

### 14.13 8th Judge, Jair (Judges 10:3-5)

(Three of the briefly-noted judges—Shamgar, Tola, and Jair—are combined in Lesson 14.13a.)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

#### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- Map of the time of the judges in order to locate Gilead

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- (none for this lesson)

#### Scripture: (ESV)

Judges 10:3 After him arose Jair the Gileadite, who judged Israel twenty-two years. 4 And he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities, called Havvoth-jair to this day, which are in the land of Gilead. 5 And Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

Numbers 32:41 And Jair the son of Manasseh went and captured their villages, and called them Havvoth-jair.

Deuteronomy 3:14 Jair the Manassite took all the region of Argob, that is, Bashan, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and called the villages after his own name, Havvoth-jair, as it is to this day.)

Joshua 13:30 Their region extended from Mahanaim, through all Bashan, the whole kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair, which are in Bashan, sixty cities.

#### Introduction/Review:

Interspersed among notable judges and events we find judges who might have governed several years but who are given very little space in the record of the Bible. We have already learned about two of these, Shamgar and Tola. Shamgar slew 600 Philistines with an ox goad, and Tola defended Israel twenty-three years. (He’s the one whose father and grandfather had amusing names—Puah and Dodo.)

#### Story:

The next briefly-noted judge, Jair, has only three Scripture verses about him, but his description is more interesting than Tola's. Listen to this: He came from Gilead, which was in the tribe of Manasseh on the east side of the Jordan River [locate], and judged Israel twenty-two years.

Do you remember how many sons Gideon/Jerubbaal had? [Seventy.] Well, Jair had less than half that many, but he had a bunch—thirty! This is what he did for those thirty sons: he got each of them a donkey to ride and gave them each a city—thirty cities!

Now, where in the world did Jair get thirty cities? We learn from other Scripture passages that he might have had as many as sixty cities in all. Way back when Israel first came into the land, one-half tribe of Manasseh, and the tribes of Reuben, and Gad stayed on the east side of the Jordan River [locate]. At that time an ancestor of Jair, who happened to have the same name, and other Manassites conquered “the whole kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of [that became] Jair, which are in Bashan, sixty cities” (Joshua 13:30; Numbers 32:41; Deuteronomy 3:14). These were “great cities, with walls and bronze bars” (1 Kings 4:13)—impressive cities indeed! We see from these Scriptures that the family of Judge Jair had possessed these mighty cities for some time.

Another judge, Samuel, who lived later, had sons that helped him judge. Some commentators think that's what Jair did in giving thirty cities—he gave them authority to govern their cities.

Another thing to think about is the matter of riding donkeys. That sounds quite humble to us. We think we would look more important on a tall horse. However, in those days, to ride a donkey showed the rider had distinction and honor.

So, Jair judged Israel twenty-two years, protecting them from their enemies, administering justice to them, and preserving them in the true religion (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/judges-10-3.html>).

### Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:  
On the Sunday before Jesus was crucified, He entered Jerusalem on a donkey as the people proclaimed, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”
- Believers look for a heavenly city: “But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city” (Hebrews 11:16).

### Activities:

- Play dough: donkeys; mini-cities
- Snack: Donkey-shaped sugar cookies or horse crackers as described at this site: <https://i.pinimg.com/1200x/f4/49/5f/f4495fb9ee4d62818f853db3588858b2.jpg>
- Start learning the names of the judges by singing the following to the tune, “Ten Little Indians”:  
Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah,  
Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair,  
Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon,  
Samson, and Samuel.
- Review questions: (Game: Print, color, and cut out the letters *J A I R* found below. For each correct answer, a student will place a letter in a pocket chart.)
  1. How many sons did Jair have? [Thirty.]
  2. What huge, huge thing did he give to each of these sons? [One city each.]
  3. What did Jair give his sons to ride? [Donkeys.]
  4. How did Jair probably get this many cities? [His ancestors had conquered them when they first came into the land.]

