

# Book of Hebrews Part 47: Champions of the Faith: Samson and Samuel (3/28/2020)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/7ns3ywt/book-of-hebrews-part-47>

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are continuing our study on the Book of Hebrews, and we are coming to the very end of the names given us regarding men of the faith. In our last message, we looked at Samson from Judges 14. So I want to give you a quick recap. Samson is throwing this wedding feast, and at this wedding feast he invites these guests, and 30 Philistine men come as guests. So he decides to have a little fun with them, pose a challenge if you will, and put a bet on the table. He tells them, "If you guys can solve my riddle, I will give you 30 changes of clothing. But if you cannot, then that's what you need to give me."

Well, because of this, and because of the fact that they couldn't solve this riddle, they go to Samson's wife, and they threatened her life saying, "Listen, you either get us the answer, or we're going to burn you and your house with fire. This is what's going to happen."

So what happens? She gets the answer to the riddle. Now Samson has to pay up, but how he pays up is where the story gets fascinating, because what happens is he actually goes down to the Philistines in Ashkelon, and he wipes out 30 of them taking their clothing, the payment for losing the bet, and gives it to the 30 men at his wedding feast. So what we see in Judges 14 is God's first, initial strike against the Philistines to deliver Israel from the Philistine oppression.

Then as we break into Judges 15, we read about two more strikes against the Philistines, and these strikes were mighty. Scripture records one was a great slaughter. So Samson is going out and absolutely destroying them. In one event, he takes up a jawbone of a donkey, and what does he do with it? He kills 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey. There is no way this would have ever happened without the Spirit of the LORD coming upon him. Which is exactly what happened.

So we see Samson is devastating the Philistines. No longer are the Philistines going to be afflicting them or keeping them in bondage. The tide has turned.

However, as we get to Judges 16, something happens, and it's not good. Samson falls into sin. He actually meets up with this woman named Delilah, and she completely flips his world upside down. I want to break into this part of Samson's life today. I want to open up with some commentary from the first century Jewish historian, Josephus. Josephus commented on this situation.

Something I mentioned last week was Samson is one of those characters who is somewhat controversial in regard to being included in Hebrews 11's list of men in the great Hall of Faith. Some people would push back regarding Samson being included in this list because of how they see Samson's deeds. Well, we're going to read about it today. We're going to look at this, and by the end of today, I assure you you're going to see this man as the writer of Hebrews 11 saw him. He is truly a resplendent man of faith.

With that said, let's see what Josephus has to say about Samson's interaction with Delilah. This is what he says—**However he [meaning Samson] at length transgressed the laws [Torah] of his country, and altered his own regular way of living, and imitated the strange customs of foreigners, [He started participating in the cultural practices of the Philistines] which thing was the beginning of his miseries....**

The influence of the world was the beginning of his miseries. This is something we should take note of in regard to understanding the power of influence. This is why a righteous man should choose his friends carefully because the way of the wicked will lead them astray. This is why we're not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers; with those of the world. What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? It doesn't have any.

Well, Josephus goes on and says this—**for he fell in love with a woman that was a harlot among the Philistines: her name was Delilah, and he lived with her.** (Joseph, Antiquities of the Jews). This is what happened to Samson. Samson is moving away from the Torah. He ends up falling, and he becomes unequally yoked by falling in love with a woman who is a harlot. And the problem is that he is not marrying her; he is living in sin. He's living with her, and this is where things begin to fall apart for him.

Now, continuing on in Judges 16:4—**Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.** So, as we look at this story, and we're introduced to this woman, Delilah. Her name is derived from the Hebrew דְּלִילָה (del-ee-law'). Her name means to be low or to be brought low. This is a little bit of irony considering how this is going to play out, meaning Delilah will bring Sampson low.

Continuing in Judges 16:5—**And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies....** Does this kind of sound familiar? This seems to be a parallel. This is what those 30 men in Judges 14 did. They went to Samson's wife and told her she better get the answer to this riddle. They wanted to know this because they knew this bet was on the line. So there is a parallel here. The same type of thing is happening. Samson is laying waste to the Philistines. They can't stop him, and they want to know how to stop him. So now they start pressing upon Delilah.

Continuing in Judges 16:5—**...and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."** (Emphasis added).

Now, there is so much we need to appreciate about what we just read. Number one, you look at this and find a lot of spiritual connotation, prophetic connotation, if you will. Here you can see Delilah is going to be a betrayer to him. He loves her, and you're going to see he trusts her more than he should. Yet she is going to sell him out for silver.

Does this sound familiar at all? It's kind has an eerie similarity to Judas being willing to betray his master Yeshua for silver. That's what he did. But let's take this a step further in practical application for today and the reality of spiritual warfare. When you look at the Philistines, the Philistines are very symbolic of the evil spirits, the demonic spirits, those agents of Satan that work on his behalf. The Philistines are symbolic of them by working day and night because they want to bind and afflict. The very things the Philistines want to do to Samson are the very things the demons want to do to you.

