

Judges Chapters 13 – 16

Chapter 13

Samson

- Bold before men – weak with regards to women
- Empowered by the Spirit of God – yet yielded to the appetites of the flesh.
- Was called to defeat the Philistines – yet sought to take a Philistine as wife.
- Fought the Lord’s battles by day – disobeyed the Lord’s commandments by night.

VS 1 – 7

- Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.
- Names means – Sunny.
- His mother was barren, and his birth ordained by God. (Sarah, Elizabeth, Hannah).
- Philistines ruled over Israel for 40 years (1095-1055 BC.)
- Was a Nazarite – like John the Baptist.
 - No wine
 - No strong drink
 - No razor
 - No unclean food.

VS 8 -25 – The Story of Manoah, the conception of Samson, and The Angel of the Lord.

- Samson is unique in that he is the only one who is “blessed of the Lord” – see verse 25.
- Secret of his strength was his hair; the source of his strength was the Holy Spirit.
- Seven recorded feats of his strength recorded in scripture.
 - Killing a lion with his bare hands
 - Slaying 30 Philistines.
 - Catching 300 foxes.
 - Breaking bonds.
 - Slaying 1000 men with the jawbone of a donkey.
 - Carrying away the Gaza city gates. (38 miles).
 - Destroying the temple of the Philistines.

Chapter 14

According to Hebrews 11:32 Samson was a man of faith; however, scripture reveals he was flawed and was not faithful to his parents teaching or was he faithful to his Nazarite vow and the law of the Lord.

- Samson chooses a wife from the Philistines.
- The Lord used this occasion to “pick a fight” with Israel’s oppressors.
- The SPIRIT of the Lord comes upon Samson, and he kills a lion with bare hands.
- Inside the lion he finds honey and eats and shares it with his parents.

- This is breaking a Nazarite vow – not to touch a dead animal or person. (Numbers 6:6).
- A feast for the wedding (weeklong). 30 companions join from the Philistines.
- The riddle and the prize – 30 pieces of clothing.
- His betrothed
 - Enticed him.
 - Controlled him.
 - Betrayed him.
- Samson’s anger – The Spirit of the Lord comes upon him, and he goes and kills 30 Philistines.
- Samson never consummates the marriage.
- His wife to be is passed off on to the best man.

Chapter 15

- Samson learns his promised wife has been given to another.
- Samson had paid the legal price for the bride, and he now has neither the wife nor the money.
- Although he was offered the younger sister, Samson was not appeased.
- Samson takes revenge on the Philistines with 300 foxes.
- He destroys the harvest of wheat, corn, olives, and vineyards with fire.
- The Philistines take revenge by burning both his father-in-law and his would-be bride with fire.
- Samon retreats to live in a cave at Etam.
- The Philistines use the men of Judah to capture Samson and turn him over.
- To Israel, Samson was a troublemaker, not their deliverer.
- Samson never rallied the people, challenged them to fight, nor did he organize efforts to cast off the Philistine oppression.
- 3000 men of Judah went to get Samson for the Philistines.
- He agrees to go with them, bound with ropes, if they agree not to kill him.
- Samson retaliates with the slaughter of 1000 men using the jawbone of a donkey.
- Samson’s thirst and the Lord’s provision.
- Samson judges Israel for 20 years.

Chapter 16

- Samson meets and engages a prostitute in Gaza.
- His presence is made known to the Philistines.
- They plan to attack at dawn.
- Samson wakes up at midnight and uproots the city gates.
 - They were normally 20 feet tall.
 - They were heavily fortified with bars and posts.
 - He carries them on his shoulders to Hebron (40 miles).
- Samson meets Deliah and falls in love with her.

- Deliah bribed by the Philistines leaders (five of them) offering 1,100 pieces of silver each if she will betray Samson and reveal the source of his strength. (That is 5,500 pieces of silver.)

Three deceptions.

1. Seven fresh cords that have never been dried.
2. New ropes that have never been used.
3. Weave my hair and pin it up.

Deliah extracts his secret – shave my head.

Samson did not know the Lord departed from him and he was captured.

- Sin and God do not share the same space.
- God will not abide sin.
- God will ultimately judge sin.
- Sin separates us from God and one another.
- The Spirit of God left Saul because of his sin.
- The Spirit of God left the temple in Jerusalem because of Israel's sin.
- Romans 1:24, 26, 28 “God gave them up...”
- 2 Thessalonians 2:10 -11 – for this reason God send upon them a deluding spirit.
- Romans 6:23 – the wages of sin is death.

Samson's eyes were gouged out and he was in darkness – Samson served the FLESH.

Saul went out into the darkness to the witch at Endor – Saul served the WORLD.

Judas went out into the night to betray Jesus – Judas served the DEVIL.

VS 22 – 31

- Samson hair began to grow.
- Dagon exalted as superior to the God of Israel.
- A feast and festival in Dagon's honor. – Dagon believed to be the father of Baal.
- Samon paraded out to entertain them – to be ridiculed, mocked and laughed at.
- Samon is placed between the pillars that upheld the structure.
- Samson prays for strength and to be avenged.
- He collapses the structure and dies with the Philistines (3000).