

# Judges

“Israel’s ‘Dark Ages’”

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## Lesson Thirteen

*"Samson, Part I"*

Text: Judges 13 – 14



## JOSH. 13:8-19:49

- City

- City (uncertain location)

▲ Mountain peak



**#1**

# What do we know about Samson?

*Name?*

*“Strength like the sun.”*

*TRIBE?*

*He was from the tribe of Dan.*

*He became a Nazirite for life before he was born (13:5). What does that mean (Num 6:1-21)?*

*While his mother was barren before he was conceived, she later had sons.*

*He was buried between Zorah and Eshtaol in his father's tomb (16:31)*

#1

Which previous judge dealt with the Philistines?

*Shamgar killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad (3:31)*

How was Samson a microcosm of the nation of Israel?

- Miraculously Birthed from one who was barren.
- Lived among the Canaanites and corrupted
- Suffered from sin – *binds, grinds, blinds*.
- Taken captive – rejected by God but later restored and used by God through his death.



#2

Briefly summarize the announcement of the angel to Samson's mother. What did he say would be Samson's purpose in life (13:5c)?

*The angel told her that she would conceive and have a son, that she should not drink any wine or strong drink, and she should not eat anything unclean. She was told this because her son would be a Nazirite (13:3-4).*

*His purpose in life was declared to be that he would begin to save Israel from the Philistines.*

A yellow circle containing the text "#3" in a green, stylized font.

Based on Manoah's prayer, the question he asked of the angel, and the response that he received (13:12), would you say that he genuinely believed his wife initially?

*One would have to conclude that he did not. He basically said that he needed to be told the same thing that she had been. Whether he thought she was lying or delusional, we are not told.*

#4

What request did Manoah make to the angel (13:15)? What was the response?

*It seems that he asked the messenger to spend some time with them so that they might prepare a meal for him.*

*The angel said that if he stayed with them for any length of time that he would not eat with them, but they could, instead, offer the food as a sacrifice (13:16).*

#5

After Manoah and his wife had offered the sacrifice to God, what did Manoah conclude? What was his wife's response?

*That they had been talking to the Lord and that they were going to die (13:22).*

*His wife's response was much more rational than her husband's. She said that if the Lord had wanted to kill them, He would not have accepted their sacrifice, told them what was to happen (if the Lord killed them for seeing Him, how could the promise come to pass?), or shown them the signs that He did (13:23).*



A large, textured tree trunk dominates the foreground, its bark deeply grooved and brown. The background is a soft-focus forest with green foliage and other tree trunks. Overlaid on the tree trunk is the text 'BUILT STRONG' in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a fine, white dot pattern, giving them a textured appearance. The text is arranged in two lines: 'BUILT' on top and 'STRONG' below it.

# BUILT STRONG

*Building a Strong Spirit*



A background image showing two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. In the center of the heart, there is a bright, glowing light source, possibly a sun or a fire, with rays emanating from it. The overall color palette is warm, with oranges, yellows, and reds.

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*

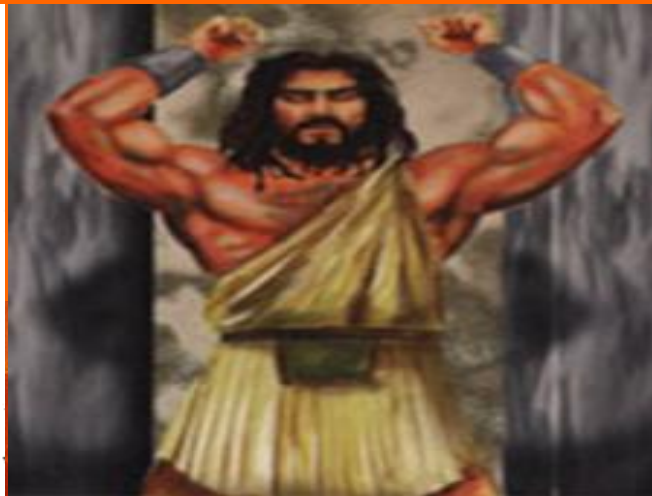
*I pray that you, being rooted and established in love... may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

*Ephesians 3:16-19*



# SPIRITUAL POWER

How to Build and  
Maintain a Strong Spirit





# THESIS:

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THREE ATTITUDES that will *weaken* our spirits.

- **Self -indulgence**
- **Resentment**
- **Carelessness**

*Look for these weaknesses (Ch 14-16).*



#6

How did Samson come to meet his wife? When his parents suggested that he look closer to home for a wife, what was his response?

*He happened to see her when he went to town (Timnah) (14:1).*

*He basically ordered his father to do as he had told him (14:3).*

Would you say he ‘fell in love with her’ or that he ‘fell in lust with her’?

*Obviously, this was solely physical. His motivation was purely based on hormones and not rational thought.*

#7

Who (what nation) inhabited Timnah? Who (as far as we know) comprised the wedding 'guest list'?

*Timnah was a Philistine city.*

*As far as we can tell from the text, none of Samson's friends nor anyone from his family attended the wedding feast. Hence, all of the guests must have been Philistines.*

#8

Did Samson have the right to marry the young woman from Timnah?  
Why or why not?

*Technically, Samson was allowed to marry the young woman. Deuteronomy 7:1-4 lists the 7 nations that comprised the Canaanites (but the Philistines were not one of them), and the Lord then prohibits the Israelites from intermarrying with them. However, the fact she was a non-believer and from the family of the enemy, shows Samson's lack of commitment to his life purpose.*

*But there was hatred between the Israelites and the Philistines and Samson would not have been able to take his wife into his father's house. Marrying a Philistine, (when his life purpose to deliver his people from the Philistines) was a foolish thing to do!*

# THREE ATTITUDES THAT WEAKEN MY SPIRIT:

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## 1. Self-indulgence weakens my spirit

*You weaken your spirit when you make decisions based on pleasure rather than principle.*

*Building a Strong Spirit*



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- To be strong in spirit, I must *discipline my desires.*

*Building a Strong Spirit*

# 1 PETER 4:1-2

NIV

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“Since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves with the *same attitude*, because he who is *disciplined in his body* is done with sin. As a result, he does not live his life for evil *human desires*, but rather for the *will of God*.”

*Building a Strong Spirit*

#9

What was Samson's riddle? How did his 'guests' solve it?

*His riddle was in the form of poetry (14:14):*

*Out of the eater came something to eat  
Out of the strong came something sweet*

*They coerced his wife into convincing Samson to tell her so that she could tell them. They threatened her life if she did not obtain the answer (14:15).*



#10

How did Samson make good his  
'promise'?

*He went to Ashkelon and killed 30 Philistines and took their clothes to give to his wedding 'guests' (14:19). In effect, he paid the Philistines with their own possessions.*



# TRUE/FALSE

11. **T** **F** *Samson said that the Philistines had plowed with his ox. (14:18)*
12. **T** **F** *Samson killed the lion in a vineyard. (14:5)*
13. **T** **F** *The angel of the LORD did not appear again to Manoah or his wife after the sacrifice was made. (13:21)*
14. **T** **F** *As the sacrifice was being burned, the angel ascended with the flames. (13:20)*
15. **T** **F** *Besides the young lamb, Manoah also offered a grain offering. (13:19)*

# Judges

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## Lesson Fourteen

*"Samson, Part 2"*

Text: Judges 14 – 15