

MY WORD TO THE LORD

Request: Could you explain why the Lord didn't intervene in the case of Jephthah's daughter life and death situation but did in the case of Abraham's son?

Let's begin by comparing the two accounts to see if the answer is obviously stated? (Gen.22: 1-14 compared to Judges 11:29-40).

Write what you find _____
(Heb.11: 17-19, James 2:21-24).

Our lesson title comes from a repetitive phrase found in Judges 11:29-40 (11:30-31, 35, 36, 39) – *“For I have given my word to the Lord, and I cannot take it back.” (11:35b)*

Doctrinal principle: *The Word of the Lord to you is of more importance than your word to the Lord!*

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness.” (2 Tim.2: 15-16)

Jephthah offered his only child as a burnt offering because of a vow he made to the Lord (11:31, 24-36). This vow contradicted several bible doctrines. This lesson will show some of them.

**This lesson will study FIVE aspects of keeping My Word to the Lord
As opposed to keeping the Lord's Word to Me.**

1. God establishes rules regarding animal sacrifice as a substitute for human sin under shadow Christology.

Burnt offering was one of those Christology sacrifices (Lev.1: 1-17, 6:8-13). “In addition, anyone could offer special burnt offering to express devotion to the Lord. The burnt offering had to be a male animal.” (NIV, Lev.1: 3)

“Only after the animal was killed (symbolizing substitution of a perfect animal sacrifice for a sinful human life) did the priestly work begin.” (Lev.1: 5)

“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our conscience from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God. For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.” (Heb.9: 14-15)

“But now He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Heb.9: 26b)

“So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.” (Heb.9: 28,10:1-10) burnt offering.

2. Human sacrifice was forbidden by the word of God because it was reserved for only Christ.

“Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practice divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. **Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord**, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God.” (Deut.18: 10-13)

“The sacrifices prescribed by the law prefigured Christ’s ultimate sacrifice. Thus they were repeated year after year, the very repetition bearing testimony that the perfect, sin-removing sacrifice had not yet been offered.” (NIV, Heb.10: 1)

“Molech was the chief Ammonite deity (1 Kings 11:7) and was sometimes worshipped by the offering of human sacrifice (Lev.18: 21; 20:2-5; 2 Kings 23:10).” (NIV, Judges 10:6)

3. Jephthah combined the popular pagan belief system of his day with the word of God and applied it to his vow as recorded in Judges 11:30-31.

Burnt offering was an expression of devotion to the Lord so Jephthah vowed to offer his daughter as a human burnt offering sacrifice. This was cosmos diabolicus thinking. It is evil because it goes against the word of God.

Besides the burnt offering had to be without birth defects or growth defects (1Pet.1: 18-19). “The OT sacrifices were types (foreshadowing) of Christ, depicting the ultimate and only effective sacrifice. Thus Christ is the Passover lamb (1 Cor.5: 7), who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).” (NIV, 1 Pet.1: 19)

4. Vows to the Lord were to be kept but only according to God’s will like prayer (1 John 5:14-15).

“Oh! My daughter! You have made me miserable and wretched, because I have made a vow to the Lord that I cannot break.” (Judges 11:35)

“When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.” (Num.30: 2) (Deut.23: 21-23; Eccl.5: 4-5)

5. Jephthah’s vow was based on cosmos diabolicus of pagan religion rather than bible doctrine of the word of God.

“Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, they served the baals and ashtoreths and the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of Ammonites, and the gods of Philistines.” (NIV, Judges 10:6)

“But I tell you that men will have to give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” (Matt.12: 36-37)

“But I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.” (Rom.16: 19)

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Rom.12: 1-2)