

Samson Part 2

Intro/Review:

- Judges 13 Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. Philistines oppressed Israel again. 40 yrs
- 40 yrs was longest recorded oppression to date. No evidence of crying out to Lord
- Likely that entire generation had passed away and current Israelites no knowledge of God
- Fabric of Judges 13 reveals God was waiting and proactive in raising up a deliverer.

NOTE: Lack of Godly influence in Israel contributes to Samson's ignorance of God's standards

Example: Sometimes skills and trades are lost when they're not passed on.
Most new people in architectural industry cannot draft or draw.
Most of them cannot letter at all. They rely completely on computer
Result is a lost art of creativity. Cannot sit in front of a client and design on the fly.

Samson's parents were handpicked by the Lord and understood dedicating him as a Nazirite
However, Samson's personal knowledge of God, he won't find in culture around him.

Similar to public school systems. We don't expect our girls to come home w/ new knowledge of God

Samson's decisions throughout life will be in constant tension w/ God's directives & his flesh.

This is a pattern that we have been seeing in the fabric of Judges as a whole.

I. Judges 14: 1-11 Samson Marries a Philistine Woman

- Vs. 1 *"Then Samson went down to Timnah saw a woman, one of the daughters of the Philistines"*
- Vs. 2 *"So he came back and told his father & mother, I saw a woman, get her for me as a wife."*
 - We don't know exactly why he goes to Philistine town initially
 - **"Bookends"** Vs. 25 *"Spirit of the Lord began to stir him"*
Vs. 4 *"The Lord had sent him as part of a plan"*
- **"He saw"** - No indication he had exchange or word with her.
 - Samson returns to demand his parents get her as a wife.
 - Consistent with cultural traditions
 - Abraham procured Rebekah for Isaac
 - Hagar procured a wife for Ishmael
 - Laban arranged marriage for Leah & Rachel
- Although Samson does the picking he is practicing tradition of parents arranging for marriage

Interesting Similarity Between Jacob's Motivation & Samson's Motivation

"Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in the face"

- 14:1 *"Samson saw a woman in Timnah"*
- 14:3 *"She looks good to me"* (literal translation: she looks good or right in my eyes)
- 14:7 *"She looked good to Samson"*
- 16:1 *"Samson saw a harlot in Gaza"*
- 16:18 *"When Delilah saw all that was in Samson's heart"*
- 16:21 *"Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes"*
- 16:24 *"When Philistines saw Samson captive, they praised their god"*
- 16:25 *"Samson becomes entertainment for the Philistines to watch and be amused"*

Interesting Samson's Story Starts and Ends w/ Eyes or Ideas of Sight and Imagery

- Eyes lead to Philistine wife
- Eventually eyes gouged and becomes entertainment for others.

Samson's Parents Object to His Choice of Wife

- Vs. 3 *"Isn't there a daughter among our own people that you could take as a wife?....."*
 - God forbid Israel from intermarrying w/ people of the land
 - Deut. 7:3-4, Exodus 34:15-16

God Forbid Intermarrying Because Result Would Be Israel Lead Into Worship of False Gods
(Philistines Weren't Specifically Identified - Doesn't Mean They Weren't Forbidden in Concept)

Illustration: No texting while driving. Really applies to any electronic typing in concept.

The Tension Between God's Directive to Go to Timnah & Samson's Decisions in the Flesh

- Vs. 3-4 *"Get her for me, for she looks good to me"*
 - *"Samson's parents did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion."*
 - Literally "she looks good, or right in my eyes"

Reasonably Conclude Samson's Trip to Timnah Directed by God

Cannot Conclude Philistine Marriage Was God Directed. – Contrary to God's Word as a Whole

Samson & His Parents Go to Arrange His Marriage 14:5-7

The Roaring Young Lion

- Vs. 5-6 *"Went down to Timnah...as far as the vineyards...young lion came roaring toward him"*
 - Text specifically indicates Samson's presence at vineyards
 - As Nazirite he was forbidden from alcohol.
 - He didn't tell his parents – He had separated from them
- Vs. 6 *"Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he tore the lion like tearing a young goat"*
 - Clearly states his strength is direct result of God's empowerment.
- Vs. 6b *"He did not tell his parents what he had done."*
 - 2 Reasons he may not have told his parents ?
 1. Maybe it was proximity to the vineyards and possible disobedience?
 2. Maybe it was because he hadn't reconciled what exactly came over him during event?
(He will later return to the carcass possibly out of curiosity of the event)
- Vs. 7 *"Samson went down & talked with the woman, and she looked good to Samson"*
 - Literally: She looked right in his eyes.

Samson Gets Married 14:8-11

- Vs. 8 *"Sometime later he returned for the wedding, and goes and takes a look at the lion carcass"*
 - Why would author make a point of telling us about the lion?
 1. It was a unique detour that Samson went out of his way to go investigate it again.
 2. Upon investigation we see something not ordinary that required documenting.