I want to give you a little bit of insight into this from the Book of Enoch 15:11-12—**And the spirits of the giants afflict, oppress, destroy, attack, do battle, and work destruction on the earth and cause trouble: they take no food, but nevertheless hunger and thirst, and cause offenses.** <sup>12</sup> **And these spirits shall rise up against the children of men and against the women, because they have proceeded from them.** And it goes on and says—**And these shall be called evil spirits.**

This is what we are told, and we can confirm this in the New Testament. Yeshua went out and encountered all these people who were bound and afflicted by Satan, or by these evil spirits. And with the word, Yeshua comes, and He lays waste to them. He is the great deliverer. The Messiah. Yeshua comes and lays waste. He sets the captives free just as the Prophets said He would do. This is such an awesome thing!

So as we're looking at this story, and we are looking at the Philistines, you need to understand there is a lot of application for us today in this story that makes this story very tangible.

That being said, let's continue on in Judges 16:6—**So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you."**

Are you serious? So let me get this straight. One of the first things we hear coming from Delilah is her request for Samson to reveal the source of his strength, so she can bind and destroy him. I don't need to be a marriage counselor, or have a degree in the art of dating, to understand that when your girlfriend is asking how to destroy you, that might be a red flag. That might be an indication there is not a whole lot of future for you two.

Continuing on in Judges 16:7—**And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."** This is interesting. So Delilah asks Samson for the secret to his strength with her intention being to destroy him. Samson, however, shows a bit of wisdom at this point. He does not reveal to her the true source of his strength and instead tells her a lie. You can see he doesn't fully trust her. There's an emotional attachment, whether you want to call it love or lust, we can debate that, but the point being there is an emotional attachment. But he's not giving up the goods. He's not telling her what would make him weak.

Moving to Judges 16:8—**So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them.** (Emphasis added). So, if Samson had any doubts as to her real intentions, whether she would go through with this or not, this just solidified her intentions. She bound him. Samson told her what would destroy him, and she does it. Obviously, she is not a great future wife by any stretch of the imagination.

Judges 16:9—**Now men were lying in wait, staying with her in the room.** You want to talk about diabolically evil. This woman has men lurking in the very room, waiting in the wings, to take him out.

And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. **So the secret of his strength was not known.** (Emphasis added).

Now, if this isn't bizarre enough, this goes on two more times. She comes back to him and asks him again, and he tells her, "If you tie me with ropes," and the whole scenario plays out again where Delilah tells him, "the Philistines are upon you." Again, Samson breaks the ropes like nothing. She then presses him again, and he tells her that if she weaves his locks like a weaver's loom, then he would become weak. She does this, and again the same outcome. He does not lose his strength.

So three times Samson has gone through this. Three times she has put him to the test to no avail. He hasn't given up the secret to his strength.

Now, however, we read in Judges 16:15—**Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me?** (Isn't that convenient? She's manipulating him; she's pulling on his heartstrings right now.) **You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies."**

There are a couple of things I want to point out here. Number one, Delilah is a master of manipulation. And number two, she is relentlessly in pursuit because this is the fourth time she has pressed him for this information.

Now, I want you to remind yourself of how relentless our adversary is. I think we tend to forget how relentless he is in pursuing us day after day after day to try to get us to give in. To try to manipulate us. What Delilah is doing here is absolutely evil. And how many times do we read in scripture about the enemy manipulating women to take out their men? Let's just go back to the Garden and the story of Adam and Eve. Eve was manipulated and deceived and ultimately, the devil took down Adam.

We can look at 1 Kings Chapter 21 and see Ahab as recorded. It says Ahab did great evil, but it gives the reason: because his wife Jezebel stirred him up. So here you have the adversary, the devil, using Jezebel to create havoc in Israel, to make Ahab a very wicked King, to manipulate him, and to use him as a tool for her bidding.

We could go on and on. Think about the Moabites. Israel is in the wilderness. They're untouchable. We have the whole Balaam/Balak situation, but Balak cannot have them cursed. Balak, the king of Moab wants them snuffed out, but they are untouchable. They are totally invincible until the women of Moab get to the men of Israel. Then all hell breaks loose; then it falls apart. Then these men experience the wrath of God; then they experience a curse through the women.

So this repetition of the enemy manipulating and using women to get to the men is what we are seeing again in this story. However, we have a lesson here, not just for the men, but for the women. Women, you don't want to be used this way, and you need to be on guard, so the enemy is not using you to take out your husband or to get your husband to walk away from the LORD. You need to stand strong. You need to be strong.

