

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

YOU BE THE JUDGE: A SERIES ON THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Lesson Eight = The Strongest Man Alive

Judges 13:1-16:31

Introduction: Many of the judges were separated early on as leaders among God's people. But Samson was special. The Bible reveals his miraculous birth and calling. Samson was separated to God from birth and fulfillment of God's purpose for their existence depended upon accepting that calling. How do you defeat the world's strongest human? Find his weakness. What was Samson's weakest point? Let's study together

Discussion:

I. The Demise of the Israelites (13:1)

- A. Sin: The Sons of Israel Again Did Evil (v.1a, cf. 10:6).
- B. Slavery: The Philistines, 40 Years (v.1b).
- C. Sorrow: None (v.1b, cf. 15:11).

II. The Birth of Samson (13:2-25)

- A. The Angel's First Visit (vs.2-8)
 - 1. His target (vs.2)
 - 2. Her report (vs.6-7)
 - 3. Manoah's skepticism (vs.8)
- B. The Angel's Second Visit (vs.9-22)
 - 1. His reappearance (vs.9-14)
 - 2. His "Wonders" (vs.15-22)
- C. The Angel's Gift (vs.23-25)
 - 1. Their (vs.23)
 - 2. Their obedience (vs.24-25)
 - 3. The requirements (Numbers 6:1-8)
 - (a) Appetite (vs.4, 7, 14)
 - (b) Appearance (vs.5)
 - (c) Associations

III. The Rise of Samson (14:1-15:20)

- A. Samson's First Marriage (14:1-11)
 - 1. The Timnite love (vs.1-4)
 - 2. The lion and the honey (vs.5-11)
- B. Samson's Divorce (14:12-20)
 - 1. The broken riddle (vs.12-18)
 - 2. The disrupted wedding (vs.19-20)
- C. Samson's Enemies (15:1-20)
 - 1. The lost bride (vs.1-3)
 - 2. Torched crops (vs.4-8)
 - 3. A great slaughter (vs.9-20)

IV. The Fall of Samson (16:1-22)

- A. Samson's Lust (vs.1-22)
 - 1. The Gaza harlot (vs.1-3)
 - 2. The betrayal by Delilah (vs.4-16)
- B. Samson's Mistake (vs.17-20)
 - 1. The revelation (vs.17-18)
 - 2. The sorrow (vs.20)
- C. Samson's Imprisonment (vs.21-22)

V. The Death of Samson (16:23-31)

- A. Samson's Disgrace (vs.23-27)
- B. Samson's Revenge (vs.28-30)
- C. Samson's Burial (v.31)

Conclusion: There are so many lessons to learn from this story: (1) If we are separated to God, we will be different. (2) Samson, like Israel, was blinded by lust because he failed to understand the difference between lust and love. (3) It's never too late for God's people to repent, pray for God's presence, and allow God to have control. Unfortunately, the stories of valiance and heroics have come to an end in the book of Judges. What happens next? We will see