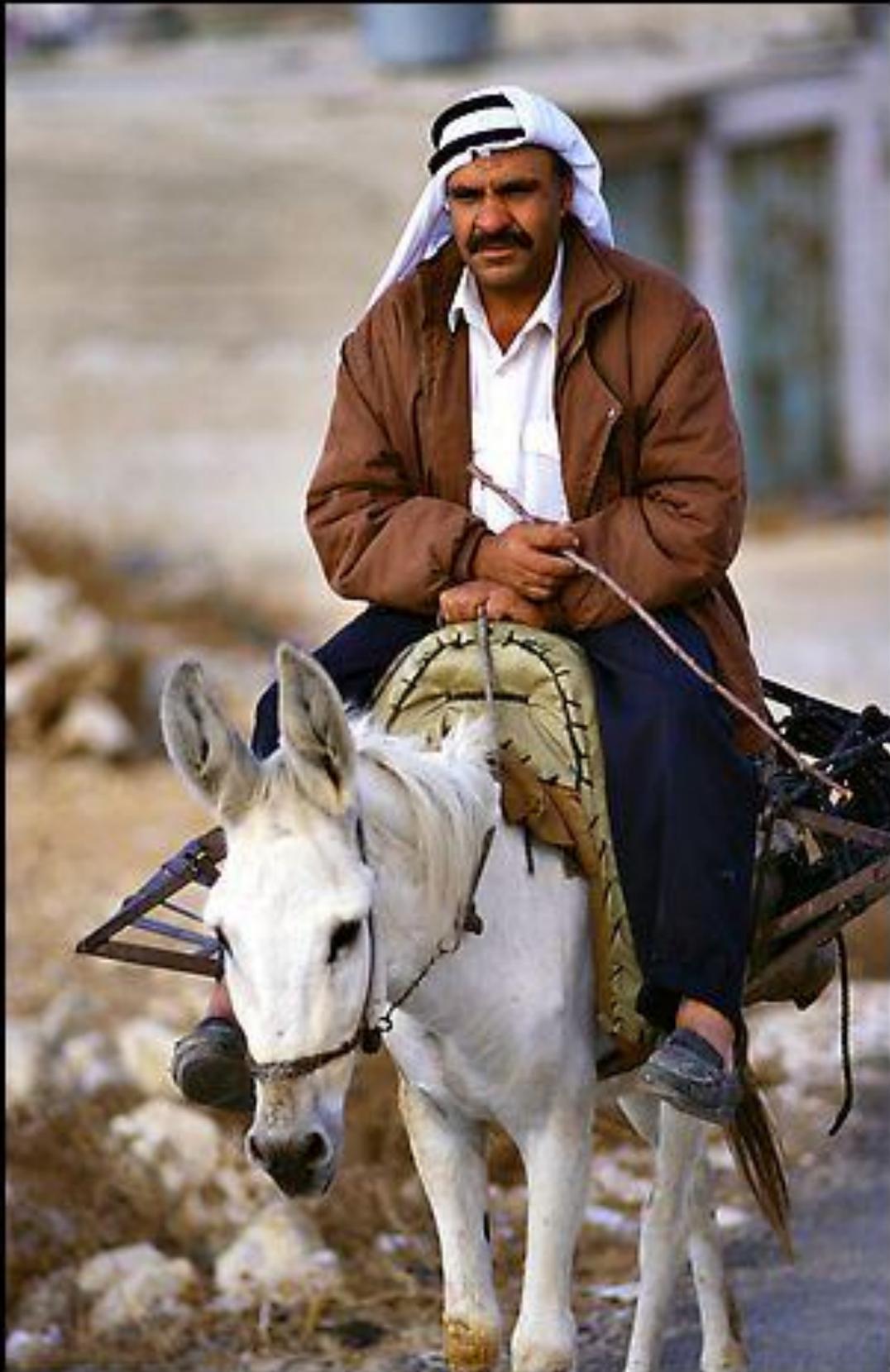
### Memory Verse[s]: (ESV)

- Hebrews 11:16—“But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”

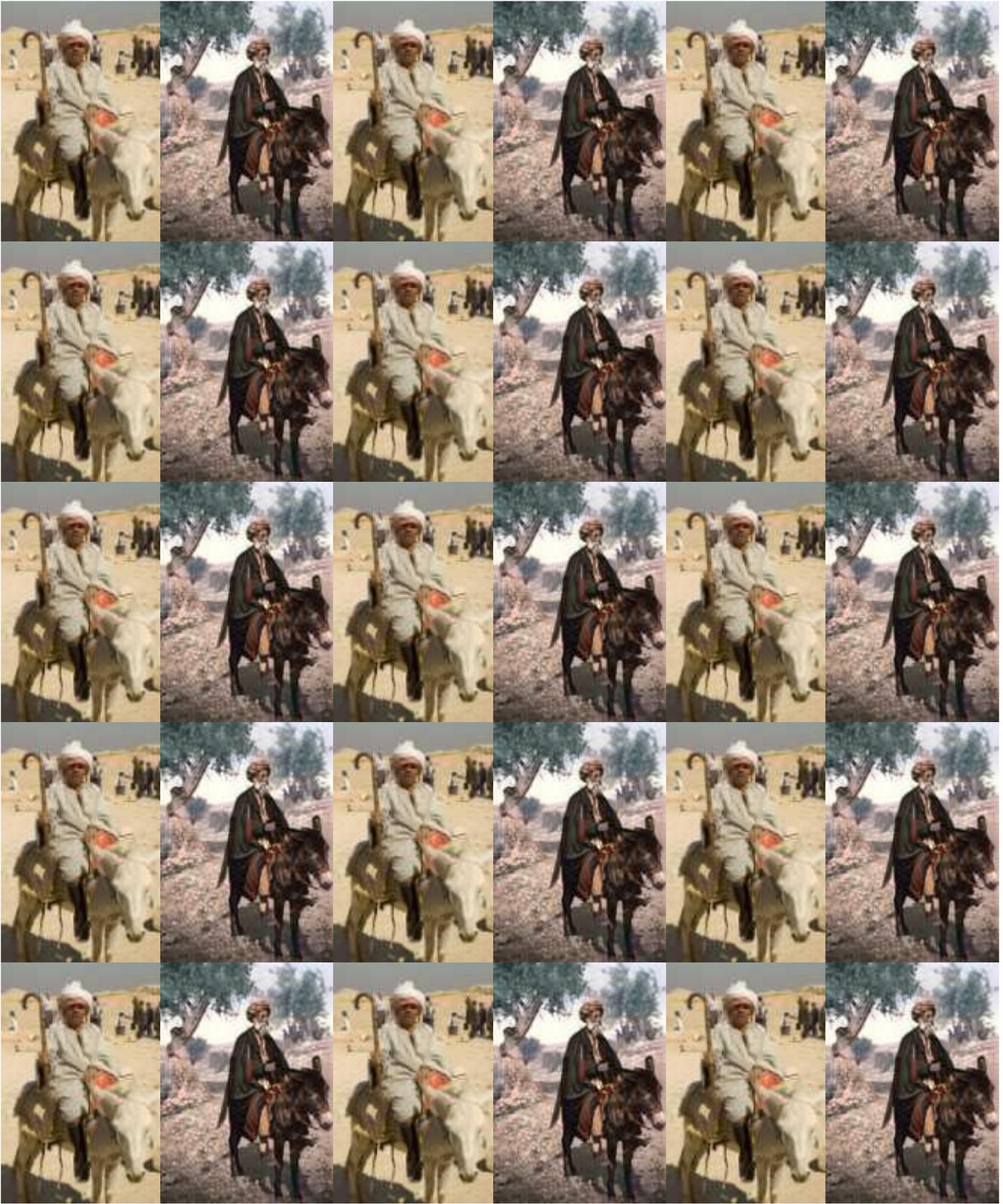
### Handwork:

