

# Judges 13-16 – 18 November 2021

## “Samson Chose To Live For Lust”

### Introduction

\*Book of Judges’ theme is “*everyone did that which was right in their own eyes*”. Therefore, a cycle of sin & deliverance develops where God raises up judges

\*Only 6 major judges in Judges & together they teach us how & what WE should do in this present evil age:

Ehud – Living for God in the face of evil

Deborah & Barak – Courage to stir people to action

Gideon – Building faith thru experience

Now today Jephthah – Jesus the Savior

Then Samson in chapters 13-16 – Spirit & flesh

\*In a way, the Book of Judges has brought us to the culmination of the story of salvation w/ Jephthah!

\*There’s another reality within realm of the Church; that of carnal Christians that heap trouble upon self by their own sin. Samson is in Hebrews 11 Hall of Faith

**\*Today, we’ll show you 4 stages in the life of a Carnal Christian by examining the life of Samson**

# 1<sup>st</sup> stage in the life of a carnal Christian: they have a background in the truth of God (Chap 13)

## Intro

1. Chap 13 is the annunciation of Samson's birth
2. Chap designed to show the faith of mom & dad

## Read Chap 13:1

1. The cycle of sin continues that we've seen

## Read Chap 13:2-5

1. Angel of the Lord appears to Manoah's barren wife & informs of a baby that should be a Nazarite from the womb and for life
  - a. Angel of the Lord seems to be another preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ
  - b. Nazarite Vow; epitome of set apart as holy
    - i. The rules represent defeat of our enemies
      1. No wine – separate from the world
      2. No razor – separate from the flesh
      3. No dead thing – separate from devil

Numbers 6

2. Samson would only 'begin' to deliver Israel from the Philistines
  - a. This is different than previous judges
  - b. Philistines won't be gone til time of David
3. Notice, unlike other judges, Samson isn't a middle-aged warrior right now, he's not even born
  - a. God isn't in a rush and has this planned out having picked a pre-born as the next judge

Read Chap 13:6-8

1. She knew this was a heavenly visit
2. She takes this to her husband who prays that God teaches them more
  - a. This truly demonstrates a spiritual person

Read Chap 13:9-11

1. Manoah had faith to believe his wife and then pray God come to teach them more...here He is

Read Chap 13:12-14

1. Angel simply tells Manoah they are to obey all things that he already told to HER (not him)

## Read Chap 13:15-16

1. Angel eat with Abraham, Jesus ate after the resurrection, didn't eat with Gideon or Manoah
2. Manoah thought he was just a man, a prophet

## Read Chap 13:17-18

1. The name of the Lord is wonderful
2. Isa 9:6 – “For unto us a child is born...”

## Read Chap 13:19-21

1. Offering unto the Lord & they worship God

## Read Chap 13:22-23

1. Manoah has great reverence for God
2. His wife has great faith in God!

## Read Chap 13:24-25

1. Naming him ‘like the sunlight’
2. Growing in the Lord by His Spirit

## Conclusion of Point #1

1. All this to say: they were godly people
2. Samson like Jacob – raised in the spirit of truth
  - a. Yet both will have similar flesh problems

## **2<sup>nd</sup> stage in the life of a carnal Christian: they're drawn away by their own lusts (Chap 14)**

### Intro

1. Chap 14 shows Samson's marriage & divorce
2. W/ his background & Jewish privilege, Samson despises God's blessings in his life & lives for self

### Read Chap 14:1

1. Timnath is only 4 miles from his home (Zorah)

### Read Chap 14:2-4

1. God commanded to only marry w/i Israel
2. God allowed Samson to do this evil yet God used it sinlessly for His purpose against the Philistines
  - a. God used Samson in spite of sin, not b/c of it
  - b. Surely God would have done greater except for sin dragging Samson toward death
  - c. Read Jam 1:14-18

### Read Chap 14:5-9

1. Spirit of the Lord allowed this great strength
2. This is only here to set up story to come next
3. Know, this is violation of the Nazarite vow

## Read Chap 14:10-14

1. This is why the Lord told us the story of Samson killing the lion earlier
2. Samson's cocky pride on display
  - a. Playing games for selfish gain

## Read Chap 14:15

1. If you weren't sure if this was fun stuff or prideful, lustful games for gain...now you know!

## Read Chap 14:16-17

1. The emotion & convincing of a woman prods a man to forfeit many things

## Read Chap 14:18-20

1. Samson's anger. Conquers some Philistines to pay the debt and abandons his wife

## Conclusion of Point #2

1. Again, think how he compares to Jacob
  - a. Jacob stole birthright in Gen 25:29 & the blessing in Gen 27
2. Both were always seeking to fill their own lusts

