

SAMSON: PHYSICALLY STRONG, MORALLY WEAK [1]

(Judges 13-16)

INTRODUCTION: In these lessons, we shall study the life of a very popular Old Testament character. You will know who it is when I tell you he possessed supernatural strength. He was God's strong man. He was the Hebrews' Hercules. His superhuman strength amazes us. Most of us enjoy watching the amazing feats accomplished by very strong men. However, none of them can compare with Samson. (Example: The Incredible Hulk, Lou Ferrigno).

Who ever killed a thousand soldiers with nothing more than a bone for his weapon? He fought without anyone's help, without a machine gun or a tank. (15:14-16) Who else, but Samson, could have pulled up the heavy, massive gate to a city and carried it to the top of a mountain? Hebron was about 40 miles away from Gaza. (16:3) Samson demonstrated his great strength once again when he moved *"the middle pillars upon which the house rested... and the house fell..."*. (16:27-31)

Samson was very courageous for he would fight the Philistines by himself, regardless of the number of Philistines. (15:6-8,14-16) He must have been very fast for he *"caught 300 foxes..."*. (15:3-5)

Samson's physical endowments did not help him to overcome Satan. Satan is not frightened by anyone's physical strength. Our defense against Satan is the Word of God! (Mt. 4; Eph. 6:10-17) Samson failed to bring his passions under control. He didn't practice self-control. He would resist a Philistine army, but not a Philistine woman. "S. was a wild, self-willed man. Passion ruled." (I.S.B.E., Vol. IV)

This lesson is entitled, "Samson: Physically Strong, Morally Weak".

I. SAMSON LIVED A SINFUL LIFE EVEN THOUGH HE HAD PARENTS WHO FEARED GOD

- A. Like Isaac, Samuel, John (the Baptist), and Jesus, Samson's birth was foretold (13:1-4)
- B. He was to be a Nazarite all his life (13:5,7)
 1. As a Nazarite, he was not to: drink or eat anything connected with grapes; cut his hair; and come near a dead body (Num. 6:1-8)
 2. The Lord was with him and gave him super-natural strength as long as his hair was not cut (16:15-17,20; 10:19; 15:14)
- C. Manoah humbly prayed for Divine guidance in raising Samson (13:8,12)
 1. What a wonderful example for us to follow!
 2. How often do you pray for wisdom from above in raising your children?
 3. Are you following God's instructions? (Proverbs; Eph. 6:1-4)
- D. Manoah, and his wife, offered sacrifices to God (13:19,20)
- E. As Samson grew, "Jehovah blessed him" (13:24,25)
- F. Samson is a good example that proves Proverbs 22:6 is a **general rule that has exceptions**. (If there were no exceptions to this verse, then it would teach the *impossibility of apostacy!*)
 1. Samson was a bitter disappointment to his parents (Prov. 17:25; 10:1)
 2. **Are you a disappointment to God and your parents?**

II. SAMSON SINNED BECAUSE HE CHOSE TO MARRY AN IDOL-WORSHIPPING WOMAN (14:1,2)

- A. God had forbidden marriages between His children, the Israelites, and other nations (Deut.7:1-3)
- B. God **knew** that such marriages would lead His children away from Him (Deut.7:4; I Kgs.

- 11:4; Neh. 13:23-27)
- C. Samson refused to listen to the wise counsel of his parents as they advised him against such a marriage (14:3; Prov. 13:1; 15:5) **He lived to regret it!**
1. Samson's response was, "*Get her for me: for she pleaseth me well.*" (14:3)
 2. He didn't consider what would please his **parents**, or more importantly, what would please **God**
- D. Judges 14:4 means that God used Samson's obstinate determination to take a Philistine wife as a means to cause Samson to become so angry with the Philistines that he would kill them
1. God does not want us to violate His Word!
 2. God used Pharaoh's stubbornness to reveal His glorious power (Ex. 7:3)
 3. God hardened the hearts of the Canaanites so they would fight the Israelites (Josh. 11:19,20)
- E. We make a very serious mistake when we choose, as our close friends, those who **do not fear God, reverence or worship Him!**
1. "It is always a sad day when the people of God think that they have to go among the enemies of the Lord to have a good time." ("Samson's Sins & Other Sermons", W. Winkler, p. 9)
 2. We are influenced by those with whom we associate
 3. Peter denied his Lord while standing among the Lord's enemies (Mark. 14:66-72)
- F. Make up your mind **now** that you are going to marry one who loves the Lord, and **never change your mind!**
1. If you love the Lord, why would you want to enter the closest of all human relationships with one who:
 - a. Is a child of the devil?
 - b. Holds in contempt the Bible, church, worship, praying, Jesus, etc.?
 - c. Lives by a different standard?
 - d. Wants to live in sin?
 - e. Thinks totally on earthly things?
 - f. Will try to counteract all the good your example and teaching does for your children?
 - g. Will try to discourage you from faithfully following and serving the Lord; thus, causing you to fall from God's favor and be eternally tormented?
 2. It is to our eternal sorrow when we **choose** our close companions from among the enemies of God!
 3. Will we never learn the truth that, "*Evil companionships corrupt good morals*"? (1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 1:10-19; 4:14,15; 13:20)
- G. Know the joy of being united with one who loves the Lord as fervently as you do (1 Pet. 3:7)
- H. These Philistine women didn't love, respect or bring happiness to Samson, but inflicted him with a lot of grief!
- I. Samson was looking for love in the wrong people! Will you learn from his example?

CONCLUSION: Sin will ultimately bring you misery and death. (Rom. 6:23; Prov. 13:15) Will you have your sins washed away by the blood of Christ? (Acts 22:16) Will you know the joy of salvation? Will you live with the hope of heaven to sustain you?