

Book of Judges

Part 4

“Samson”

Part 1. The Cycle of Judges begins.

Part 2. The early Judges we see in 3rd Person. (Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar)

Part 3. God calls Gideon. We see Gideon in 1st Person. We relate to Gideon & we see ourselves in the his story.

Part 4. God appoints a Nazirite, Samson. In the story of Samson we see the cycle of Judges in a man, before it happens in the nation.

Judges 13

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. **3** The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, “You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. **4** Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. **5** You will become pregnant and have a son whose 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.”

8 Then Manoah prayed to the Lord: “Pardon your servant, Lord. I beg you to let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born.”

24 The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, **25** and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

1. Samson was born under a Nazarite vow

- Consecration and Dedication to God are the seeds that bring the Power and Blessing of God

The **Nazarite Vow** is described in Numbers 6:1–21. "Nazarite" comes from the Hebrew word *nazir* meaning "consecrated" or "separated". Those who put themselves under a Nazirite vow did so voluntarily for a certain amount of time. During this time they made a vow of dedication to the Lord, as it says: "Until the time is completed, he shall be holy."

The Nazarite vow required a person to:

- Abstain from any fermented drink or anything that comes from the grapevine. (Even grapes, raisins etc.)
- Required a person refrain from cutting the hair on their head.
- Required a person to stay away from corpses or graves, or anything that would make them ceremonially unclean.

The nazirite is described as "separating themselves unto the Lord"

Vs. 5

...the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb.

- Samson didn't just do a Nazirite vow for a certain amount of time...
- Samson was a Nazirite...

Vs. 24

24 The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, **25** and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him

- From the womb to birth...
- birth to boyhood...
- boyhood to manhood...
- Samson was Dedicated to the Lord...
- He was the Lord's and God Blessed Him and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him...

Judges 14

5 Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. **As they approached the vineyards of Timnah**, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. **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. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. **7** Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her.

8 Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass, and in it he saw a swarm of bees and some honey. **9** He scooped out the honey with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass.

2. Before Samson fell, he flirted with his boundaries

The Nazarite vow said Samson could have nothing to do with anything from the vineyard...

Vs. 5

As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him.

The Nazarite vow said Samson could not go near a dead body or anything that would make him ceremonially unclean...

Vs. 9

9 He scooped out the honey (from the lions carcass) with his hands and ate as he went along.

- Before Samson fell for Delilah he fell in love with a Philistine girl in Chapter 14
- Before Samson fell for Delilah he spent a night with a prostitute in Chapter 16:1

Before Samson fell for Delilah he flirted with his boundaries

Then the Bible says:

Judges 16

4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

Oh now, Samson fell in love with Delilah...

Delilah: Delicate, soft to the touch.

I think Samson thought Delilah really meant: Delightful...

Samson was a prince among men...
and Delilah surely was the princess he was looking for...

I want to tell you something about Sin;
Sin is pleasurable for a season...

Hebrews 11:25 says that Moses, choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Sin is just that, it is pleasurable, but only for a season...
The problem is, that season runs out...
When it runs out it is a dead end road...

*Sin will take you further than you want to go
Keep you longer than you want to stay
and cost you more than you want to pay*

- Samson must have thought he was flirting with something temporal; but actually he was flirting with something that would bring him lasting grief...

Samson thought Delilah was Delightful but really she was Deceptive...

Vs. 5-7

5 The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver."

6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued."

7 Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man."

8 Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them. 9 With men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

10 Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied."

11 He said, “If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”

- Then that didn’t work...

13 He replied, “If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”

- And when that didn’t work...

15 Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.” 16 With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.

Proverbs 21:9

Better to live on a corner of the roof
than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

17 So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”

There is something here I’ve never noticed, until now...

Numbers 6

13 “Now this is the law of the Nazirite when the period of their dedication is over. They are to be brought to the entrance to the tent of meeting. 14 There they are to present their offerings to the Lord: a year-old male lamb without defect for a burnt offering, a year-old ewe lamb without defect for a sin offering, a ram without defect for a fellowship offering, 15 together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and a basket of bread made with the finest flour and without

yeast—thick loaves with olive oil mixed in, and thin loaves brushed with olive oil.

— — —

18 “Then at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the Nazirite must shave off the hair that symbolizes their dedication. They are to take the hair and put it in the fire that is under the sacrifice of the fellowship offering.

The hair of a Nazarite was the symbol of their devotion to God but it was also meant to be part of their offering to God

What was meant for God, was taken by the Devil...

- The Devil wants your dedication to God...
- The Devil wants your offering to God...

18 When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. **19** After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.

20 Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!

Samson awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

Samson thought Delilah was Delightful but really Delilah was a Devil...

Proverbs 5

My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
turn your ear to my words of insight,

2
that you may maintain discretion
and your lips may preserve knowledge.

3
For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil;

4
but in the end she is bitter as gall,
sharp as a double-edged sword.

5
Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead straight to the grave.

6
She gives no thought to the way of life;
her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.

7
Now then, my sons, listen to me;
do not turn aside from what I say.

8
Keep to a path far from her,
do not go near the door of her house,

9
lest you lose your honor to others
and your dignity to one who is cruel,

10
lest strangers feast on your wealth
and your toil enrich the house of another.

11
At the end of your life you will groan,
when your flesh and body are spent.

One of the saddest verses in all the Bible is Vs. 20
Samson awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake
myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

**Samson had never in his life experienced what it was like to not have
the Lord with him...**

Vs. 21,22

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. 22 **But the hair on his head began to grow again** after it had been shaved.

23 Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, “Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.”

24 When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying,

“Our god has delivered our enemy
into our hands,
the one who laid waste our land
and multiplied our slain.”

25 While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

— — —
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.**

Closing

- Samson was born under a Nazarite vow
- Before Samson fell, he flirted with his boundaries
- What was meant for God, was taken by the Devil...
- The Devil wants your dedication to God...
- The Devil wants your offering to God...