Unfortunately, we have a master manipulator, Delilah, who is influenced by the enemy. Make no mistake, if you believe in demons being active today, and the influence of demonic powers, and how Satan's kingdom is moving, make no mistake because they were moving in Samson's day too. They were involved in this situation. The enemy was giving guidance to these Philistines and Delilah to take

Samson out because Samson is destroying the oppressor of Israel. And in essence, he is destroying the kingdom of Satan because Satan's kingdom is built upon his own glory of afflicting and oppressing Israel. That is his delight, but now that's getting destroyed. So Samson is a real threat here.

Moving to Judges 16:16—**And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death.** This is where you see the comparison to Satan. He is coming to wear you out. We are told in scripture he is coming to wear out the Saints. This is why Yeshua said, "He who endures to the end will be saved." Make no mistake. There is a war going on in the unseen realm that gets manifested in the physical realm. You can see such a war happening right here in this story of Samson and Delilah where she is pulling on his heartstrings to the point he is literally vexed to death. He can't take it anymore.

And so we continue on in Judges 16:17—**that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."** (Emphasis added).

This is interesting for several reasons. Number one, Samson proclaims he is the LORD's; he is called by God from birth to be dedicated and set apart; he is a Nazirite. The second thing Samson does here is incredible. Samson conveys to her that if he breaks that vow, if he breaks the commandment of God, he will lose everything. He will lose the power he has.

Now, make no mistake. It is no different for us. You want to let the enemy into your life. You want to give him power? Walk away from the LORD and see what happens. It gets ugly when you do that.

Moving on to Judges 16:18—**When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.**

Think about this. Samson gave her the goods. You can't help but think about what Yeshua conveys in Matthew 7 when He says, "Do not give what is Holy to the dogs, and don't you dare cast your pearls before swine lest they turn and tear you to pieces." Oh my! Samson has just given what is Holy to the dogs? He has just cast his pearls before swine. And now this swine, this Delilah, is going to turn, and she's going to tear him to pieces. This is the reality of what we're going to see.

Judges 16:19—**Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.** How demonic is this? This is what the devil wants to do to us. He wants to lull us to sleep. She is a total betrayer. He told her not just his heart, but the reality of what will happen if he does not fulfill the commandment of God; if he doesn't walk according to it and breaks this vow. He knows what's going to happen, and she takes advantage of this because she knew it now. She went forward. This breaking of the commandment of God severed the power Samson had and gave her total control to have power over him. Diabolical!

Judges 16:20—**And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.**

Do you remember the scripture in 2 Chronicles, “If you forsake the LORD, He is going to forsake you”? So if you were once walking in the power of the LORD, in the Spirit of the LORD, and you are conquering the enemy, and you were laying waste to his kingdom by spreading the Gospel, by bringing people into the kingdom, by praying for people, and people are being healed, and people are being delivered, and all these things are happening, but the moment you walk away from the LORD and turn your back on Him, that power is gone. Samson is now in this reality. It is utterly terrifying that it can happen like this.

So can we possibly put enough emphasis on how important it is to walk within the Torah? How important it is to keep the Commandments of the LORD; to keep the Commandments of Yeshua? When He speaks, we stop, we listen, and we take the words and put them on our heart because the alternative is total affliction. It's total bondage. It's total torment. We don't want to give the adversary the ability to do that to us.

Judges 16:21—**Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.**

There are a couple of things here I want to bring to your attention. Number one, scholars speculate the reason Samson's eyes were plucked out is because Samson was actually given to covetousness. He was given to the lust of the eye. Because of that, he lost his eyes.

Now the text doesn't say that, but it is an interesting conversation to have to say the least. But one thing we know is they plucked out his eyes. And of course, we could talk about Yeshua's teaching in Matthew 5:29—**If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.**

So this eye plucking out could definitely refer to where this sin led him. We also know that the lamp of the body is the eye, and if the eye is good, the whole body will be full of light. But when your eye is bad, when it's filled with lust, when it's filled with adultery, then you're in trouble. This is when you're going to go down the path that is very, very dark.

Then at the end of that verse in Judges 16:21 we read—**he became a grinder in the prison.** So now he is in total bondage. He is a slave to the Philistines, or we could say a slave to the devil or to the evil spirits. This is what has happened.

Now, continuing on we are going to find that things are going to change yet again. Up to this point, one could question why the author of Hebrews would include Samson in Hebrews chapter 11 as one of the titans of the faith. As we continue, you're going to see why. This is what we read as we pick this up in Judges 16:22-23—**However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven. <sup>23</sup> Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!"**

Isn't that interesting? They are giving praise and glory to a demon; they are giving praise and glory to the devil for conquering Samson. They are giving that god, Dagon, all the power for bringing Samson low. So this is kind of a nice little setup, if you will, for what we're about to see happen. Judges 16:24—**When the people saw him, they praised their god....**

As a side note, when you read scripture, what you will find is there's nothing that will anger the LORD quicker than what they're doing right now. They are giving praise, adoration, and thanksgiving to a

demon, to a false god, rather than the true, Living God; the God Who commands the sun to rise and fall. The God Who sends rain on the earth; therefore, allowing them to eat. He allows them to breathe. Nothing makes Him angry quicker than what they're doing.

