

Next lesson: 3/8/23

# Judges

“Israel’s ‘Dark Ages’”

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*"A Levite & His Concubine; War with Benjamin, Part I"*

Text: Judges 19:1 – 20:28

# Judges

“Israel’s ‘Dark Ages’”

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*"Samson, Part II"*

Text: Judges 15 – 16



# Thought questions:

What was the problem with the practice of circumcision in the OT in regard to commitment to the covenant?

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See Jer 31: 31-34

See Ezekiel 36: 26-28

How does this relate to Samson and the Nazirite vow (Judges 13:5)?

# Thought questions:

Where did he demonstrate his *personal faith* to warrant his placement in Heb 11: 32-34, 39-40?

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See Judges 16:23-30.

He cried out in faith to the Lord at the end!

Notice contrast from 15:15-16.

Lessons?



# Thought questions:

*How is Samson a type of Christ?*

1. His birth and calling.
2. His taking a Gentile bride.
3. Destroying the lion in the vineyard.
4. The wedding feast
5. Striking out against the enemy as God's appointed deliverer.
6. The betrayal of Samson (twice)
7. Samson's death.

Samson did his greatest work in  
darkness with outstretched arms!  
He laid down his life voluntarily to set  
his people free.

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#4

Do you see anything astounding in the response of the Israelites to the Philistines (15:9-12)?

*Here was the champion of the Israelites. A man of super-human strength around which any group of people would rally (there were 3,000 of them), and around whom the Danites could easily use to throw off the yoke of the Philistines. Yet they feared that all Samson would accomplish would be to make the Philistines mad at them. Their lack of faith in God is truly astounding.*

#5

After Samson had killed 1,000 Philistines, from what did God save him? What argument did he use in his appeal to God?

*It was a lot of work killing 1,000 men, so it is not unexpected that he would be quite thirsty afterwards.*

*He reasoned that to die of thirst (and thus fall into the hands of the Philistines) would thwart all of God's plans for him. Thus, it was only reasonable that God should provide him with water (15:18).*



#6

How did Samson leave his 'mark' on the city of Gaza?

*Samson went to Gaza to visit a prostitute and while he was there, the Philistines decided to set an ambush for him. But he left early (at midnight) and ripped the gates of the city from the walls and the ground and carried them to a hill near Hebron (16:1-3).*

#7

How many lords of the Philistines were there? How many pieces of silver was Delilah promised?

*There were 5 lords of the Philistines (3:3).*

*She was promised 1,100 pieces of silver from each lord (16:5). This would have made her quite wealthy.*



#8

What were the 3 answers to the 'riddle' of his strength that Samson told Delilah?

- a. *He would be helpless if he were bound with 7 fresh bowstrings that had not been dried (16:7)*
- b. *He would be helpless if he were bound with new ropes that had never been used (16:11)*
- c. *He would be helpless if the 7 locks of his head were woven and bound with a pin (16:13)*

#9

After Samson was subdued by the Philistines, what 4 things did they do to him (16:21)?

1. *They gouged out his eyes (Blinded).*
2. *They took him to Gaza*
3. *They bound him with bronze shackles (Binded).*
4. *They made him grind mill at the prison*



# THESIS:

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THREE ATTITUDES that will *weaken* our spirits.

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

# THREE ATTITUDES THAT WEAKEN MY SPIRIT:

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3. Carelessness weakens my spirit.

In what areas can we be careless?

**How was Samson careless with his Nazarite vow?**

*Building a Strong Spirit*



# THREE ATTITUDES THAT WEAKEN MY SPIRIT:

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3. Carelessness weakens my spirit.

**Why do you think Samson stayed with  
Delilah after she first betrayed him?**

**How do people flirt with sin today?**

**A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.**

*Building a Strong Spirit*

PROVERBS 18:20

*NKJV*

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“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

*Building a Strong Spirit*



- To be strong in spirit, I must *develop good habits.*

*Building a Strong Spirit*



# EPHESIANS 6:10

*Today's English Version*

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“Build up your strength *in union with the Lord* and by means of His mighty power.”

*Building a Strong Spirit*

# THREE HABITS THAT STRENGTHEN MY SPIRIT:

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1. Get time with God every day (Devotion).

*Building a Strong Spirit*



# THREE HABITS THAT STRENGTHEN MY SPIRIT:

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1. Get time with God every day (Devotion).
2. Get with believers often. (Fellowship)
3. Give sacrificially. (Generosity)

*Building a Strong Spirit*



# TRUE/FALSE

11. T F *Samson's brothers buried him in the tomb of his father Manoah. (16:31)*
12. T F *Samson was able to destroy the house by pulling on his chains that encircled the pillars. (16:29)*
13. T F *Samson asked God to return his strength so he could be avenged for being put into shackles. (16:28)*
14. T F *The Israelites bound Samson with seasoned ropes before handing him over to the Philistines. (15:13)*
15. T F *When Samson went to visit his wife, he brought along a young goat (or kid) as a gift. (15:1)*

