

# **Lesson 10: Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon Judges 9-12**

**4th and 5th Grade Class**

**Jordan Park church of Christ**

At the end of chapter 8, we are introduced to Abimelech who is Gideon's son. When Gideon is very old, he dies and the people of Israel once again turn away from God to worship Baal. This is the "cycle of misery" that happens over and over again because of the Israelite's unfaithfulness.

Abimelech visits his extended family and forces them to submit to him. He then kills all 70 of his brothers except one Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal who hid.

With the support of men of Shechem Abimelech was made king. When Jotham heard of this, he stood on top of Mount Gerizim and spoke. He gave the people a warning in the form of a parable about trees. He rebukes the men of Shechem for their choice of Abimelech as a king. Jotham's warning to the men of Shechem was that their unwise choice would come back to hurt them. He predicted that "fire" would come forth from Abimelech and devour them. After this bold warning he ran away in fear of his life.

Jotham's warning then comes true. After Abimelech had ruled for three years, God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem. The men of Shechem lost their confidence in Abimelech, so they chose a new leader named Gaal, the son of Ebed. They went into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.

Abimelech defeats the rebellion of the men of Shechem. Abimelech attacks the citizens of Shechem and conquers the city. Abimelech sets the tower in Shechem on fire with 1000 men and women inside.

He then went to Thebez and attacked the city and the tower there. But a woman dropped a millstone on his head and crushed his skull. But he called his armor bearer to kill him so no one could say that a woman had killed him. God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech for killing his brothers.

After Abimelech came the next judge, Tola, a man of Issachar. He judged Israel for twenty-three years and then he died and was buried in Shamir.