Continuing in Judges 16:24—...for they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy, **The destroyer of our land, and the one who multiplied our dead.**" (Emphasis added). They recognize Samson has been killing them: "This guy is the bane of our existence; he is decimating our kingdom." When I read this, I get pumped thinking about how if we walk in the power, in the light, of Yeshua; when His Spirit resides in our heart and we speak the truth in love, the impact you make on the kingdom of HaSatan is literally like this. The demons are razzled. They can't handle it because their kingdom is falling because you are going in the power and in the name of Yeshua.

So this is awesome to see. They are recognizing what Samson did by the Spirit of the LORD. This wasn't Samson's own fleshly strength by which he carried out these great exploits. It was the Spirit of the Living God. What does God say in Zechariah 4:6? ...**"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts."**

Continuing in Judges 16:25—**So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may perform for us." So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them. And they stationed him between the pillars.** When they're talking about him coming out and performing, this means he is being brought out to be humiliated.

Think about the situation. Let's appreciate the context. The Spirit of the LORD has left Samson. They plucked out his eyeballs. Imagine the pain and the suffering he is going through. He has been made a slave. He is totally afflicted. He's in total bondage, and now they're coming to make him a public display of total humiliation. This is the context, and this is the situation.

Then we moved to Judges 16:26-27—**Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them."** Samson is starting to strategize here. <sup>27</sup>**Now the temple was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there--about three thousand men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed.** So they're watching as he's being humiliated. Moving to verse 28—**Then Samson called to the LORD...** (Emphasis added).

Remember the Spirit of the LORD has left Samson and his eyes have been plucked out. He's actually gone into the hands of his enemies. He's being bound, afflicted, and he's being openly humiliated. So how would you respond in those situations of being in the valley of the shadow of death? How would you respond being in these trials and tribulations? Do you turn your back on God? Do you curse God and say, "You've done me no good? What's the point of going out and doing all this work for You? What is the point of doing this great deliverance in Your name when this is my end result?"

Nothing like that comes out of Samson's mouth. You want to talk about this man's character as he is sitting without his eyes; as he sits bound, afflicted, and totally humiliated. What does he do? He calls upon his God. This man has a broken heart. You can feel his brokenness through the text. You can feel his faith.

So starting again in Judges 16:28—**Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, "O LORD GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!"**

Samson's faith is so strong. He goes back, in the spirit of humility, and asks the LORD. Samson would not do this if he didn't have faith, but he believes, and he knows the power of His God. So he makes a request to take vengeance upon the Philistines.

Judges 16:29-30—**And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. <sup>30</sup>Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.** (Emphasis added).

So this ends up being Samson's greatest conquest ever in his life. It happens upon giving his life. He asked to die in this circumstance. He wanted to die with the wicked.

There are so many parallels to Yeshua in this story. The sense of Him bearing the sins of the wicked upon Himself. Being crucified with two wicked men, and dying with them. Yet He was buried with the rich at His death.

Think about that. The greatest deliverance Samson ever gave Israel, the greatest conquest, was at his death. We know this is the case with Yeshua. He did these miracles and awesome works. He laid devastation to the kingdom of Satan, but it didn't compare to when He gave His life for the entire world. When He gave His life, He set us free from the bondage of sin and death. He took all the power of death, all the power of Satan, and He moved us into the Kingdom of His love. That is an awesome story! This is an epic story as you look at Samson and what he has done.

Now, I want to close with a little commentary from Josephus regarding Samson. I think this is a healthy way to end this story. This is what Josephus says—**And indeed this man deserves to be admired for his courage and strength, and magnanimity at his death, and that his wrath against his enemies, went so far as to die himself with them. But as for his being ensnared by a woman, that is to be ascribed to human nature, which is too weak to resist the temptations to that sin; but we ought to bear him witness, that in all other respects he was one of extraordinary virtue.** (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews).

I couldn't have said it better myself. Josephus summarizes this perfectly? Yes, Samson had a blemish on the record. But looking at his life in totality, his bio, and his resume; this was a man of extraordinary virtue. This was a man of extraordinary faith where he doesn't turn and curse God, but he calls upon His name. This is why the writer of Hebrews includes him in chapter 11 in the Hall of Faith.

With that being said, I want to move on to the second to last name on our list in Hebrews chapter 11, and that is Samuel. We talked about the symmetry which exists between Samuel and Samson; it is uncanny. Both were to be dedicated to the LORD from birth. Both were Nazirites. They had to take a Nazirite vow which included never putting a razor to their head or drinking any wine. Both of them were raised up as deliverers. Both of them judged Israel. However, when we talk about Samuel, there are some things which are extremely unique to him alone. This man has his own special category, if you will. What I mean by this is Samuel wasn't just a Judge of Israel. What we're told is Samuel judged Israel his entire life. But it even goes beyond that. We're told he was the last Judge of Israel.



Think about that, because it is significant. Samuel was the last judge. He wasn't just the last Judge of Israel as they moved from the period of judges into the period of the kings, Samuel was the bridge. He was the conduit. Samuel was the guy who went out and anointed the first King of Israel, King Saul. But he didn't just do that, he also is responsible for anointing the second King of Israel, King David. David was the ultimate king. So Samuel is extraordinary. Putting him in the Hall of Faith is a given. Out of all the biblical characters, this is one of the first guys who should naturally come to our minds.

He wasn't just a judge. He wasn't just the last judge, but he was also a Prophet. This man, from his youth, literally heard the voice of God as you're hearing my voice right now. That is how he heard the LORD. The LORD literally spoke audibly into his ear. That is mind-blowing!

Keep in mind he had to learn the voice of the LORD. It took time. He had to learn it. But he knew the voice of the LORD. The LORD could just whisper in his ear, speak to him in his ear, and that was it. It was over.

Think about the kind of relationship this man has with the Living God. Not only that, but this man has priesthood like qualities. We know he is of the tribe of Levi, but he's descending from Kohath. He's a Levite.

But it goes beyond that. There are some interesting things we are told about him such as Samuel wore a linen ephod. This is something that only the priest wore, yet Samuel wore this. We could look at all these amazing things about Samuel and realize why he is a titan considered in the list of titans of the faith. You just read about him, and your mind will be blown!

To help you in that area, I just briefly want to give you a little taste of Samuel because he is such a beautiful template of who we need to be in this generation. He is the guy we should desire to emulate.

With that said, let's break into this. I want to take you to 1 Samuel 7:3—**Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you....** (Emphasis added).

The first thing we read is Samuel is calling the people to return to the LORD. You need to get rid of your sin. Clean up your house. Get the leaven out of your houses. This compares to what we do at Passover. We get the sin out of our houses; we get the sin out of our hearts, right?

Samuel continues in 7:3—**and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."** (Emphasis added).

Now, one of the things I appreciate about Samuel more than anything is the fact he was one of the first great revivalists. I mean, we could talk about John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, Billy Graham, and Charles Finney. We could go on and on and on regarding all these great revivalists who flipped the world upside down and who bore such awesome fruit.

One of the first, real revivalists who bore incredible fruit is Samuel. What was his ministry? The first thing we just read in Judges chapter 7 is that he goes out and is turning people back to God. He is telling the people, "You need to turn back to the LORD. You need to abandon your sin. You need to abandon your gods. Get rid of this stuff and get your heart right with the LORD." And as all great revivalists have

done, he gives them hope and motivation. He tells them—**He will deliver you.** You will have salvation. This is an awesome revivalist! Samuel is this guy!

I want to share a quote with you from Charles Finney. This is what he said—**Revival comes from heaven when heroic souls entered the conflict determined to win or die—if need be, to win and die.** This is Samuel! This is a heroic figure. He has risen up, and he is not worried about dying. His focus is about winning souls for the kingdom. He was about turning back his brothers, Israel, from wickedness because they were called by God to serve Him.

Think about the end of the book of James where James is turning them back from wickedness. You can look at the end of the book of James, or 2 Timothy, or what Paul says in Galatians 6. If you see somebody in sin, you have to turn them back. This is the call. This is what true revivalists do. They go out and steal from the kingdom of the devil. The devil doesn't like that. If there is something he does not like, that means we should love it.

So how successful was this great revivalist, Samuel? In 1 Samuel 7:4-5, we read—**So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.** That's revival. They are responding to the Gospel. They are responding to repentance. They are responding to the call to serve only Him. That means they are going to keep His commandments. That means the commands are going to be put in their heart and they're going to walk them out. They're going to speak truth in love.

Continuing—<sup>5</sup> **And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."** There is something every authentic revivalist does. I mean, across the board this is something they all do. They completely give themselves over to prayer. If you look at all the great revivalists in history, you can find a common denominator. That denominator is intercessory prayer.

Charles Spurgeon states the following worth quoting—**Oh! men and brethren, what would this heart feel if I could but believe there were some among you who would go home and pray for revival.** You have no idea how this man resonates with my heart—if that they could just go home and pray for revival. But listen to what he says as he goes on—**men whose faith is large enough and their love fiery enough to lead them from this moment to exercise unceasing intercession that God would appear among us and do wondrous things here, as in the times of former generations.** (Emphasis added).

