

ADAH – The Daughter; The Blue Ray of Fidelity

Fidelity – Faithfulness to obligations or duties.

Its color is Blue - the coolest color - the color of the sky, ocean, sleep, twilight. A symbol of the Virgin Mary. A pure blue is the color of inspiration, sincerity and spirituality - it allows us to look outward and increase perspective. Wear it when you want to open communication and broaden your perspective when you're learning something new. Blue **gemstones** to wear to feel calm are blue sapphire and blue topaz. Lapis lazuli and azurite are said to heighten psychic power.

Now to Adah –Did Jephthah really slay Adah? How could a father do that? (...I know some of you are thinking, “Oh...I could imagine that happening...”)

During Jephthah's time, Judges governed the nation, yet when the people strayed, God punished. When they obeyed God's Word, God relieved them of their oppression and punishment – and, **parenting is still pretty much the same today.**

Jephthah, as judge, was the enforcer of the law. He did not make nor interpret the laws – he administered God's Law according to God's Direction. It was necessary, then, that Jephthah have contact with God Himself.

Now, Jephthah had tried to settle the disagreement with the Ammonites peacefully, but it didn't work. So, Jephthah made a promise to God which was both irrevocable and unqualifiable. He didn't intend to sacrifice his daughter's life, but when the time came for Jephthah to fulfill his vow to God, he had no choice but to keep faith with God.

Legally, and morally, Jephthah was free to make any and all decisions for Adah until such time as she married. So, Adah, also, had no choice but to remain faithful to her father and to her God.

But still. Did Jephthah really **slay** her? Jephthah, as judge, had to have been well-versed in the history and religion of the Hebrews – aware of the laws governing

sacrifices, what was acceptable and what was not – sacrifice of children, any human life actually, was strictly forbidden. (Jephthah could not, would not, have said, “I brought you into this world and I can take you out of it.”)

It’s an enigma, a puzzle. There is a crucial word in Judges 11:31 – the word “and.” The translation from the ancient transcripts could have used “or” instead of “and.” The passage would then read: "Then it shall be that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord’s, **OR** I will offer it up for a burnt offering." With this translation, it’s clear that Jephthah realized that if a human being came from his home, that person would henceforth be dedicated to the service of the Lord. What probably happened to Adah, then, is that Jephthah dedicated his daughter to the service of the tabernacle...**Maybe she joined the tabernacle choir?...**

Anyway, such service demanded complete celibacy and Judges 11:39 now makes more sense: "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."

Consecrating Adah to service of the temple accomplished the same thing that her death would have done. Since she was Jephthah’s only child, there would be no heirs. Denying her the privilege of being a mother was as tragic and consuming at that time as death. The ceremony of raising the sword and touching it to Adah was symbolic of her consecration to the tabernacle – her “death” and the end of Jephthah’s line.

And thus, we learn the importance of thinking before we speak. Sisters and Brothers, if we carelessly utter vows today and in the future, may God keep one arm around our shoulders and one hand over our mouths!

Compiled from various research efforts