

## Key to Understanding THE JUDGES:

Judges 2:2 "And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?"

Judges 2: 10-11 "And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Balaam:"



Ron Singleterry The Judges-part 8 Adult Bible Study  
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## The Judges-part8

### Judges Chapters 13-16

Judges 13:5 "and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God..."

### Samson

#### Chosen before Conceived:

This judge was chosen before he was conceived.

Judges 13: 3-5 "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from his womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

Samson was called of God before he was born, but did he live the kind of life that the angel of the Lord described? He spent most of his life trying to satisfy himself rather than be the godly example that he should be, and after he judged Israel for 20 years he ended up defeated and wondering if God even remembered who he was.

#### Samson

Date: 1140 BC

Location: Zorah (between Sea of Galilee & Mt. Hermon)

Tribe: Dan

Father: Manoah

Mother: Un-named, but visited by angels of God!

How would your life be affected if you had an angel tell your parents that you were chosen before you were conceived? Would it make you cocky or would it make you focused on doing God's will?

Keep in mind that before you were formed in your mother's womb, God knew you. (Is. 44:2, 24, Is. 49: 1, 5) He had a perfect will for your life then and He still has a will for your life today and tomorrow.

#### The Nazarite Vow:

The angel gave instructions that sound peculiar if you are not familiar with the Nazarite vow.

The Nazarite vow is a commitment, for some period of time, to be a Godly example (in today's terms, a Super Christian) and abstain from strong drink, eat only kosher food, observe all 200 plus laws recorded by Moses in the wilderness.

Some would commit for a few weeks, some a few months, and some for a year or two: However, Samson was to be a Nazarite for his entire life! God set a very high standard for Samson. God also gave Samson some unique power: his super natural strength to remind him every day that he belonged to God and had a calling on his life.

### **Samson's Unique Blessing and what he did with it:**

Have you ever wondered why it seems that some people are blessed in a great way in their life, yet others who love the Lord see trouble come their way?

One Christian is blessed financially, has "perfect" children, and God is obviously blessing them; yet another person that loves the Lord has one problem after another.

Some people get cynical because they see that things in this life are not always fair. Keep in mind that we are looking at things going on in this life from our limited viewpoint. God sees things from a better vantage point.

*Judges 14:6 "And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him"*

And because of that he began to get full of himself. This next verse shows him headed in the wrong direction:

*Judges 14:1 "And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines:"*

Notice how God's Word says he went "DOWN". Any time you get consumed with doing your own will, you are "going down", both spiritually and physically.

Samson thought that his desires would make him happy and content, but instead he frustrated himself, robbed himself of his strength, and lost his eye sight. And not only that, he also hurt and frustrated the whole nation of Israel. God's spirit was on him from his birth, but he used it improperly.

*Judges 13:25 "And the spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol."*

Samson's motto was "If it feels good, do it": in today's terms NIKE puts it this way "Just Do It". Don't worry about right or wrong, don't consider whether it will hurt someone else "Just Do It". We live in a time when the TV and our surroundings teach us that we deserve a life of having and getting whatever we want. But in reality, God has given us the power to be an influence on others. We need to remember that we have a responsibility to fulfill God's desires and that is more important than fulfilling the lusts of our flesh.

### **Samson's Life & Lessons:**

Samson gambled, killed people just because he would get mad, and he had a bad habit of chasing the wrong kind of girls. He met Delilah and really liked her because she was some kind of fine looking girl. He didn't care what her heart looked like. He was handsome and all muscles, he deserved a beautiful looking girlfriend. Watch out, "Beauty is only skin deep". Delilah was in cahoots with the rest of the Philistines to betray his strength- 3 times. He was really dumb!

*Judges 16:4-30 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.*

*And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.*

*Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.*

*Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web. And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.*

*And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.*

*And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.*

*And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.*

*And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.*

*Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.*

*And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.*

*Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.*

*And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.*

## Conclusion:

His hair was gone; his power with God was gone; His number was up. Eventually she wore him down, just like sin wears you down and we let the devil rob us of our power with God. Like Samson *"Wist not that the Lord was departed"* we go powerless for periods of time without even knowing it.

The Philistines cut his hair, robbed him of his strength, and put out his eyes. Maybe God was telling him that if you don't want to see the vision that I gave you for Israel, you don't need those eyes.

Has God got a calling for your life? Is there a vision or special set of goals that God wants you to accomplish in your life? Don't let the Philistines of this world rob that from you or you will end up like Samson.

Blinded by this world, you will feel useless, frustrated, and unable to see where to go. You may even look up to heaven and say, just like Samson, "Remember me?", "Remember me, God? You called me, but I went the wrong way. I'm afraid that you forgot me. Oh Lord God, remember me

Anyone called of God like Samson, will NEVER fit into the crowd. In fact anyone that is called of God "Period" is special like Samson was. God has offered you great power so that you can be the kind of testimony that He wants. You can lead others to Jesus Christ. Your way of living can help others find the way to real joy and happiness. Don't throw that away for some cheap thrills that don't last!

### ***Trail Tip:***

*Make your calling and election sure:*

*2 Peter 1:10*

*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.*