

## JEPHTHAH, GAD & THE AMMONITES

The Ammonite oppression in Gilead is recorded in **Judges 10:6 - 12:7**. The Ammonites were closely related to Israel, however, they were extremely hostile towards the Israelites. Their hostility dated to the time of the conquest. The Ammonite aggression stemmed, in part, from the nature of their land.

Ammon was hemmed in on the west by the tribe of Gad, and on the east by the Syro-Arabian desert. As is the case today, the fertile land lay to the west, occupied by Israel. To the east, only barren desert. In the southern region, the wilderness of Kedemoth separated Ammon from Moab. The land was not suitable for grazing, and much less desirable than the lands west.

Despite this, the Ammonites were able to thrive as a society. Their isolation helped maintain their national identity, and they built up a magnificent city at Rabbath-ammon. The ancient ruins stand today as a testament to these hardened people in the modern day city of Amman, the capital of Jordan. Ancient aggression manifests itself on a daily basis in the region to this very day.