In other words, go back to these stories we read in scripture. We should be praying for these things constantly, as he says here, with unceasing intercessions. Well, here's the thing. In our story, this is what Samuel does. This is who he is. As you look at what he's doing for Israel, he is interceding for them constantly.

Now, moving on to 1 Samuel 7:6 we read this—**So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.** (Emphasis added).

You have everything you need for true revival right here. You have brokenness of heart and humility. You have confession of sin. You have praying; you have fasting. Everything you need to ignite revival is right here. This is how you do it. This is so awesome!

When you look at this in 1 Samuel 7, this all started because one man, who was stirred and had tremendous faith, whose heart yearned for restoration, went out and started revival. It can happen when you have that anointing, dedication, and you are praying without ceasing. This can happen.

1 Samuel 7:7—**Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.**

Now the enemy is enraged. This is last thing he wants to happen. So he wants to press in, stir, and cause fear. But how does Israel respond? If there's a lesson for us today, listen to this in verse 8—**So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."** (Emphasis added).

There are a couple things I want to mention here. Notice the response from the children of Israel isn't, "Samuel, we need swords. We need better technology for weaponry. We need to have better placement on the battlefield. We need to get prepared. We need to start training the youth for war. We need to train our women so that we can fight in this war." None of this is said. Their answer to war was prayer.

I don't need to read anything else. I know how the story is going to end. This is such a lesson for us today. Is this our way? Is this our response when everything starts to fall apart? When Corona Virus is going ballistic throughout the globe, and it is killing people, is our response social distancing?

That's ridiculous! I don't want to get into it. Forgive me. The response should be prayer. The airwaves should be filled with the name of Jesus, the name of Yeshua. We should be hearing over the airwaves that we need to turn back and repent. You know, we have some crazy things happening. We are on the brink of our economy collapsing. I know what we need to do. We need to pray.

However, I don't see that happening right now. We have congresswomen basically mocking The National Day of Prayer. They are basically saying, "F National Day of Prayer." Prayer is not the attitude I am seeing. Now certainly there are some within the halls of Congress who are responding like this story we see in 1 Samuel, but I'm not seeing that as a whole.

However, in our story, what do we read Israel is doing? Calling out to the LORD, and that is what is going to win a war. That's going to win an unbeatable war. What Israel is experiencing is not simply Philistines in the flesh. This is a demonic. This is a demonic war with real demons. Real evil spirits, agents of Satan, moving about. So if you want to win this war, you have to go to the spiritual realm. You must go to the throne room of God and petition God. Therefore, Israel comes to Samuel and says—**Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us.**

It is interesting what James says in James 5:16—**...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** Israel actually believes that.

It is interesting because they don't command Samuel saying, "Hey, Samuel, could you just go and say a quick prayer for us before we go into this battle." No! That is not what they said. They said—**Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us that He may save us.** In other words, don't you stop praying until we're delivered. This is the same as Israel and Moses, "Moses. Don't you dare put your arms down until Israel has been saved." This is the reality. This is the power of prayer. This is a radical revival. The

fire of the Living God is burning in their hearts. They know the power of prayer, and the only thing that is going to lead them into victory is—you are not stopping until we have deliverance. Prayer is the only thing that's going to deliver them. And I love the last line—**that He may save us from the hands of the Philistines**. They believed they could be saved! This whole story is incredible!

I want to jump ahead quickly so we can see Samuel's response to this situation. 1 Samuel 12:23—**Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.** (Emphasis added). In other words, Samuel is a true revivalist, a true man of God, and a warrior for the King of kings and the LORD of lords. He knows this is in his heart. He can't stop interceding. He can't stop praying.

Do you know who I've read about in the New Testament who is like this? Someone outside of Yeshua who obviously is our Kohen and always an intercessor for us? Paul. Read his epistles. He keeps telling all these different people whether from Ephesus or Philippi or elsewhere that they are always in his prayers. This is a man of God. He never stops praying for the body of Christ. This is constant. So the Apostle Paul, a warrior, was immersed or engaged in warfare all the time. His heart bled for his people; for the people of Yeshua, Jew and Gentile. This is an awesome thing to realize.

So, as we look at 1 Samuel 7:8, and we read—**do not cease to cry out to the LORD, Our God for us**—this is the answer. But we need men who are willing to do this. We need men who are willing to do this without ceasing. We need men who actually believe in the power of prayer.

If we are going to have revival, if we're going to thrive as a community of Yeshua, we're going to have to get radical in our faith. We can thrive during all this craziness, adversity, people terrified, fear, and people losing their minds and being completely filled with anger and wrath. We can thrive in this environment if we enter into this mentality of not ceasing to cry out to the Lord. We need to get armed to the teeth.

