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YouTube Prayer Link

One cannot rest on one's laurels

There were ten judges of Israel, all of whom were of the tribe of Ephraim and Benjamin. Jephthah ruled over Israel in the hill country of Gilead for twenty-six years. (Judges 12:9–10) Israel was led by judges and was calm for forty years.

Human life is like the sea, sometimes the waves are turbulent, sometimes the waves are calm. However, whether it is turbulent or calm as a mirror, people never seem to be satisfied with the state of the present.

When the storm comes, people crave calm. With strong winds and churning waves, people cannot predict the future and can only bravely face this great challenge. In this chaotic time, they longed for peace and calm, a harbor where they could rest their hearts.

However, when the wind is calm and the days pass uneventfully, people begin to crave change and challenge again. Being content with a peaceful life seems to make people feel tired and feel that life lacks a bit of excitement and vitality. So, they set out to find new goals and adventures to disrupt the existing tranquility.

People are always looking for balance in change, constantly oscillating between movement and stillness. Perhaps this dissatisfaction stems from the inner desire to explore, and human nature drives us to explore the unknown, pursue a better quality of life and a broader vision.

As a result, one may never be truly at peace. In the tide of change, people learn to adjust, learn to find balance in turmoil, and learn to seek change in tranquility. This spirit of constant seeking may be the driving force behind human beings.

There are many passages in the Bible that emphasize the importance of inner peace and quiet, and these verses often remind people to seek peace and peace of mind. Here are some of the Bible's passages related to quietness:

Psalm 46:10: "Rest ye, and know that I am God. 』

Psalm 37:7: "Wait on the Lord silently, and patiently give it to him." Do not be disgruntled by the way and the wicked accomplishment. ┘

Isaiah 30:15, "For thus saith the Sovereign LORD the Holy One of Israel, In your salvation is to rest, and in your strength is in peace and stability." But you will not. ┘

Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ┘

Ephesians 4:26-27: "Be angry, but do not sin, do not be angry until the sun goes down, and do not give a place to the devil." ┘

These verses remind people to seek God's rest and find peace and tranquility in the midst of busyness and trouble. They emphasize the importance of pausing and waiting on God and finding inner peace and stability in the faith and spiritual life.

There are many ways to seek peace and calm in the bosom of God, and here are some suggestions:

Prayer and silence

Prayer is a way to communicate with God. Find a quiet time and place to focus on conversing with God and feeling His presence and peace. Sometimes, moments of silence can sharpen the mind to hear God's voice.

Bible reading and meditation

The Bible is the Word of God, and by reading and meditating on the Bible, one can gain a deeper understanding of God's mind. This not only provides guidance, but also soothes the mind and brings peace and calm.

Worship and praise

Express love and reverence for God through worship and praise. Moments of music, poetry, and praise can bring the heart closer to God and bring stability and peace.

Acts of service and love

Through serving others, doing good, and doing charitable activities, Christians can feel God's grace and love. In the process of serving others, we can also find peace and satisfaction in God's bosom.

These methods can help Christians seek God's rest and peace in their daily lives, and strengthen their connection with God, allowing their hearts to be soothed and nourished in God's lovingkindness.

We pray together

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray to You at this time. Grant Christians peace and tranquility so that their hearts may find rest in Your arms. May Your rest fill every corner of their hearts and allow them to find Your peace in a busy world.

Help them find time to be close to You in their daily lives so that they can experience Your presence deeply. In the face of pressure and challenges, please give them the courage and wisdom to trust in You steadfastly.

Help them learn to let go of their anxiety and anxiety and to focus on your promises. Let Thy peace be beyond human comprehension, guard their hearts and minds, so that they can face each day's challenges with joy and faith.

May Your love and grace fill their lives and be a beacon on their path of life. Thank you for always being with us, giving us hope and strength. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, amen.

Judges Chapter 12

Ju. 12:1 The men of Ephraim called out their forces, crossed over to

Zaphon and said to Jephthah, “Why did you go to fight the

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Ammonites without calling us to go with you? We’re going to burn down your house over your head.”

Ju. 12:2 Jephthah answered, “I and my people were engaged in a great struggle with the Ammonites, and although I called, you didn’t save me out of their hands.

Ju. 12:3 When I saw that you wouldn’t help, I took my life in my hands and crossed over to fight the Ammonites, and the LORD gave me the victory over them. Now why have you come up today to fight me?”

Ju. 12:4 Jephthah then called together the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. The Gileadites struck them down because the Ephraimites had said, “You Gileadites are renegades from

Ephraim and Manasseh.”

