JEPHTHAH THE BREAKER
PREPARING FOR A SEASON OF DIVINE REVERSALS

[1] Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior. His father was Gilead; his mother was a prostitute. [2] Gilead's wife also bore him sons, and when they were grown up, they drove Jephthah away. "You are not going to get any inheritance in our family," they said, "because you are the son of another woman." [3] So Jephthah fled from his brothers and settled in the land of Tob, where a gang of scoundrels gathered around him and followed him.

Judges 11:1-3 NIV

I. Jephthah the Breaker

A. Jephthah was an outsider, a child of shame.

1. Jephthah's father, Gilead, sowed his wild oats, and up sprouted the crop called Jephthah.
2. Jephthah was unplanned, unwanted, unloved, unappreciated, and unaccepted – Rejected!

B. Jephthah was an outcast.

1. His differences caused others to dismiss him as a second-class citizen.
2. His 30 half-brothers stole his inheritance and drove him out.

C. Jephthah became an outlaw, a Robin Hood-like figure who gathered rejects around himself, creating a holy band of adventurers and warriors.

II. Rejection anyone?

A. God's breakers must be broken!

B. Satan's primary assault against all of God's breakers is rejection.

C. God uses what men reject!

D. Just because you've been rejected doesn't mean you're a reject.

E. The agony of rejection is isolation, separation, and misunderstanding.

F. To flourish we need to feel we belong, that we are valued, that we are accepted and appreciated.

G. Satan's primary strategy is to wound you in your youth with lifelong scars of rejection, designed to cripple and paralyze your self-confidence and boldness.

H. The reason for your rejection is your "difference."

I. God made you different, and the enemy always attacks at your point of uniqueness (your unique self-identity).

III. The Spirit of the Lord consumed Jephthah.

[29] At that time the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he went throughout the land of Gilead and Manasseh, including Mizpah in Gilead, and from there he led an army against the Ammonites. (Judges 11:29 NLT)

* God's broken breakers are about to be consumed with his Holy Spirit.

IV. Prepare for a season of divine reversals.

4 Some time later, when the Ammonites were fighting against Israel, 5 the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob. 6 "Come," they said, "be our commander, so we can fight the Ammonites." 7 Jephthah said to them, "Didn't you hate me and drive me from my father's house? Why do you come to me now, when you're in trouble?" 8 The elders of Gilead said to him, "Nevertheless, we are turning to you now; come with us to fight the Ammonites, and you will be head over all of us who live in Gilead." 9 Jephthah answered, "Suppose you take me back to fight the Ammonites and the LORD gives them to me--will I really be your head?" 10 The elders of Gilead replied, "The LORD is our witness; we will certainly do as you say." (Judges 11:4-10 NIV)

A. A season of divine reversals is upon us.

1 A song of ascents. When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. 2 Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." 3 The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. (Psalm 126:1-3 NIV)

B. God is about to use those who rejected you to promote you.

C. Don't wait for a blessing, prepare for one. Put out a welcome mat.

D. We are entering a season where prayers are going to be answered immediately.

21 Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. (Genesis 25:21 NIV)

E. Prepare for economic reversal, political reversal, legal reversal, emotional reversal, and spiritual reversal.

V. Obedience in a season of reversals.

16 and he said, "This is what the LORD says: I will fill this valley with pools of water. (II Kings 3:16 NIV)

A. Obey when it seems ridiculous.

B. Obey when it seems difficult.

C. Obey completely.

D. Obey even when you don't understand all that's required.

17 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. (John 7:17 NIV)