Could Samson have been curious about & went back to revisit a supernatural experience?

- Honey in rotting carcass not normal - typically worms, maggots, etc.
- Vs. 9 ***“he took some honey and ate it....took some to parents but didn’t tell them”***
 - Maybe he didn’t tell because he was again close to vineyards again?
 - Maybe he didn’t tell them because it was against Levitical Law to touch dead pawed animals?
- Vs. 10 ***“His father went to the woman, and Samson threw a 7 day feast”***
 - Word feast doesn’t absolutey indicate drinking feast.
 - Contextually and historically probably drinking feast for week long marriage
 - Vs. 12 tells us that it was 7 days long was customary

II. Samson Initiates First Attack of Philistines & The Riddle 14:12-19

- Vs. 12-13 ***“Give me the answer to this riddle by the end of the celebration”***
 - Don’t know a lot about these men, probably Philistine men
 - Vs. 16 *“Samson’s wife said you have given a riddle to **my people**, but not told me”*
 - The wager of riddle is very fine clothing
 - 30 linen wraps & 30 changes of clothing
 - Vs. 15 *“This will **imporverish** us”*

Philistines Threaten Samson’s Wife – Eventually Cheat & Find Answer – Samson Honors Bet

- Vs. 15 ***“On the fourth day they said to Samson’s wife, entice your husband that he may tell us the riddle, or else we will burn you and your father’s house with fire.”***
- Vs. 15 ***“Entice”*** Same word or strategy will be used later by Philistines & Dililah
 - Maybe they found a chink in Samson’s armor?

The Men Only Found Out Because They Cheated & Threatened Samson’s Wife

- Vs. 18 ***“You only found out the answer because you plowed with my heifer.”***

(You coerced my wife into doing something that she wouldn’t otherwise have done.)

Vs 19 Spirit Came on Samson & He Went & Killed 30 Philistines for Clothing

2 Things to Notice About This Event

1. **Spirit came upon him mightily**
 - Literally: **“rushed upon him”**
 - This may have been very similar to the experince with the lion.
 - Author Uses This Concept of Spirit Rushing On Samson Several Occassions
2. **Big Picture – This is Still An Act of God’s Judgement Upon a Wicked Nation**
 - God had homegrown Samson for the expressed purpose of dealing with the Philistines
 - These pagan cultures engaged in Human/Child sacrifice false gods, etc.
 - Even if wager was made in haste or inebriation – God uses this to stir the pot.

Conclusion

1. God’s Efforts to Deliver Israel Will Not Be Thwarted By the Sin of Men

- Samson probably shouldn't have taken a Philistine wife
- Samson shouldn't have touched unclean dead animal
- Samson probably shouldn't have thrown a drunken feast & made a wager.

Even in all this, God will continue to work these events for His good
 God is using these events as opportunities for Samson to get his foot in the door with Philistines
 God is stirring them up.

In the next Chapter we will begin to see a progressive escalation by Philistines & Samson
 Each party will effectively amplify the stakes and with which they attack each other.

God Continues to Weave His Plan Amidst Our Sinful Propensities Too

2. What motivates us today? We see obviously fleshly driven agenda that motivates Samson

Yes, he moved as God's Spirit came upon him. But, we see a recurring theme of the eyes.

- Vs. 2 I saw a woman in Timnah
- Vs. 3 Get her for me because she looks good to me.
- Vs. 7 He talked to the woman and she looked good to him.
- Vs. 12 Proposing a wager in the interest of expensive clothing

Crowds Chanted "Hosanna" at the Beginning of the Week Then "Crucify Him"

Evaluation of Jesus that is strictly surface will yield a wrong conclusion

The cross doesn't logically make sense.

The cross is not glamorous and our eyes deceive us when we consider it strictly visually

The cross is foolishness to the perishing.....

Samson evaluated the early part of his life with his natural eyes and not his Nazirite vow.

By the end, we will see Samson's fleshly reliance removed so that only God can be glorified.

3. Can We At All Infer That Maybe Samson Didn't Completely Appreciate His Nazirite Vow?

- Sometimes we can see our faith as an impedence to "*having fun*"
- Few months ago during Psalm series Mykel highlighted God's standards exist for our protection

Illustration: Many years ago had conversation w/ someone who had quit drinking
 He always complained that everyone else could still go have fun but he couldn't
 If abstinence means lack of fun then we are completely missing the point.

Parts of Samson's story appear he might not completely understand or respected his Election by God

**This Could Be a Reminder to Us that We Are COMPLETELY Blessed to Be Reconciled
 We Abstain from sinful behavior out of love and appreciation – not based on rule following.**