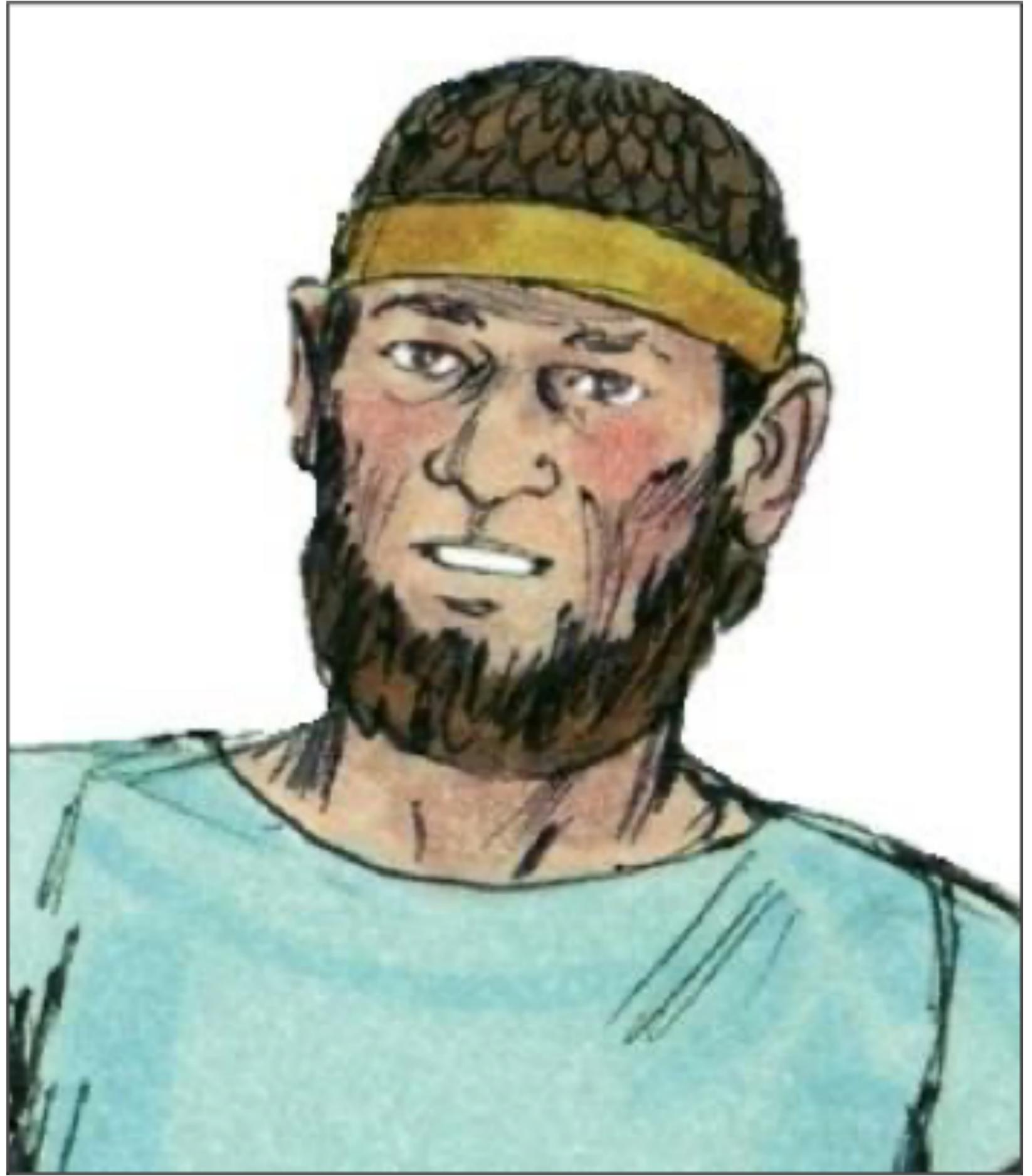
# Tola

Judges 10:1

Judge for 23 years

From the Tribe of Issachar

Only two verses about him



The next judge was Jair, a Gileadite, who he judged Israel twenty-two years. Jair died and was buried in Camon.

# Jair

Judges 10:3

Only three verses about him

Judge for 22 years

30 sons



And the Israelites continued to worship other false gods. The Lord was angry with them and sold them into the hands of the Philistines and Ammonites for 18 years. Yet again the people of Israel called out to God to deliver them. But the Israelites assemble together but have no leader.

Jephthah, the son of Gilead, was a mighty man of valor. But he was the son of a harlot so his family drove him out. The people of Israel went to find him to become their commander to overtake the Ammonites.

# Jephthah

Judges 11:1-12:7

Judge for 6 years

He fought & won a battle

His brothers sent him away from home



Jephthah negotiates with the King of the Ammonites. He gathers troops and advances courageously on Ammon. Then Jephthah makes a vow to the Lord. “If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands, then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord’s, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering.” (11:30)

The Lord delivered the Ammonites into his hands. When Jephthah returned, his only child, a daughter was the first one to greet him so he had to fulfill his vow to God.

The men of the tribe of Ephraim were angry with Jephthah that he did not ask them to go fight the Ammonites. Jephthah gathered the men of Gilead and fought against the men of Ephraim. The Gileadites seized the fords of the Jordan before the Ephraimites arrived. They would not let any Ephraimites cross the fords. They killed forty-two thousand Ephraimites.

Jephthah was judge of Israel for six years. He died and was buried in among the cities of Gilead.

The next judge was Ibzan of Bethlehem. He had thirty sons. And he gave away thirty daughters in marriage, and brought in thirty daughters from elsewhere for his sons. He was a judge over Israel for seven years. Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem.

