

Jephthah and Human Sacrifice in Tanakh

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Main theme of this thesis is the story of Jephthah from Judg 10:6-12:7. Thesis is divided into three main parts and one chapter dealing with interpretation. The first part deals with the story of Jephthah in the Bible and mainly from the perspective of biblical theology. The second chapter is focused on research of the rabbinic literature perspective and the third chapter puts the whole story into the contexts of Near East and other texts of Tanakh dealing with human sacrifice. The final chapter focuses on analysis of the interpretation approaches to this story and to the biblical commentary in general. The research of these themes proved that the initial hypothesis about human sacrifice in biblical narratives as a mean for dealing with the actual praxis of human sacrifice in Israel should be fixed. As a solution we recommend see human sacrifice in narrative as a symbol of negative definition of identity against the other nations. Alongside this was also created a meticulous commentary of Jephthah's story. The texts of rabbinic literature dealing with this story that were not translated were now translated and commented in this thesis.