

Samson Jud. 13:1-16:31

Introduction:

When we look at the overall picture of Samson, he is probably not what we would call a positive role model. In fact, if this man showed up at your door to date your daughter, you would probably not let her go out with him. He was a long-haired, hot tempered man. At any moment he was likely to go off and kill anyone in sight.

However, no matter how he may have appeared on the outside, there was one constant about him: He always remembered the Lord.

I. From his birth, Samson was under the Nazirite vow

- A. Notice the restrictions placed on Samson before his birth.
 - 1. The restrictions placed on his mother (1:3-5, 7, 14).
 - a. Do not drink wine or similar drink.
 - b. Do not eat anything unclean.
 - 2. The restrictions that were on Samson are those of the Nazirite vow.
- B. Notice the commitment needed for taking the Nazirite vow (Num. 6:1-21).
 - 1. Concerning food and drink (6:1-4).
 - a. Drink no wine or similar drink
 - b. No grape juice
 - c. Cannot eat grapes
 - d. ***Eat nothing that is produced from the grapevine***
 - 2. Concerning the head (6:5).
 - a. No razor can touch his head.
 - b. All of his hair shall grow.
 - 3. Concerning dead bodies (6:6-12).
 - a. ***He should never go near a dead body (6:6-8).***
 - 1) Even if his mother, father, brother, or sister die, he cannot go near them.
 - 2) This would make him unclean, something that he could not do under this vow.
 - b. This law was so detailed that there were certain things he had to do even if someone standing beside him suddenly died (6:9-12).
 - 1) On the seventh day, he must shave his head.
 - 2) On the eighth day:
 - a) Bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the door of the tabernacle.
 - b) One is offered as a sin offering.
 - c) The other as a burnt offering.
 - d) He would offer a lamb in its first year as a trespass offering.

- e) *Notice: “but the former days shall be lost, because his separation was defiled” (6:12). **It would be as if all that work never happened!*
- c. In Num. 6:13-21, God tells them what to do when the days of the vow are completed.
 - 1) However, due to time and the fact that this vow was for a lifetime for Samson, we will not look at it tonight.
 - 2) It should be said, however, that there were very specific commands and sacrifices to follow.
- C. This Nazirite vow will come into play later in the life of Samson.
 - 1. It was this Nazirite vow that molded Samson into the person that he was.
 - 2. This vow played a very important part of his life.

II. It was God who was always in control of Samson’s life (14:1-16:3).

- A. Samson finds a woman in Timnah that he wanted to marry (14:1-20).
 - 1. Samson sends his parents to get this woman for him (14:1-9).
 - a. Samson’s parents say to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” (Jud. 14:3).
 - b. And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she pleases me well” (Jud. 14:3).
 - c. Judges 14:4 is the key to the life of Samson: “But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD-- that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.”
 - d. On the way to get this woman, a young lion attacks Samson (14:5-6).
 - e. After some time had passed, Samson returns to the carcass of the lion and take some honey from it.
 - 2. Samson makes a bet at the wedding feast (14:10-20).
 - a. The riddle (for 30 changes of clothing): “Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet” (14:14).
 - b. For seven days, they could not solve the riddle.
 - c. However, on the seventh day, they threaten Samson’s wife and her family with their lives if she could not get the answer (14:15).
 - d. The answer: “What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?” (14:18)
 - e. Samson’s response (14:18-19):
 - 1) “If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle!”
 - 2) He killed 30 Philistines to get their garments to pay off the debt.
 - 3) He was so angry, he left his wife and returned to his home.

- B. Samson takes revenge on the Philistines because of the way he is treated by his father-in-law (15:1-20).
1. Samson returns for his wife but finds that she has been given to his best man (15:1-3).
 2. For revenge, Samson catches 300 foxes, tied their tails together, and sends them into the fields of the Philistines (15:4-5).
 3. For revenge, the Philistines burn his wife and her father (15:6).
 4. For revenge, Samson kills 1,000 men with a jawbone of a donkey (15:7-16).
 5. After this great slaughter, he cried to the Lord for water, which God gave him (15:17-20).
 6. **Remember Jud. 14:4 – This thing was of the Lord – “He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines.”**
- C. Samson tears down the gates of the city (16:1-3).
1. Samson goes into a harlot in Gaza (16:1).
 2. When the men of the city find out that he is there, they plan to kill him (16:2).
 3. Notice what Samson does (16:3).

III. The most well known story in the life of Samson was his relationship with Delilah (16:4-31).

- A. Delilah was paid to discover the source of Samson’s strength (16:4-20).
1. The price for this information is 1,100 pieces of silver (16:5).
 2. She ask Samson 3 times for the source of his strength, and he lies to her these 3 times (16:6-14).
 - a. **Jud. 16:7 - And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."**
 - b. **Jud. 16:11 - So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."**
 - c. **Jud. 16:13 - And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom."**
 3. It was the forth time that Samson finally told the truth (16:15-20).
 - a. Samson rose to fight the Philistines again.
 - b. However, he did not know that the Lord had left him (16:20).
- B. Samson is captured by the Philistines and mocked.
1. The Philistines rejoice that they have captured Samson (16:23-24).
 - a. Notice what they say about Samson (16:23-24).
 - b. They thank their god, a false god, for this great act.
 2. In their rejoicing over the capture of Samson, they call for him that he might perform for them (16:25).
- C. Samson kills many Philistines in his death (16:26-31).
1. He killed more in his death than he did in his life.

2. This was at least 1,300 that we know about.

IV. Notice the major lesson that we can learn from Samson.

- A. We may not always understand the way that God is working.
 1. Remember, Samson was a man that we would probably avoid if we saw him on the street.
 2. However, God was able to deliver His people through Samson.
- B. We do not always understand the way that God is working.
 1. **Is. 55:8-9** - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. {9} "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."
 2. However, if we are faithful to God, we know that things will work out.
 3. **Rom. 8:28** - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Conclusion: