



Text: Judges 16:19-30

Samson was born at a time in which Israel was in a spiritual cycle of sinning against God – God would bring them into bondage to their enemy – Israel would repent – God would deliver them – God would bless them – then Israel would fall into sin again and the cycle would start all over

- He was under a supernatural covenant of the Nazarite giving him supernatural strength and power

Judges 13:5

For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines

Samson was the size of an average man – his strength came not from physical muscle but from the supernatural power of God

What is ironic is that Samson's life in many ways mirrored the spiritual cycle in which Israel found itself...

The point of this message is that many times when we talk about champions – we erroneously get in our minds that champions are those people who never have any problems or issues

The problem with that thinking is that many will say – I could never be like that so why even try

- I can't be a champion because I am still struggling with lust
- I am still struggling with addiction

- I am still struggling in marriage – my relationships at home are not perfect
- Because we struggle – because we make mistakes – because we fall down
- We disqualify ourselves from ever being a champion

Champions are not perfect – they just never quit

Just because you are struggling in an area of your life doesn't disqualify you from being a champion

God is the Master at giving people opportunity for a comeback

In sports – there are some teams who are known as frontrunners – they do well as long as they are ahead in the score

- But if they fall behind – they don't know how to react – they don't know how to win from behind
- So consequently – when they fall behind – they fall apart
- They lose sight of their game plan and start to panic

That is the way many people respond in life – if they fall behind – they panic

- Suddenly they start doing things they would have never done
- Start living in a way they would have never lived
- All because they know they are behind in the score and they don't know how to win from behind

If you are a champion – you are going to have to learn to come from behind at times

Samson needed a comeback – even though he was in a position of authority – he was a judge of Israel

- He was the 12th judge and 12 is considered a perfect number
- 12 symbolizes God's power and authority
- 12 serves as a perfect governmental foundation
- 12 tribes of Israel – 12 disciples – 12 gates in the New Jerusalem
- So Samson being the 12th judge should have been the perfect completion to God's governmental plan in Israel

These are the reasons Samson needed a comeback:

Samson Became Vulnerable

Judges 16:19-20

And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. 20 And she said, The Philistines

[be] upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him

For the first time in his life – Samson did not have the strength to defeat the enemy

Think about the conquests had already achieved in his life

Judges 14:5-6

Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. 6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and [he had] nothing in his hand

Judges 15:4-5

And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. 5 And when he had set the brands on fire, he let [them] go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards [and] olives.

Judges 15:13-15

And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock. 14 [And] when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that [were] upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. 15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

Judges 16:3

And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put [them] upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that [is] before Hebron

It seems as though there is absolutely nothing this man cannot do – nothing he cannot achieve – until he meets Delilah

Judges 16:5

And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength [lieth], and by what [means] we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred [pieces] of silver.

- The enemy knew exactly what to go after to bring Samson into a position of vulnerability and weakness
- It was the deception of Delilah that caused Samson to step out of the covenant he had made with God
- Used by the enemy to find the source of his strength

Judges 16:7

And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man

Judges 16:9

Now [there were] men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known.

Feeling mocked and disdained – she presses him further

Judges 16:11

And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.

Judges 16:13

And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.

But each time – the Spirit of God came upon him and he was easily able to defeat the enemy –

Judges 16:16

And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, [so] that his soul was vexed unto death;

- The enemy is relentless to get at the source of your strength
- The enemy is relentless to push you to your breaking point

The reason the enemy is attacking you is because he knows he anointing of the Holy Ghost is on you and you are a threat to his agenda

Judges 16:17

That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I [have been] a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any [other] man.

The moment he broke his covenant with God was the moment he became vulnerable to the attack of the enemy

The strength of Samson did not come through the length of his hair – his strength came from the covenant he had with God

- The sad part is – Samson didn't even realize that it was gone

Judges 16:20

I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

The favor and power of God is dependent upon my willingness to stay in covenant with Him

- The covenant we have with God was established at the cross when Jesus willingly laid down His life for you and for me

Luke 22:20

Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup [is] the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

You have no strength outside of the covenant – you have no strength outside of the blood

- It is only the finished work of Christ that gives you the favor and blessing of Almighty God

Like Samson – you had the victory at one time – you were praying hard – you were in the house of God – you were involved in ministry

- Now suddenly – you have become vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy
- You don't have the spiritual strength you once had – you don't have the power you once had – you don't have the anointing you once had
- You are in the position of vulnerability – but that means you are in the position where you need a comeback

Samson Lost His Vision

Judges 16:21

But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza

He could no longer see where he was going but rather was being led everywhere by his enemies

- Even at the very end – he was being led by a young small boy

Judges 16:26

And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand

When you lose the vision for your life – when you no longer have the ability to see where you are going in life – it is time for a comeback

- Right now – you are in a place where you never thought you would be in life because you have lost the vision for your life and the enemy has come and taken your hand and is leading you wherever he wants to take you

Proverbs 29:18

Where [there is] no vision, the people perish

It is time to get your vision back – it is time to get a vision for your life again – it is time to get a vision for your home again – it is time to get a vision for your marriage again

Samson Had Lost His Victory

Judges 16:21

...brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

He was not only blinded by the enemy – now he was bound by the enemy

Judges 16:23

Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.

- They laughed – they made fun and they mocked him

Judges 16:25

And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.

The enemy may be looking at your life right now and laughing saying – is this the guy that once preached? Is this the girl that once led worship?

- The demons laugh and say – look what we have done to their home
- Look what we have done to their marriage
- Look at what we have done to their ministry
- In the eyes of the enemy – you are done – you are defeated
- But in the eyes of God – you are never done and you are never defeated

Look what happened while Samson was in prison

Judges 16:22

Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven

God gave Samson hope in the middle of the prison – as his hair began to return - his heart also began to return

Samson's comeback started on his head when his hair began to grow again

Every comeback starts with your head – it starts with you making up your mind that you are ready for a comeback

Nothing can stop the power of a made up mind

Judges 16:28

And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

Samson remembers what God has done before – He knows that He can do it again

Judges 16:30

And he bowed himself with [all his] might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that [were] therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than [they] which he slew in his life.

- You are not coming back like you once were – you are coming back better than you were
- You are not coming back with the strength you once had – you are coming back stronger than you ever were