Ju. 12:5 The Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan leading to Ephraim, and whenever a survivor of Ephraim said, “Let me cross over,” the men of Gilead asked him, “Are you an Ephraimite?” If he replied, “No,”

Ju. 12:6 they said, “All right, say ‘Shibboleth’.” If he said, “Sibboleth”, because he could not pronounce the word correctly, they seized him and killed him at the fords of the Jordan. Forty-two thousand Ephraimites were killed at that time.

Ju. 12:7 Jephthah led Israel for six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died, and was buried in a town in Gilead.

Ju. 12:8 After him, Ibzan of Bethlehem led Israel.

Ju. 12:9 He had thirty sons and thirty daughters. He gave his daughters away in marriage to those outside his clan, and for his sons he brought in thirty young women as wives from outside his clan. Ibzan led Israel for seven years.

Ju. 12:10 Then Ibzan died, and was buried in Bethlehem.

Ju. 12:11 After him, Elon the Zebulunite led Israel for ten years. Ju. 12:12 Then Elon died, and was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

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Ju. 12:13 After him, Abdon son of Hillel, from Pirathon, led Israel. Ju. 12:14 He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy donkeys. He led Israel for eight years.

Ju. 12:15 Then Abdon son of Hillel died, and was buried at Pirathon in Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 12 in the Christian Bible talks about the conflict between the tribe of Ephraim and the other tribes of Israel. After Jephthah's victory over the Ammonites, the Ephraimites felt slighted that they were not invited to participate in the battle and accused Jephthah of not respecting their tribal pride.

This led to a confrontation in which the men of Gilead, Jephthah's tribe, defeated the Ephraimites and took control of the fords of the Jordan River, preventing the Ephraimites from escaping across the river. In the ensuing conflict, many Ephraimites were killed, and the chapter gives a detailed account of the names and numbers of the casualties. The chapter also briefly mentions two minor judges who judged Israel after Jephthah's death, Ibzan of Bethlehem and Elon of Zebulun, who judged Israel for a total of twentythree years.

The story of the conflict between the tribe of Ephraim and the other tribes of Israel in Chapter 12 of The Book of Judges highlights the ongoing struggles and divisions among the tribes of Israel, even in times of victory and peace. It also emphasizes the importance of unity and cooperation among the tribes to avoid destructive conflicts and promote the welfare of all Israelites.

Here are some key verses in chapter 12 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible in English:

1. "Then the men of Ephraim were summoned, and they crossed to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, 'Why did you cross over to fight against the Ammonites and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire.'" (Judges 12:1)
2. "Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought with Ephraim. And the men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, 'You are fugitives of Ephraim, you Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim and Manasseh.'" (Judges 12:4)
3. "And Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem. After him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel, and he judged Israel ten years. Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the land of Zebulun." (Judges 12:10-12)

These verses describe the conflict between Jephthah and the men of Ephraim, as well as the succession of judges after Jephthah.

Judges chapter 12 provides a reflection on the conflict that arises between the tribes of Ephraim and Gilead following the victory over the Ammonites. It reveals the dangers of pride, the importance of unity, and the consequences of division among God's people.

The chapter begins with the men of Ephraim criticizing Jephthah, the judge who led the Israelites to victory over the Ammonites. They accuse him of not including them in the battle and express their anger and frustration. Jephthah defends himself by explaining that he did call upon the men of Ephraim for assistance but received no response.

The conflict escalates, and the men of Ephraim threaten to attack Jephthah and the people of Gilead. Jephthah and his army of Gilead respond by defeating the men of Ephraim, resulting in a great loss of life.

The reflection in Judges chapter 12 brings attention to the destructive power of pride and the consequences of division among God's people. The men of Ephraim were driven by their pride and their desire for recognition, leading them to confront Jephthah and the people of Gilead. Their actions resulted in unnecessary bloodshed and loss of life.

The story also highlights the importance of unity and cooperation among the tribes of Israel. Instead of working together and supporting one another, the men of Ephraim allowed pride and resentment to drive a wedge between them and the rest of the nation. This division weakened their collective strength and hindered their ability to fulfill God's purposes.

Additionally, the reflection prompts us to consider the significance of communication and understanding in resolving conflicts. The misunderstanding between Jephthah and the men of Ephraim could have been avoided if there had been clear communication and a willingness to listen and understand one another's perspectives.

Overall, Judges chapter 12 serves as a reflection on the dangers of pride, the importance of unity, and the consequences of division among God's people. It encourages believers to cultivate humility, seek understanding, and work together in harmony to fulfill God's purposes. It reminds

us that division and conflict within the community of faith hinder our collective impact and can lead to destructive consequences.