

## Samson

January 19, 2025

\*

Judges 13-16

No. 2

---

Coming back is a big part of life.  
We come back from many things:

- Vacation
- Sickness
- Marriage breakup
- A losing score in a football game

But there is one come back is the most important of all – Coming back to God.



We are looking at some people who walked with God, fell away, but then, they came back.

And why can anyone come back to God after falling away?

Because that is God's heart that we do so.

And like we sang today, "Nobody loves me like You do, Jesus."

Today we will follow the life of Samson.

Samson is known for his physical strength. But he wasn't very strong morally.

We will survey his life starting in Judges 13 and follow him all the way to his end in Judges 16.

Samson was a man with a good start but a sad ending. I hope you don't become like that!

Let's take a look at:

### **His birth Jdg 13**

Israel was under Philistine bondage when Samson was born.

His mom was barren until the angel of the Lord, (Jesus), told her she would bare a son.

**v.4** *Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.*

**v.5** *"For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines."*

After much conversation between the angel of the Lord and Samson's parents...

**V.24** *Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the LORD blessed him.*

**v.25** *And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.*

So Samson had a good, Godly beginning, right from the womb.

### **Jdg 14 Samson's marriage**

**v.1** *Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines.*

**v.2** *So he came back and told his father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."*

**v.3** *Then his father and his mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she looks good to me."*

Literal Hebrew: She is right in my eyes

Literal English: She is eye candy

Now;

It appears that God was the inspiration for this attraction.

**v.4** *However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.*

Samson and his father went down to Timnah to fetch her for Samson and on the way, a lion approached and, through the Holy Spirit, Samson killed him.

During the week long wedding feast, Samson proposed a riddle to the Philistine men. If they guessed it, he owed them 30 changes of clothes, if not, they owed him.

The riddle was:

**v.14** *So he said to them, "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet." But they could not tell the riddle in three days.*

This riddle stemmed from the fact that on his return trip home, he saw the lion carcass inhabited by bees and they were making honey.

So they said to his new wife, if you do not tell us the riddle we will burn you and your family.

She pressed Samson until he gave her the answer.

The answer:

**v.18** *So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?" And he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have found out my riddle."*

*If you had not plowed with my heifer now there's a statement that might get a guy in trouble today.*

The proper understanding:

They used her, like a farmer uses an ox, to get what they wanted.

So Samson went on and killed 30 Philistines, took their clothes and paid his debt.

Then sadly;

**v.20** *But Samson's wife was given to his companion who had been his friend.*

### **Jdg 15 Samson defeats the Philistines**

Samson went to find his wife but her father gave her away to his friend. He thought Samson hated her for what she did, so he gave her to someone else.

**v.3** Samson got really angry:

*Samson then said to them, "This time I shall be blameless in regard to the Philistines when I do them harm."*

Samson goes in and out of fellowship with God.

He took 300 foxes, tied their tails together, 2 each, and tied a torch between them.

He lit the torches and sent them in to the fields of the standing grain and burned them all up.

The Philistines discovered it was Samson who did this and he was once married to his wife, so they found them and burned them up anyway.

When the Israelites found out they were looking for Samson, they caught him, tied him and brought him to the Philistines, for they were under the rule of the Philistines.

But the Holy Spirit came upon Samson and he slew 1,000 Philistines that had come to capture him.

**v.20** *So he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.* So Samson had 20 years of judging and protecting Israel, though under Philistine rule.

### **Jdg 16 Sin and his comeback**

**v.1** *Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.*

There was an inn there and it was known for prostitution.

When it was discovered Samson was at the inn, the men blocked all the streets and waited all night for Samson to take him.

**v.3** *Now Samson lay until midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the city gate and the two posts and pulled them up along with the bars; then he put them on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of the mountain which is opposite Hebron.*

Samson comes to his final downfall.

**v.4** *After this it came about that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.*

Delilah means languishing or failure to make progress or be successful. Men, and ladies; when choosing a mate, be sure not to choose a delilah – failure to make progress or be successful.

Oh,

And by the way ladies, you can't change him!

The Philistines came to Delilah to find out where his great strength came from.

She came to Samson 3 times to ascertain his strength and he lied each time.

Finally,

**v.15** *Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have deceived me these three times and have not told me where your great strength is."*

**v.16** *It came about when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, that his soul was annoyed to death.*

So he told her the secret of his strength was his hair.

She cut off his hair when he was sleeping and the Philistines came in and took him.

**v.21** *Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison.*

Samson had wandered far from his Nazarite vow, he was living with a Philistine among the Philistines and far from God.

But God is faithful!

**v.22** *However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it was shaved off.*

The Philistines put on a great feast and brought out Samson to make sport of him.

They tied him to 2 pillars of a great building.

**v.28** *Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."*

**v.29** *Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left.*

**v.30** *And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life.*

**v.31** *Then his brothers and all his father's household came down, took him, brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. Thus he had judged Israel twenty years.*

Samson had a rough life fueled by some bad decisions. But even in his last breath, he called on the Lord and God heard him.

We can learn from Samson that

"No one is beyond God's rescue, no matter where you are, if you call out to Him."