

KINGWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Samson: A Case Study in Sin

Missing the Mark

JULY 2021



The Arc of Samson's Life



Judges 13

...head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.

25 and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him

Judges 14

2 When he returned, he said to his father and mother, “I have **seen** a Philistine woman in Timnah; now **get her** for me as my wife.”

6 **The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him** so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat.

19 **Then the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him.** He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men

Judges 15

The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. 15 Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.

20 Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

Judges 16

Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

Judges 16

28 Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for **my two eyes.**” 29 Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, 30 Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

Observations on Samson's Life



1. The Spirit of God was not a consistent presence in Samson's life



2. Samson was a
victim of everyone's
else's expectations.



3. Samson committed two types of sin:

a) Sins of the flesh

b) Stole from God



Other's expectations
combined with his
sinful desires leaves
us with one
conclusion about
Samson



Samson had no clue who he was...

He tried to find significance and identity in everything and everyone but God.

In the last days of Samson's life, he learned his two greatest lessons:



1. HE WAS A
SINNER (and so
are we)



To be a sinner is to do what so many in scripture (and today) could not do:

Take **RESPONSIBILITY** for our own actions

2. Significance and purpose can only be found in God.



Sin is how we deal with the
(perceived) reality that God is
absent

Sin is not just doing bad things but
turning good things into ultimate
things. (Kierkegaard)

The final takeaway:

Only when everything was taken away from Samson that he saw the truth...

Samson finally realized that he was a slave to everything and everyone in his life. But in this moment, he was free because he finally dealt with his own sinfulness.

Luke 18:22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. 24 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus replied,

“What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

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