

JUDGES: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

SAMSON VERSUS THE PHILISTINES

Judges 13:1-16:31

FAMILY	FIRST WIFE		TWO WOMEN
<p>13:1 Israel did evil</p> <p>The Lord sold them into the hands of the Philistines</p>	<p>14:1-4 Samson wanted a young Philistine woman in Timnah. His parents objected to the uncircumcised Philistines. The Lord was looking for an occasion against the Philistines</p>	<p>15:1-3 Samson took a goat to his wife. Her father said he thought he hated her and gave her to a friend. Would Samson like her younger sister? Samson got angry and got even!</p>	<p>16:1-3 Samson visited a prostitute in Gaza. They surrounded Gaza to kill him at dawn. He ripped up and took the gates and bars up to Hebron hill</p>
<p>13:2-5 The angel of the Lord told Manoah's sterile wife she would have a boy. He would be a Nazirite, not drink wine, not touch the unclean, and no razor was to cut his hair. He would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines</p>	<p>14:5-7 Samson and his parents went to Timnah. He killed a lion as the Spirit empowered, but he did not tell his parents. Samson liked the woman</p>	<p>15:4-5 Samson sent 300 fox with firebrands to burn Philistine wheat, vineyards and olive groves</p>	<p>16:4-5 Samson loved Delilah in Sorek. The 5 lords of the Philistines offered her 5500 shekels of silver to discover the secret of Samson's strength</p>
<p>13:6-7 The woman told Manoah the news and he asked why she did not ask the angel his name</p>	<p>14:8-9 Samson went to marry the Philistine. He gave honey from the lion's carcass to parents but they didn't know where it was from</p>	<p>15:6-8 Who burned the fields? Samson did, for his wife was given to another. The Philistines burned the girl and her dad and Samson killed Philistines</p>	<p>16:6-22 Delilah extracted his secret. She cut his hair and the Lord left him. They blinded him and he grinded wheat in Gaza. But his hair grew</p>
<p>13:8-23 Manoah prayed and returned to meet the angel. They offered a goat and the angel went up in the flame. Would they die? No, the angel accepted the offering</p>	<p>14:10-19 At the feast Samson was given 30 companions. He told the wedding guests a riddle and his wife extracted the answer from him. He killed 30 for their clothes as payment</p>	<p>15:9-19 Judah gave Samson to the Philistines. At Lehi he killed 1000 with a donkey's jawbone. He cried for water and God opened a spring of water for his thirst</p>	<p>16:23-30 The Philistines offered a great sacrifice to Dagon. Samson performed. He cried to the Lord and pulled down the temple destroying rulers and people. He killed more in his death than his life</p>
<p>13:24-25 Samson was born. He grew and was blessed and the Spirit stirred him in the Camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol</p>	<p>14:19b-20 Samson went home angry</p> <p>Samson's wife was given to his best man</p>	<p>15:20 Samson led Israel 20 years in the days of the Philistines</p>	<p>16:31 His brothers and father's family buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol. He had led Israel 20 years</p>

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LESSONS: Samson, 13:1 - 16:31

1. Samson was separated from Birth as a Nazirite, set apart especially for God. Samson (*shimshawn*) - "like the sun", reminding us of the song of Deborah and Barak, 5:31, "... but may they who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength."
2. He was the strongest of the Judges in personal physical strength. He killed a lion with his bare hands. He killed 30 men of Ashkelon. He tied 300 foxes, two by two, tail to tail, with torches and burnt the Philistine fields. He slaughtered the Philistines. He slew 1000 with the jawbone of a donkey. He tore off the gates of the city of Gaza and carried them up hill 37 kilometers. He broke the ropes that bound him with ease. He pulled down the temple of Dagon. However, this strength came from God.
3. Lowest of the whole lot of the Judges morally and spiritually. He touched unclean carcasses and did not destroy the Philistines as he should have until his death, and fought personal battles rather than the Lord's battles. He went after a Philistine woman, a prostitute and Delilah.
4. He killed more in his death than in his life. He got in God's way. God had to get rid of him. His strength got in God's way. God had to get him out of the way! The Philistines were not God's biggest problem in those days. Samson was the biggest problem. He had to go.
5. Our gifting and strength can also get in God's way. Our old man must die. The old nature in us is our biggest problem.
6. Samson's strength became more important than his separation to God. He gloried in his strength - not in God.
7. The touchstone of his strength was his separation. Without his separation he lost his strength.
8. Samson's attitude was selfish, childish and vengeful.
9. Mentioned in Hebrews for his faith. He believed in God but was not close to Him.
10. Another Nazirite had to take his place and fight the Philistines - Samuel. He was dedicated from birth. A hurt, praying, childless woman was promised a son. That was Hanna and she promised to the Lord in I Samuel 1:11, "I will give him to the Lord all his days and no razor will ever be used on his head." Samuel was a contrast to Eli and his sons, who were thieves and immoral priests. He had spiritual strength, not muscle strength. He had great victories over the Philistines.
11. Samson illustrates Christ. Jesus also died and had a greater victory in death than in his life. Jesus like Samson demonstrated mighty power. Jesus healed many, cast out demons, raised the dead and lived a completely holy life. But on the cross he conquered more enemies. Samson killed more in his death than in his life. The great difference is that Samson died for his own sins and Jesus died for, not his own sins, but for our sins.
12. Samson also illustrates the death of the old nature in us. The day we die the old nature dies. After death we no longer have to suffer the presence of the old nature.