# Ibzan

Judges 12:8-10

Judge for 7 years

Had 30 sons

Gave away 30 daughters in marriage

Brought in 30 women for his 30 sons

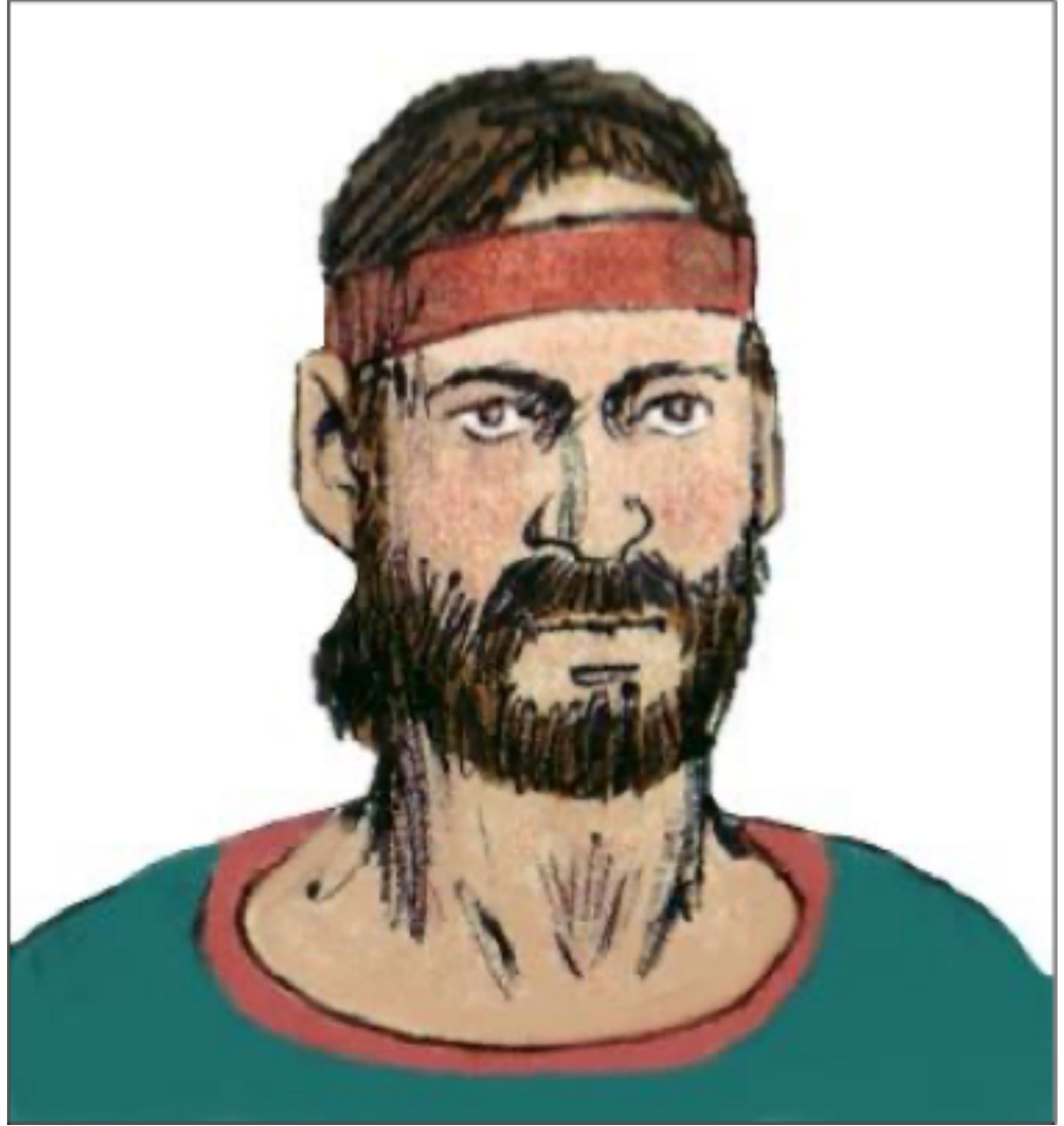


After him, Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel for ten years. Then he died and was buried at Aijalon in the country of Zebulun.

# Elon

Judges 11:11-12

Judge for 10 years



Next, Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel for 8 years. He had forty sons and thirty grandsons. Then he died and was buried in Pirathon.

