

Judges 11:30-40 & 2 Kings 12:5-13, 17 (4-12)

Judges 11:30-31 - "And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, 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, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

The tragic and disturbing story of Jephthah serves as a warning against making vows.

2 Kings 12:5-13, 17 (4-12)

The priests misappropriate money from vows or free will offerings

2 Kings 12:4-5 - "And Jehoash said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the LORD, even the money of every one that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the LORD, Let the priests take it to them, every man of his acquaintance: and let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found."

Every kind of redemption money, such as was paid in the case of the first-born (**Numbers 18:16**) and of a vow (**Leviticus 27:2**) was to be used to repair the Temple.

"And all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring" — That is, all the free-will offerings in money.

But like Ezekiel's false shepherds, the priests fed themselves and not the flock, and sought the wool and the fat and not the good of the sheep. No repairs were made, although they kept receiving money.

2 Kings 12:7 - "Then king Jehoash called for Jehoiada the priest, and the other priests, and said unto them, Why repair ye not the breaches of the house? now therefore receive no more money of your acquaintance, but deliver it for the breaches of the house."

So a new collection procedure was set up, not under the control of the priests but of the King.