

Judges 10

1 Now after Abimelech died, Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, arose to save Israel; and he lived in Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim. 2 And he judged Israel twenty-three years. Then he died and was buried in Shamir. 3 And after him, Jair the Gileadite arose, and judged Israel twenty-two years. 4 And 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. 5 And Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

The next champion to deliver Israel **Tola**, tribe of Issachar grandson of Dodo-**loving**. Lived in highlands, mountain region of Ephraim, judged Israel **23 years** died & buried Shamir, local boy raised & died hometown. Not much to say when people live in peace w/o a lot of drama. **Tola** tasked & called to recover all that **Abimelech** had squandered—rebuild nation, restore integrity & confidence in government.

It's hard to follow & correct bad leadership, preaching bad doctrine, living bad lifestyle—to regain the trust of the people. He bore the name of his ancestor **Gen 46:13** a son of Issachar, Tola-**worm** hard to live up to or undo a name. Not ashamed of the name but rose above for God's purposes-**Jesus**
I am a worm and not a man Ps 22:6 towla-red, crimson, scarlet-- *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isaiah 1:18.*

Same w/ Jair a Gileadite along w/ next judge Jephthah. Jair reigned 22 years. God called & used them, each not seeking spotlight or attention wanting to be somebody as **Abimelech** did. **Seek ye great things for Thyself seek them not Jer 45:5** Simple days—quiet, peaceable life & reign are some of the best. Jair was blessed w/ 30 sons who rode 30 saddled donkeys, were itinerant judges for their father, going from city to city to administer justice. These called encampments, cities or villages of Jair.

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6 Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, served the Baals and the Ashtaroath, 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; thus they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him. 7 And 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. 8 And they afflicted and crushed the sons of Israel that year; for eighteen years they afflicted all the sons of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in Gilead in the land of the Amorites. 9 And the sons of Ammon crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah, Benjamin, and the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was greatly distressed.

Cycle begins again after Tola & Jair is gone (45 yrs). Israel matched their old sins w/ new ones, worshiping false gods forsaking the Lord. God's anger burned, flamed against them & let them be handed over to power of Philistines who crushed, oppressed & trampled them down. God's discipline broke them--Ammon crossed over Jordan & laid waste to Israel.

For the people of Israel it was not **one size fits all** or **one god fits all** but they imported **many gods** from many nations & when looked upon from the outside, it was degrading & humiliating to a people who once served the living God. No nation w/ any sense of honor would change gods. Yet Israel to their downfall did. If it to gain the friendship & curry favor w/ surrounding nations it backfired. These became enemies and oppressors. **Friendship w/ the world is enmity/hostility toward God**. They didn't even include **Jehovah** in their plethora of deities. But cast Him off. **Matt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**

To think you can serve two masters will soon find out you will completely forsake God to serve the other. If God is not Lord of all He is no Lord at all.

So God judged them & they fell into hands of their enemies. Philistines on SW & Ammorites on NE & Israel in between & were afflicted & crushed. Punished for 18 long years to learn their lesson

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God allowed the enemy to push into the territory of the most prominent tribes of Israel as a humiliation for the people of Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim a sad commentary on the wages of sin—decline of a nation living in disgrace & shame.

10 Then the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against Thee, for indeed, we have forsaken our God and served the Baals." 11 And the LORD said to the sons of Israel, "Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the sons of Ammon, and the Philistines? 12 "Also when the Sidonians, the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you, you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hands. 13 "Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods; therefore I will deliver you no more. 14 "Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your distress." 15 And the sons of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned, do to us whatever seems good to Thee; only please deliver us this day." 16 So they put away the foreign gods from among them, and served the LORD; and He could bear the misery of Israel no longer. 17 Then the sons of Ammon were summoned, and they camped in Gilead. And the sons of Israel gathered together, and camped in Mizpah. 18 And 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."

Israel confesses to the greatness of their sin & willing to turn to God from Baal. God reminds them how He rescued them & the fact of how miserable their life was before He saved them. How they cried to Him & He rescued them & delivered them from the power of the enemy.

After all this....you turned from me to other gods, new gods of your liking of your flesh. But this time, No, I will not deliver you. **No rescue for you.** You have for yourself new gods so go to them for help--you chose them so let them deliver you--you made them your friends so let your friends save you.

Israel countered, ok do what you see fit, discipline us as needed but don't forget us & do bring deliverance. We've thrown away the foreign gods, tossed them out as a true sign of repentance. God saw & took pity on them, was grieved w/ their condition & couldn't handle their pain any longer.

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Full repentance is realization false gods cannot satisfy and have no place in the life of a child of God. Our hearts His throne & a place only one can sit—either Jesus Christ or fill in the blank. He will not share you w/ another, He is a jealous God—as we are w/ kids or spouse.

Repentance, change of mind brings new beginnings, God now works toward their deliverance from Ammonites. God's chastening brings good fruit to those who receive it—those in Israel are new men & ready for God to work. God brings out their enemy in order to be destroyed. Israel once scattered when in bondage now unified to go to battle. People in cities of Gilead questioning who will lead us and go against our enemy, who will we make our leader....Jephthah next chapter---Fabian next week