## **3<sup>rd</sup> stage in the life of a carnal Christian: they seek petty revenge & self-justification (Chap 15)**

### Intro

1. This is the stage where you're finally realizing that living for self-lust is causing lots of conflict
2. But you still feel justified to put down others & promote self

### Read Chap 15:1-2

1. Samson was only seeking sex & learns his wife was remarried to his best man

### Read Chap 15:3-5

1. Petty self-justification of Samson to answer hurt by burning down the Philistines crops
2. Read Rom 8:7
  - a. Carnal mind is at war w/ God's plan
  - b. And it puts you at war with others

### Read Chap 15:6

1. Now the petty self-justification of Philistines to answer the burnt crops by burning Samson's wife

## Read Chap 15:7-8

1. Petty self-justification of Samson to answer the killing of his wife by killing many of them
2. Our flesh doesn't want justice, it wants revenge

## Read Chap 15:9-11

1. Judah should never have settled for the Philistines ruling over them anyway (have faith!)
2. End of Vs 11 – His sin has led him to conflict, revenge and hatred – this isn't from the Spirit

## Read Chap 15:12-17

1. Notice, killing of the Philistines was done by the Spirit of the Lord
  - a. WE KNOW that that is the declared will of God to be rid of the Philistines
  - b. BUT he's doing it from flesh, not the spirit
  - c. Motivation is everything when it comes to reward – see I Cor 3



## Read Chap 15:18-20

1. This is a real “God moment” in life
2. THIS is a great opportunity to evaluate your life choices and change directions in repentance
3. It’s God’s grace to bring a fleshly person low so they can reevaluate

## Conclusion of Point #3

1. God also brought our friend Jacob low
  - a. Jacob lived for tricking Laban for revenge and self-justification thru Gen 29-31
  - b. Only to have to face Esau on his return home
2. What will Samson & Jacob do w/ the opportunity to re-evaluate?

**4<sup>th</sup> stage in the life of a carnal Christian: they make their final choice concerning the Lord (Chap 16)**

## Intro

1. They’ve seen that their sinful choices cause problems within & without

2. Will they give in to God's will in repentance or will they give up & continue in sinful promotion?

Read Chap 16:1-3

1. Sleeping w/ a Philistine harlot & stealing away at night w/ the gates & doors of Gaza
2. He's made his choice to continue in lustful sin

Read Chap 16:4-7

1. Philistines plot to murder him using Delilah
2. Samson lies to hid source of His strength
3. And she's willing to have her boyfriend murdered for money! – This is the worst!

Read Chap 16:8-14

1. The ploy of using bowstrings, then new ropes, then weaving his hair are all discovered
2. Yet something is happening inside Samson b/c he's not walking in the Spirit of the Lord
  - a. He defenseless & weak and doesn't know it
  - b. Read Psm 73:3-4,18-19 – on edge of death

## Read Chap 16:15-20

1. Samson finally breaks & gives in to the seductive woman as she ‘pressed him daily’
2. Joseph was pressed daily by Potiphar’s wife yet he knew in the Spirit to flee
  - a. There’s always a way out
  - b. But when you get so used to living in flesh, you don’t even know you **NEED** a way out!
3. He didn’t even realize the place his sin was taking him was away from the Spirit of the Lord
  - a. Away from the very blessings of his life
  - b. Away from the very strength of his life
  - c. Away from the very purpose of his life

## Read Chap 16:21-25

1. Sin has forced him to live a time in mockery

## Read Chap 16:26-31

1. Samson asked the Lord for strength to take out the Philistines knowing it would take him out
2. That’s best you can hope for from the carnal

## Conclusion

We've seen the obvious stages of progression of a person who knows the Lord but chooses to live sinfully

1. **They have a background in the truth of God**
  - a. Be sure that children of believers know that they have to decide for Christ! (No grandkids)
2. **They're drawn away by their own lusts**
  - a. May start as fun games of self-promotion, but there nothing funny about selfishness
3. **They seek petty revenge & self-justification**
  - a. Conflict inevitably results from pride & lust
4. **They're brought to their final choice re: God**
  - a. Samson faced life / death & never repented

Let's go back to our friend Jacob

1. After he stole birthright & the blessing; after he lived for petty revenge on Laban, he was faced w/ life / death heading back toward Esau
2. Read Gen 32:9-12 – He repented at Peniel!
3. Then he wrestled w/ God for blessing Gen 32:26
4. THIS is death of self-life, being born again
  - a. Read Gen 32:27-28