

## Jephthah's Vow – Judges 11:30-31

1. “The Spirit of the Lord” came upon Jephthah, verse 29.
2. Human sacrifice is forbidden. Leviticus 20:2-5
3. Burnt sacrifice exclusively male. Leviticus 1:3
4. Who would “come forth” from Jephthah’s door?  
Surely not a cow or goat.
5. A custom to meet the victors with song and dance.  
1 Samuel 18:6 (“with timbrels and dances”) 11:34
6. Jephthah among the faithful, Hebrews 11:32. Who “through faith enforced justice.” Samuel proclaims him as savior and deliverer.  
1 Samuel 12:11
7. Difficult to suppose that he would deliberately make a vow of human sacrifice (he had over two months to recant).
8. If his loving daughter had agreed to be slaughtered why spend the last two months away dancing.
9. She weeps not for her life or her youth but for her virginity. In verse 38 the Hebrew has ‘bethulim’ (virginity), not ‘neurim’ (youth). Virgins are dedicated to the Lord’s service, Exodus 38:8, Numbers 31:35-40, Judges 21:18-21.
10. It is only said that Jephthah “did with her according to his vow” (verse 39), nothing about ritual sacrifice. No other inspired commentary about her.
11. In verse 31, there is a two part vow. “I will offer (there is no ‘for’ in Hebrew) a burnt offering” and she “shall be the Lord’s” as the women and Samuel. 1 Samuel 1:11,25 and 2:22
12. ‘Lament’ in verse 40 is incorrect. The Hebrew ‘tanoth’ means to praise or recite or talk with (Judges 5:11) or celebrate or honor (Proverbs 31:31).