

SAMSON & THE COURTSHIP OF TEMPTATION

Judges 14-15

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK: JESUS THE BAPTIST

✓ The baptism of Jesus is rooted in the Old Testament when the Spirit came upon Bezalel and Oholiab, the prophets, the priests, and the kings.

✓ There is a parallel between the Spirit coming upon David (1 Samuel 16) and his slaying Goliath (1 Samuel 17). After the Spirit comes upon Jesus, He goes into the wilderness, fasts 40 days and confronts Satan.

✓ The power of the Spirit in Jesus' life was provided so that Jesus might be tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. The Spirit empowered Jesus to confront Satan, sin, and to die on the cross to save His people from their sins.

✓ Those of us who have trusted in Jesus have the very same Spirit Who empowered Jesus in His life. The Spirit's work in our lives enables us to die to ourselves daily, take up our cross and follow Jesus.

The name "Samson" probably means in Hebrew, "little sun." The name "Delilah" sounds like the Hebrew word for "night." The story of Samson is the conflict between light and dark, good and evil, the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

I. WHERE GOD'S SPIRIT IS, TEMPTATION IS LURKING AROUND THE CORNER

✓ Adam and Eve and the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1-6)

✓ Abraham – promise of seed and then compromising his wife Sarai (Gen.12; 20)

✓ Israel's deliverance from Egypt: complaining and grumbling (Nehemiah 9:20-30; Isa.63:11-14)

✓ After Saul received the Spirit he prophesied but then was tested to see whether or not he would obey the word of Samuel and wait for him to sacrifice.

✓ David: plans to build the temple in 2 Sam.7. The Davidic covenant is made in 2 Sam.7. In 2 Sam.8 & 10 David's triumph over his enemies are recorded. 2 Samuel 11 – Bathsheba.

✓ Even after the day of Pentecost, Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostles about the money they gave to the church.

✓ The work of God's Spirit in Samson's life and Samson's temptations by Philistine women (Judges 13-16).

✓ Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Matthew 16:23)

✓ Whenever the word of the kingdom is preached (Matthew 13:19)

II. SAMSON'S CONSECRATION TO THE LORD (Judges 13:4-5,7; 16:17; cf. Numbers 6:1-21)

A. The secret of Samson's strength was his consecration to the LORD (Judges 13:7; cf Matthew 2:23 "He shall be called a Nazarene").

B. During the period of the Nazirite vow, the Nazirite had to abstain from strong drink, he could not drink vinegar or grape juice nor could they eat fresh or dried grapes. Nazirites were not to cut their hair (Numbers 6:1-21).

III. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IN SAMSON'S LIFE (Judges 13:25; 14:6,19; 15:14-17)

A. Samson's strength was attributed to the Holy Spirit (Judges 13:25; 14:6,19; 15:14-17).

B. The power of the Holy Spirit in Samson's life was for the purpose of his judging Israel and delivering them from the Philistines.

IV. SAMSON WAS MORE COMMITTED TO PHILISTINE WOMEN THAN HE WAS THE WORD AND WILL OF GOD

A. Three times, Samson was "subdued" by Philistine women (see Judges 14:15-17 with 16:5,6,10,13,15-16):

1. Marriage (Judges 14:1-3 with Judges 14:12-20)

2. Prostitute (Judges 16:1-3)

3. Delilah (Judges 16:4-27)

B. The great irony of Samson's life was that no man or beast could overpower him but women could.

- C. God used Samson's weakness and lusts as a means against the Philistines (**Judges 14:4**).
1. Samson's wife betrayed him by telling the answer to the riddle to Samson's companions. Samson was so angry that he killed thirty Philistines to pay off his bet (Judges 14:19).
 2. Samson's wife was given to his friend (presumably a Philistine) (Judges 14:20).
 3. Samson caught 300 foxes and burned the Philistine fields (Judges 15:5).
 4. The Philistines tried to capture Samson, but he killed 1,000 of them with the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:11-17).
 5. Samson's night with a prostitute led to his carrying the gates of a Philistine city to the top of a mountain (Judges 16:3).

V. THOSE WHO COURT TEMPTATION MARRY SIN

- A. Samson's taking a (unconverted) wife from the uncircumcised Philistines was "of the LORD"?!?! (Judges 14:3-4)
- B. Samson's marriage to an unconverted Philistine woman was of the Lord – but for her _____ and the _____ of many more Philistines!
- C. The purpose of Samson's relationships with Philistine women. What was the LORD teaching?
- D. No one ever gets away with sin. Breaking God's commandments is NEVER "of the Lord."
- E. The Lord's *judgment* of Israel's *judge* matched his sin (Judges 15:20; 16:31).
1. Samson judged with his eyes and his eyes were gouged out (Judges 14:2 with 16:21).
 2. He who was subdued and overpowered by women was given women's work (Judges 16:21; cf. Judges 9:53; Ex.11:5).

"Satan gives Adam an apple and takes away Paradise. Therefore in all temptations let us consider not what he offers but what we shall lose"
-Richard Sibbes

SO WHAT?

Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

- If you are caught in sin, or in the midst of temptation – it is not too late to call upon Jesus Christ to deliver you (Judges 16:28-31).

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Are you living a life in the power of the Holy Spirit or are you living a life overpowered by sin? Are you living a life in service to Jesus Christ or in service of your own flesh? What areas have you elevated your desires above the Word of God?

What was the title of this morning's sermon and why?

How was Samson's marriage to a Philistine "of the LORD" (Judges 14:3-4)?

How did Samson use the power of the Spirit in his life to serve the lusts of his flesh?

Why can't any one "get away with sin"?

How was God's judgment of Israel's judge, Samson, fitting for his crime?

