

Sunday Night Message

December 9, 2018

Judges 16 – *Samson's Downfall*

Series – *Judges*

Text – Judges 16

Introduction

When we left Samson in Chapter 15, we saw:

Samson Returns to Claim His Wife (vs. 1 – 2), but his wife was given to another man.

Samson Retaliates Because of His Wife (vs. 3 – 6) by setting fields on fire by tying firebrands to foxes tails. The Philistines then retaliate, not against Samson, but against the woman (Samson's former fiancé) and her father. They burn not their fields to the ground, but burn them to the ground.

Samson's Revenge against the Philistines (vs. 7 – 8) by slaughtering them "hip and thigh." He then returns to his homeland, but because the Philistines want him they threaten to attack the Israelites.

Samson is Returned to the Philistines (vs. 9 – 13) by the Israelites because of their fear of the Philistines.

Samson Revives and Slaughters 1000 Philistines. (vs. 14 – 20) At the end of the chapter, we read that Samson judged the people of God for twenty years, and apparently was successful in holding the Philistines at bay during that period.

In chapter 16, we see that Samson is once again exhibiting bad behavior.

I **Samson's Desire for a Harlot from Gaza (vs. 1 – 3)**

Samson definitely has a woman problem. In the past we saw him demanding a woman from the Philistines to be his wife:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

This intermarrying with heathen from other nations would be a problem for the Israelites throughout their history. Their attraction to heathen women would eventually lead to a worshipping of heathen gods.

Samson will now take it a step further, and he will seek prostitutes to satisfy his lust for women, and a Philistine harlot "to boot."

The Book of Proverbs is full of warnings against the strange woman. [Read Proverbs 5 and 7](#)

The Philistines are aware of his desire for their woman and lay a trap for him. They wait for him at the gate of the city of Gaza. Samson must be aware of their attempt to ambush him, so he grabs the gates and the posts that the gates were attached to, and carries them away all the way back to Hebron, a distance of about forty miles, mostly uphill. Samson was not just a very strong human. He possessed miraculous, super-human human strength.

II **The Spirit's Departure from Samson (vs. 4 – 20)**

A **He Develops an Immoral Relationship with Delilah Who Betrays Him for Money (vs. 4 - 5)**

There were five lords of the Philistines according to Joshua 13:3; Judges 3:3; and 1 Samuel 6:16. They were the rulers of the five main cities of the Philistines: Gaza, Gath, Ashkelon, Ekron, and Ashdod. She would receive a total of 5,500 pieces of silver. (Approximately 27.5 lbs. – approximately \$6,000 in today's money)

B Samson Deceives Delilah Three Times (vs. 5 - 14)

Samson is playing a deadly game with Delilah. He is deceiving her by lying to her about the source of his strength.

C Delilah Drives Samson to Finally Reveal the Source of His Strength. (vs. 15 – 19)

Eventually, Delilah puts enough pressure on Delilah that he actually tells her the truth. But revealing the source of his strength causes the Philistines to cut his hair, which he was forbidden to do. He had now broken all three of the restrictions of the Nazarite vow. He went to the vineyards, He touched a dead body, and now, he cut his hair.

D The Spirit Departs (v. 20)

The Holy Spirit of God, who was the source of his strength was displeased and removed his strength.

III Samson's Demise (vs. 21 – 31)

Samson's has his eyes plucked out by the Philistines and he is brought to Gaza, the chief city of the Philistines, and is put in prison. Eventually, his hair begins to grow back and at a great feat that they are having in honor of their god, Dagon, they bring Samson out to make sport of him.

I wonder if Delilah was in attendance?

He is led out by a lad and tied to two pillars, and as the Philistines were praising their god for the downfall of Samson, Samson is praying for one more burst of strength from the Holy Spirit. There were over 3,000 people at the party. Samson grabs hold of the pillars and pulls down the two pillars, which were the main supports for the "house." The house goes down killing everybody including Samson.

Samson's family come and pick up his body and bury him in the burying place of his father Manoah.

Conclusion

There are so many lessons here that we can learn about what not to do. Samson arguably had more potential to do great things for the Lord than anybody in history. Yet, he was a man who could not get control of his flesh.

He was a spoiled brat. He demanded a wife from the Philistines, and his parents yielded to him.

He flagrantly disregarded the Nazarite vow that God had called him to observe.

He had an insatiable lust for the wrong kind of women, ignoring God's commandments about marrying only within the household of faith.

Yet, he is mentioned in God's hall of faith in Hebrews 11:32.

Yield to God – say no to your flesh. Yield to the Holy Spirit of God within you.

We all have a flesh, and we all want to yield to our flesh, but we have to develop our relationship with God to the point where we can say no to the flesh.

Read Romans 7:14 - 25 ; Galatians 5:16 – 26

Walk with God – Saturate in the Word

Walk Apart from the World – Separate from the World

Worship With Other Believers

Work to Win Lost Souls to Christ