Now continuing in 1 Samuel 7:9—**And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, (He's interceding) and the LORD answered him.** My prayer is, may the Lord raise up thousands of Samuels in this generation because we need them.

1 Samuel 7:10-12—**Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.** <sup>11</sup> **And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.** (Beth Car means House of the Lamb) <sup>12</sup> **Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."**

So Israel received total deliverance because they trusted in God; they were broken in heart. They were humble. They had faith. Samuel, being a true and faithful servant of the Living God, being a man of faith, intercedes, and the whole thing results in victory. This is the template. Samuel is the template. Israel, in this chapter, is the template for us today.

As a side note, I want to talk about this term Ebenezer, אֶבְנֵי הַדְּעִיזָר, and its meaning in the Hebrew. Again, this story is filled with Messianic inferences all over the place. Here they are given victory, and then Samuel walks around picking up stones and names one of them Ebenezer. How weird is that? It's not

something you would do unless there's a specific purpose and spiritual depth to it. And there is, because when you look at this term אֶבֶן הָעֵזֶר, Ebenezer, it means *stone of the help*. So why is that term significant? Because that's a term for the Mashiach. The Mashiach is considered repeatedly in the writings of the Prophets to be *the stone*. We read in Isaiah 8 that Mashiach would be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. In Psalm 118 we read, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone." And Isaiah 28 says, "Behold, He lays in Zion a precious stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone."

So all over the place we see these Messianic inferences, and the Mashiach is identified as אֶבֶן הָעֵזֶר. And we have Samuel taking this stone and ascribing this name אֶבֶן הָעֵזֶר, the *stone of the help*. This obviously signifies where this victory comes from. It ultimately comes from Yeshua. And the Father has placed within all these passages the truth, the redemption which His Son would bring.

Going back to the story in 1 Samuel 7:13—**So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.** Now think about it? Can you ascribe any greater glory to a man than the LORD totally routed all the enemies of Israel during Samuel's reign as judge? That is an awesome thought. So when you think about whether or not Samuel should have been included in Hebrews 11, the answer is, absolutely! This is an awesome man of faith. He was a man of prayer; a man who was faithful.

In 1 Samuel 7:14, we read this—**Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.** (Emphasis added). Now, I love this part of it. Israel gained victory against the enemy, but they also restored what they lost.

It's in these moments you look at the beautiful mercy of God. There may have been things you have lost in this life, that the enemy has taken, because of your disobedience to God. Know this: this can be restored. You may think you have committed a sin that has taken you too far. You may respond to what I just said by saying, "Well Daniel, I'm sorry. That's too far. I went too far. This can't be dealt with." Yes, it can! He can restore the cleanness of who you once were or who you desire to be in Yeshua today. He will restore all cleanness and purge all iniquity from your life.

You must believe it because unless you believe that you're not going to get it. You're not going to pray. You're not going too fast. You're not going to turn from your wicked ways. You're just going to keep going in this circle of sinning; you proclaim with your mouth, but then you just continue to sin. The only way you break out of that is by being men and women of faith and saying, "I do believe He can forgive me. I do believe I can have a clean slate by my confession and by turning from sin. Though my sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.

I want to finish up today's message by taking you to the Apocrypha Book of Sirach. This is, if you will, the companion book to Hebrews 11. This Book of Sirach has a list of the Hall of Faith that is so like what is found in the Book of Hebrews, and the writer talks about Samuel.

So, I want to take you there and show you what the writer of the Book of Sirach has to say about Samuel. It's really powerful. He begins in Sirach 46:13—**Samuel was loved by the LORD.**

Isn't that interesting? The first thing the writer states and gets the recognition of being placed above all things, is the beautiful truth that the LORD loved him. I must tell you when you understand the love

God has for you, when you understand the love Yeshua has for you, that understanding will radically transform everything. But again, you have to believe it, and it's true. John 3:16—**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.** Yeshua didn't die for nothing. He didn't die just to make an interesting statement. He died out of love. And when you can receive that, it will transform your life. Looking at this, is why we need to emulate our lives after Samuel. This is so powerful to see him as a man of God and loved by His Lord.

Personally, that's what I desire. I just need to accept it. The truth is there. The truth has already happened. He's already died. And we love Him because He first loved us, right? We just have to respond.

Continuing with the same verse— **As the LORD's Prophet he established the kingdom and appointed rulers for the people.** (Emphasis added).

Now, again, you couldn't use stronger language regarding sing the praises, the accolades, of a man who followed the LORD than this—**he established the Kingdom.** In other words, he was a revivalist. He went out and revived the people with the truth of the LORD. He gave the calling to come back. My heart is burdened for that reality, especially living in this generation.

