

Shibboleth

The story behind the word...



Shibboleth

Around 1370-1070 BC, the Ephraimites were claiming that they were the best tribe out there. They were calling out a lot of people. Jephthah was one of them. Saying that he was an illegitimate ruler and was not fit. He also called out the Gileadites (his people), say they couldn't fight and were fugitives from Ephraim. The Gileadites said eff you we'll show you who can't fight, and that started the war between the two.

Guess who won... the Gileadites.

Once they did the Ephraimites fled and now were the real fugitives. Their plan was to blend in with the Gileadites to stay alive. The Gileadites knew the Ephraimites were trying to hide and be fugitives so they setup shop at the entrance of the Jordan River.

When a "fellow" (fellow is in parentheses for a reason) soldier came to the entrance the Gilead on guard would tell them to say the word shibboleth. The Ephraimites talked funny so when they said it, they said 'sibboleth' instead. That tipped the Gilead off so he told whoever said it like that "ah what's good my friend, I got something good for you". Took him to a corner and killed him on site because saying the word shibboleth like sibboleth meant you were an Ephraim fugitive enemy.

That is why we say shibboleth in the front of the door before we get into the middle chamber, so we know we are real. It is then we give the real password.