

**SCRIPTURE: Judges 13-16 TITLE: "Re-tell: Samson"**

**INTRO:** > Last week Joshua. **Judges 2:6-20. 7 cycles of sin & salvation.** Before Samuel.

> **Cycles:** Generation> Sin >Enemy >Prayer/Crying >God's Compassionate Mercy & Salvation.

> **God is so merciful & gracious.** Deliverer. Savior. He's King. 21:25. "No king. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Literally the ethic of the world we live.

> **Modern culture** = "Whatever is true for you." "His/Her Truth." "Whatever feels right to you." "Fulfill your own needs/desires." "If you feel like that's what is best for you."

> **Concept: Subjective Truth vs Objective Truth.** Judges is a case study of what happens in a subjective society and how God is STILL a gracious & merciful Savior/Deliverer in spite of all.

> **Samson** is last judge/savior/deliverer in this book. This is the last cycle before all falls apart.  
**\*not just a good namesake for your Pit-bull or Rottweiler.**

**Thesis:** "Jesus is a Better & Greater Saving Warrior than Samson."

## **I. Samson's Birth (13:1-5)**

A. **The Angel of the LORD.** Pre-incarnate Jesus. Manoah Prays. Sacrifice/Worship.

B. This is a special moment. Only happened with Abraham & Isaac.

C. **Nazarite** = "Nazir" = Sanctified/Set-apart. **Num. 6.** Hair, Wine/Vines, Death, Holiness. Devoted to God. *Set apart TO/FOR something. Not FROM something.*

D. **21-25**>Mercy of God. Favor in His eyes. Miraculous birth of a Savior. Gracious provision.

E. When God is abundantly gracious to us and gives us everything, we owe him everything.

**ILLUSTRATION: Tim Keller. New City Catechism #1.** "I owe him everything." Nothing He can't

F. Mary & Joseph. Angel. Miraculous birth. Jesus. Birth of a perfect Savior. "JESUS."

G. **JESUS:** "He WILL save His people from their sin." Not just begin to save them.

**APPLICATION: Our life, everything we have and can do is a gift from God. Especially Jesus.**

## **II. Samson's Life**

A. **14**> Wedding to foreign/pagan/enemy woman. Riddle. Wife betrayed/fear. Kills 30men.

B. **15**> Comes for wife. Foxes/Jackals tied together. (IMAGINE). Crops/Food. Burns Wife/father-in-law and house. Betrayed by 3,000 of his own people who were supposed to trust/follow him as the savior provided. Fresh Donkey's Jawbone. Kills 1,000 Philistines.

C. **16**> Prostitute in Gaza. City Gate. Gloating/Joke/Mocking. Delilah>tired>proud/entitled.

**APPLICATION: Temptation/Lust.** Confess. Look for help. Samson Society. Counselor/Mentor.

## **III. Samson's Death (16:23-31)**

A. It was pride that led to this. Entitlement. Didn't think he could lose. Forgot the LORD.

B. Samson's hair was the last element of his Nazarite vows that he had not yet broken.

C. Captured > Blinded > Humiliated > Publicly displayed/mock

D. God is long-suffering & patient & merciful & gracious. Answers Samson's prayer.

E. Prays for God's help for strength. But motive is still messed up. Personal vengeance.

**APPLICATION: Often you must be broken/weakened/humbled before God will use you or grow you. His strength is made perfect in our weakness. His grace is sufficient. Biblical Theme.**

## **CONCLUSION A: Samson is like Jesus. But Jesus is better. How?**

- Samson's Anger was motivated by Justice. **Jesus's too. But His is perfect anger.**
- Samson never lost a battle. **Neither does Jesus. Revelation. Jesus wins. Always.**
- Samson's enemies totally surprised by the strength/power of his wrath. **Jesus's will be too.**
- Samson's people didn't want follow him or recognize him; betrayed him to enemy. **Jesus too.**

**CONCLUSION B: Samson vs. Jesus.**

1. Samson was miraculously born Savior promised to math/father by an angel. **Jesus too.**
2. Samson was promised to begin to save God's people. **Jesus did/does. Finished work.**
3. Samson was a liar/distorter of the truth/unfaithful to His vows/covenant. **Jesus is the TRUTH and is always faithful to His promises and fulfilled His purpose.**
4. Samson used and chased women for personal pleasure, which corrupted his character & wisdom. **Jesus saw women with respect, mercy, love and value as Image Bearers.**
5. Samson felt entitled to his strength. Used it for personal gain and glory and pleasure. **Jesus emptied Himself and humbled Himself for the sake of others.**
6. *Samson cared about justice/retribution with imperfect execution.* **Jesus is righteous Judge.**
7. *Samson cried out to God in final moments and was help/strengthened.* **Jesus felt forsaken.**
8. *Samson's prayer was for his own revenge, name and glory.* **Jesus's prayer leading up to His death was for God to glorify Himself. God to receive glory in His death.**
9. *Samson died in order to defeat His enemies out of anger, guilt, dependence on God as an act of vengeance.* **Jesus died to save His enemies, out of love, as God Himself as an act of grace.**
10. *Samson died and stayed dead.* **Death couldn't keep Jesus in the grave!**
11. *Samson was a savior-warrior for God's people for a time.* **Jesus is THE Savior-Warrior of God's people for all time.**
12. *Samson's life demonstrates our need for a perfect Savior.* **Jesus is THE perfect Savior.**

**CONCLUSION C: Be like Samson? Or not like Samson? YES.**

**Hebrews 11:32-34:** "32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight."

1. **FAITH?!** 20 years of "ministry" unaccounted for. *Be like Samson in his faith at the end.*
2. **God uses sinners to fulfill His work/plans because sinners are His only option. Be encouraged.** God can use you & me. Wants to! :-)
3. **GRACE.** Samson presumed upon God's kindness, blessing, generosity, patience and mercy. He acted entitled, as if God owed Him something. He forgot that his life was a gift from the LORD to be used and given to the LORD. That he owed God everything and God owed Him nothing, because everything he had was already a gift from the LORD.
4. **Repent & Believe** in Jesus because we ARE like Samson: Power Hungry, Tempted to Lust, Quick Tempered, Haters of others, etc. **He will make us more like CHRIST.**