Book of Sirach 46:14—**By the law of the LORD he judged the congregation, and the LORD watched over Jacob.** This is fascinating because if you want to know how to tell a true Prophet from a false Prophet, it's right here. A true Prophet will only go out and speak that which is found in the Torah; he will only go out and speak the words of our Lord Yeshua. He will not derive from his own will. In fact, false Prophets are identified throughout scripture in the sense that they will go out and teach rebellion. Jeremiah talks about how the false Prophets went out and taught how to trust in lies. Whereas a true Prophet won't tell you what you want to hear. A true Prophet is not simply going to give you a nice, wonderful motivational speech that makes you feel all warm inside so you can go to sleep that night. No! They're going to rock your world. They're going to come bringing conviction. They're going to come bringing the heat of the LORD, and that will radically charge them so that they have strength and Godly fear to turn back and repent. That's what's going to happen.

I think about Isaiah 8:20—**To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**

Samuel, a true Prophet. What did he teach? He taught the Law of the LORD. This wasn't his opinion. He didn't go out and teach that you were going to have peace and it would be okay even though you walk according to the dictates of your own hearts. He did not say, "Don't worry about it because God is loving and gracious. He is so merciful. Don't worry; you can continue to sin."

So, while it's true God is loving, merciful, and gracious, you can't mix that into the context of willfully going out and sinning because He will forgive you. You will face the judgment for certain. It is an absolute, biblical fact.

So again, Samuel is the ultimate template for us to act as true Prophets; to go out to draw from Torah, and draw from Yeshua, His words, His teachings. Especially Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7. These are the greatest commentary on the Torah the world has ever known. This is the most accurate, the most profound commentary, you will ever read. It is incredible!

Moving on to the Book of Sirach 46:15—**by his faithfulness**. What do men of faith do? If we're going to be considered great men of faith, what will we do? We will be faithful. Faith is not an idea. It's not simply a concept. It is an action.

Book of Sirach 46:15—**And by his** (Samuel's) **faithfulness. He was proved to be a Prophet.** (emphasis added) Now think about that. That's such a bizarre thing because you can go to the Torah, and it will tell you that if a Prophet speaks a word and it doesn't come to pass, then you know he's not a true Prophet. But if it does come to pass, then you know he's a true Prophet. The writer is so careful with his words, whereas, you can tell if someone is a Prophet simply by him saying something and it comes to pass. Is that all there is to it? No! It's more than that.

Now he is kind of piggybacking on Deuteronomy 13, which says a Prophet can come out and give you a prophecy, and it can even come to pass, but if he's telling you something such as you need to walk away from the God, then you're not to listen to them. The LORD, your God is testing you. So even when something comes to pass, if they're leading you out of the Commandments of God, they are a false Prophet.

So the writer is being careful with his words in recognizing Samuel has proved himself as a true Prophet in his faithfulness because he's walking in the very things he is preaching. This is awesome!

Picking up again in the Book of Sirach 46:16—**and by his word, he became known as a trustworthy Seer.** <sup>16</sup>**He called upon the Lord, the mighty one.** (Emphasis added). He didn't go to the hills and call upon, Baal; he doesn't call upon Molech, and he doesn't call upon Dagon. He calls upon the one true King, the King of Israel.

Continuing—**when his enemies pressed him on every side, and he offered in sacrifice, a suckling lamb.** What is the writer drawing from in Sirach as he thinks of Samuel? He's drawing from the passage we read today in 1 Samuel 7.

Book of Sirach 46:17-19—**Then the Lord thundered from heaven and made His voice heard with a mighty sound; <sup>18</sup>He subdued the leaders of the enemy and all the rulers of the Philistines. <sup>19</sup>Before the time of his eternal sleep, Samuel bore witness, before the LORD and His anointed: "No property, not so much as a pair of shoes, have I taken from anyone!" And no one accused him.**

Now, listen to this. This is interesting. You want to talk about a man being extremely unique, kind of having a category of his own, then read what it says next in the Book of Sirach 46:20—**Even after he had fallen asleep, he prophesied and made known to the king (meaning Saul) his death.** Remember, we kind of covered this already in this series in 1 Samuel 28 where Saul gets a medium to raise Samuel from the dead, and it happens. But what did Samuel say when that happened? He told Saul, "Tomorrow you and your sons are going to be with me." And so the writer of Sirach recognized that Samuel was off the hook, and he is still prophesying even after his death.

Finishing verse 20—**and lifted up his voice from the ground in prophecy, to blot out the wickedness of the people.**

So there you have it. You have Samuel the Prophet; you have Samuel the one who carried priest-like qualities. You have Samuel, the judge; you have Samuel, the revivalist. You have Samuel, the faithful;

you have Samuel, the man of faith. You can understand why the writer of Hebrews would include him in the Hall of Faith.