>
<p><b>Judges 11:34</b> And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: <b>and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.</b></p> <p><b>Judges 11:37</b> And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, <b>and bewail my virginity</b>, I and my fellows.</p>	<p><b>Judges 11:38</b> And he said, Go. And he sent her away for two months: and she went with her companions, <b>and bewailed her virginity</b> upon the mountains.</p> <p><b>Judges 11:39</b> And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: <b>and she knew no man</b>. And it was a custom in Israel,</p>

# AN ACTUAL PROCESS

## 1. What does it say? Observation

## 2. What does it mean? Interpretation

Interpretation has already happened to some degree but now we formally start the process.

3 questions / principles:

### 1. Biblical consensus: What does the rest of the Bible say about this individual or event?

For Jephthah (and all of the Judges) this is limited!

1 Samuel 12:6 And Samuel said unto the people, **It is the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.** 1 Samuel 12:7 Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers. 1 Samuel 12:8 When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto the LORD, **then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron**, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place. 1 Samuel 12:9 And when they forgot the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them. 1 Samuel 12:10 And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee. 1 Samuel 12:11 **And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelled safe.**

Hebrews 11:32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Hebrews 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Hebrews 11:34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Hebrews 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: **and others** were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

What can we discern / ascertain from the rest of the Bible?

- The Lord sent Jephthah (at least providentially)
- The Lord used Jephthah as one of Israel's deliverers
- The Lord used Jephthah to deliver God's people
- The author of Hebrews say, more or less, the same thing

Here is when we run into "cleaning up" texts!

Here is the logic:

Jephthah was used by God

Jephthah was empowered by the Holy Spirit

Jephthah delivered Israel

Jephthah was a judge

Therefore:

Jephthah was a good man

Jephthah wouldn't sacrifice his daughter

Jephthah would have obeyed the Law!

1 Kings 8:46 If they sin against thee, **(for there is no man that sinneth not,)** and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Psalms 130:3 If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? Psalms 130:4 But there is forgiveness with thee, That thou mayest be feared.

Psalms 143:2 And enter not into judgment with thy servant: **For in thy sight shall no man living be justified.**

Proverbs 20:9 **Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?**

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

**John 8:46** **Which of you convinceth me of sin?** And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him to be sin for us, **who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**Hebrews 4:15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; **but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

**Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. **Hebrews 7:26** For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; **Hebrews 7:27** Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

**1 Peter 2:21** For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: **1 Peter 2:22** **Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:**

**1 John 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous:**

**1 John 3:5** And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; **and in him is no sin.**

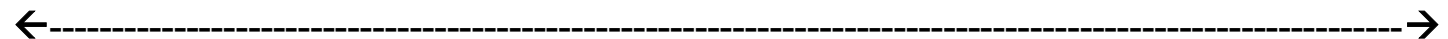
### **Thoughts:**

- **Good, Godly men do good**
- **Good, Godly men do mostly good & much good!**
- **Sadly, good, Godly men can do less than / other than good!**
- **Good, Godly men are not sinless but they do sin less**
- **God, Godly men are, with one exception, more than one thing**

Demonize

Humanize

Idealize/Canonize



Sinners we don't like

All sinners

Sinners we do like

- **Good, Godly men are still men**

**1 John 3:1** Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **1 John 3:3** And every man that hath **this hope in him (ἐπ' αὐτῷ)** purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

**Philippians 3:20** For **our conversation (τὸ πολίτευμα)** is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Philippians 3:21** Who shall change **our vile body (τὸ σῶμα τῆς ταπεινώσεως ἡμῶν)**, **that** it may be fashioned like unto **his glorious body (τῷ σώματι τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ)**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

- **Good, Godly men are still sinful men until we see Jesus**