# Abdon

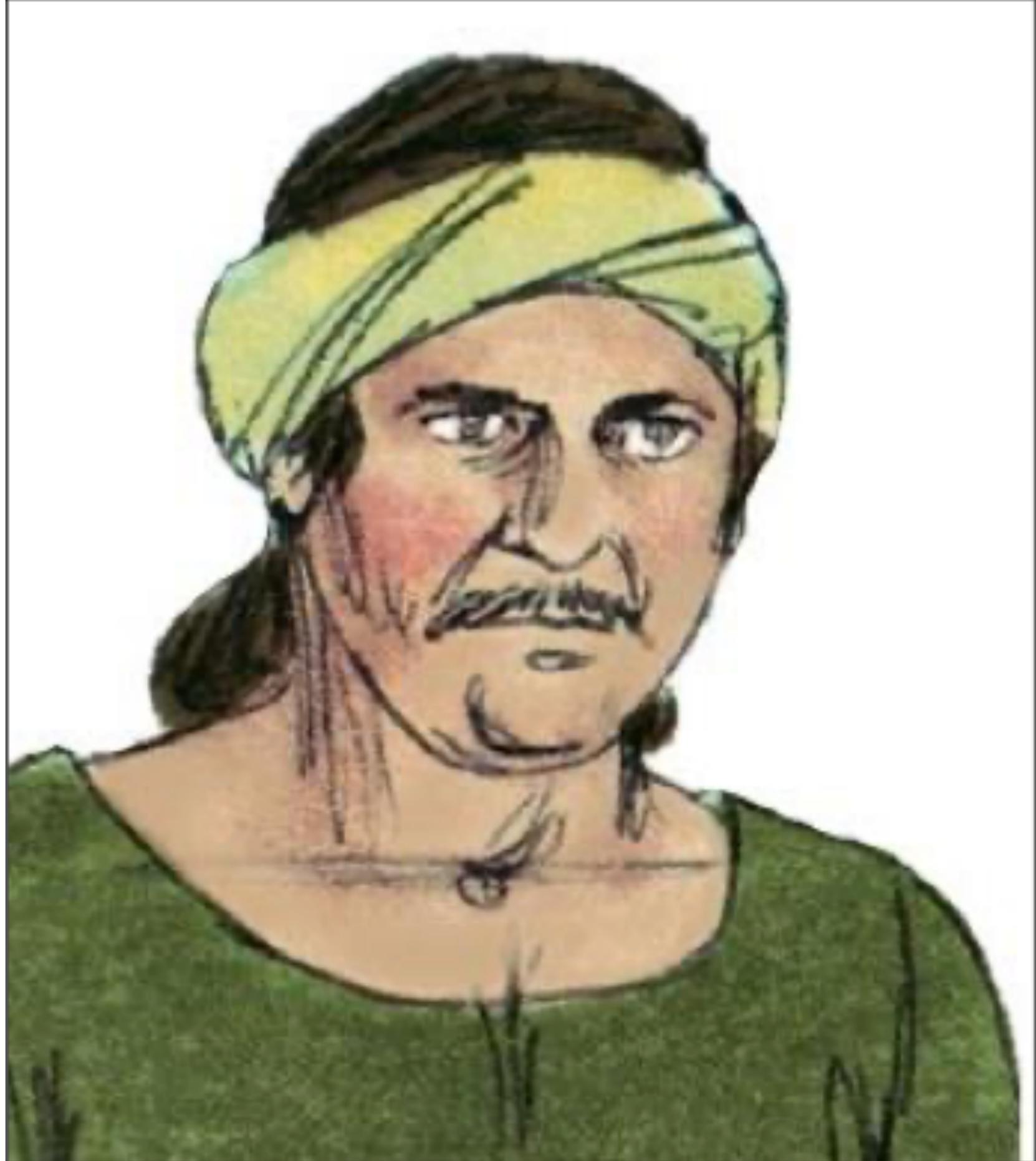
Judges 11:13-15

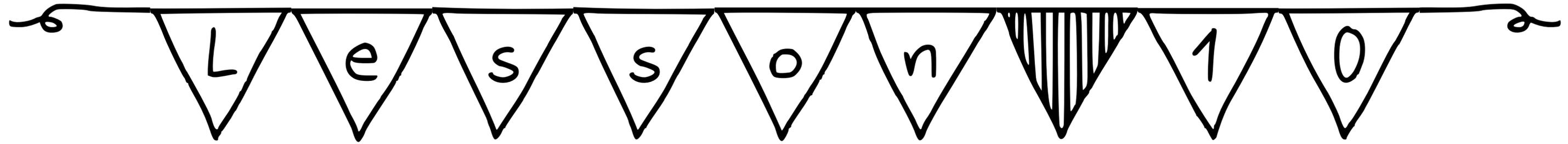
Judge for 8 years

Had 40 sons

Had 30 grandsons

They rode 70 young donkeys





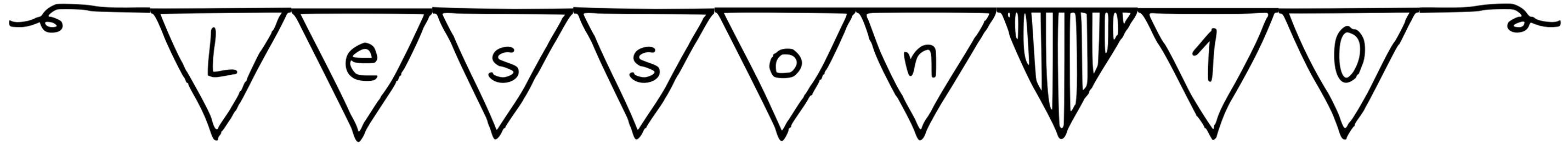
## The Vow of Jephthah

Vows during Bible times were binding.

Lev. 18:21, 20:2-5; Deut. 12:31, 18:10

Jephthah's daughter should be admired for her attitude and also Jephthah for keeping his vow. But it was not necessary, God was already with him.

(11:29)



Jephthah is mentioned in the roll call of faith in Hebrews 11:32. Why? Which of the attributes in the verses that follow apply to him?