- Make a “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” game. Print on cardstock the clipart and tails found below. Students may color these pictures. Cut out the tails, and play the game.

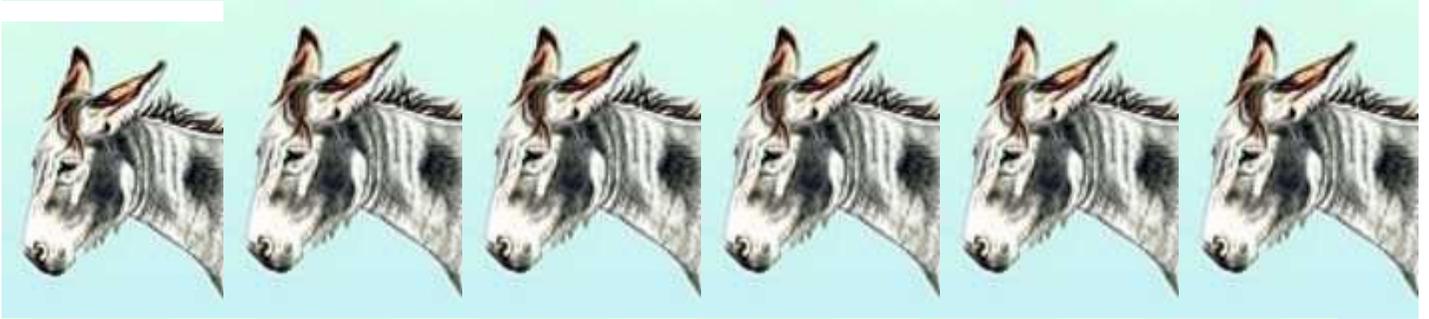
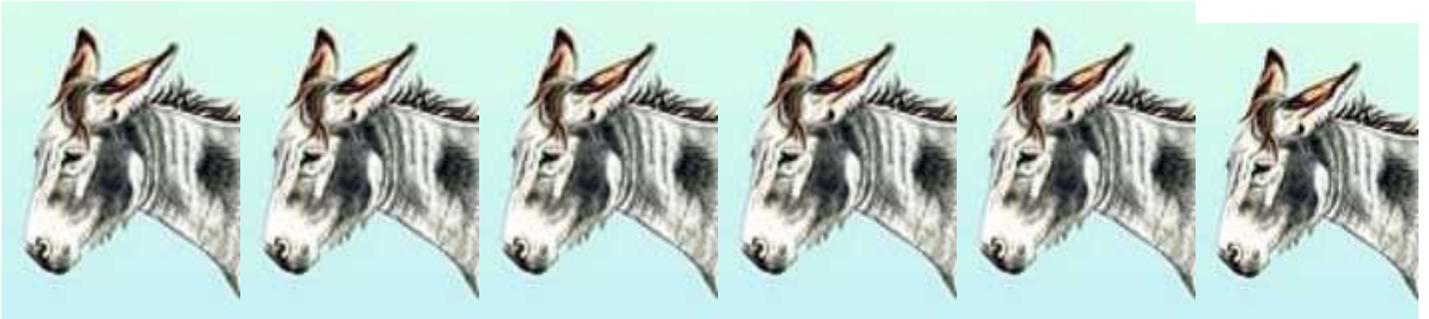




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Thirty sons on thirty donkeys



J A

I R

# **Pin the Tail on Jair's Donkey**

