

JUDGES: STRATEGY AND TACTICS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

SAMSON VERSUS THE PHILISTINES

CHAPTERS 13:1-16:31 (ALL BIBLE QUOTES NIV OR SPECIFIED)

FAMILY	FIRST WIFE		TWO WOMEN
<p>13:1 Israel does evil.</p> <p>The Lord sells them into the hands of the Philistines.</p>	<p>14:1-4 Samson wants a young Philistine woman in Timnah. His parents object to the uncircumcised Philistines. The Lord was looking for an occasion against the Philistines.</p>	<p>15:1-3 Samson takes a goat to his wife. Her father said he thought he hated her and gave her to a friend. Would Samson like her younger sister? Samson gets angry and gets even!</p>	<p>16:1-3 Samson visits a prostitute in Gaza. They surround Gaza to kill him at dawn. He rips up and takes the gates and bars up to Hebron hill.</p>
<p>13:2-5 The angel of the Lord tells Manoah's sterile wife she will have a boy. He would be a Nazirite, not drink wine, not touch the unclean, and no razor was to cut his hair. He would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines.</p>	<p>14:5-7 Samson and his parents go to Timnah. He kills a lion as the Spirit empowers, but he did not tell his parents. Samson likes the woman.</p>	<p>15:4-5 Samson sends 300 fox with firebrands to burn Philistine wheat, vineyards and olive groves.</p>	<p>16:4-5 Samson loves Delilah in Sorek. The 5 lords of the Philistines offer her 5500 shekels of silver to discover the secret of Samson's strength.</p>
<p>13:6-7 The woman tells Manoah the news and he asks why she did not ask the angel his name.</p>	<p>14:8-9 Samson goes to marry the Philistine. He gives honey from the lion's carcass to parents but they don't know where it's from.</p>	<p>15:6-8 Who burned the fields? Samson did, for his wife was given to another. The Philistines burn the girl and her dad and Samson kills Philistines.</p>	<p>16:6-22 Delilah extracts his secret. She cuts his hair and the Lord leaves him. They blind him and he grinds wheat in Gaza. But his hair grows.</p>
<p>13:8-23 Manoah prayed and returned to meet the angel. They offer a goat and the angel goes up in the flame. Would they die? No, the angel accepted the offering.</p>	<p>14:10-19 At the feast Samson is given 30 companions. He tells the wedding guests a riddle and his wife extracts the answer from him. He kills 30 for their clothes as payment.</p>	<p>15:9-19 Judah gives Samson to the Philistines. At Lehi he kills 1000 with a donkey's jawbone. He cries for water and God opens a spring of water for his thirst.</p>	<p>16:23-30 The Philistines offer a great sacrifice to Dagon. Samson performs. He cries to the Lord and pulls down the temple destroying rulers and people. He kills more in his death than his life.</p>
<p>13:24-25 Samson is born. He grew and was blessed and the Spirit stirs in the Camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.</p>	<p>14:19b-20 Samson goes home angry.</p> <p>Samson's wife is given to best man.</p>	<p>15:20 Samson led Israel 20 years in the days of the Philistines.</p>	<p>16:31 His brothers and father's family bury him between Zorah and Eshtaol. He had led Israel 20 years.</p>

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LESSONS: Samson, 13:1 - 16:31

1. Samson was separated from Birth as a Nazirite, set apart especially for God. Samson (*shimshown*) - "like the sun", reminding us of the song of Deborah and Barak, 5:31, "... but may they who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength."
2. He was the strongest of the Judges in personal physical strength. He killed a lion with his bare hands. He killed 30 men of Ashkelon. He tied 300 foxes, two by two, tail to tail, with torches and burnt the Philistine fields. He slaughtered the Philistines. He slew 1000 with the jawbone of a donkey. He broke the ropes that bound him with ease. He pulled down the temple of Dagon.
3. Lowest of the whole lot of the Judges morally and spiritually. He touched unclean carcasses and did not destroy the Philistines as he should have until his death, and fought personal battles rather than the Lord's battles. He went after a Philistine woman, a prostitute and Delilah.
4. He killed more in his death than in his life. He got in God's way. God had to get rid of him. His strength got in God's way. God had to get him out of the way! The Philistines were not God's biggest problem in those days. Samson was the biggest problem. He had to go.
5. Our gifting and strength can also get in God's way. Our old man must die. The old nature in us is our biggest problem.
6. Samson's strength became more important than his separation to God. He gloried in his strength - not in God.
7. The touchstone of his strength was his separation. Without his separation he lost his strength.
8. Samson's attitude was selfish, childish and vengeful.
9. Mentioned in Hebrews for his faith. He believed in God but was not close to Him.
10. Another Nazirite had to take his place and fight the Philistines - Samuel. He was dedicated from birth. A hurt, praying, childless woman was promised a son. That was Hanna and she promised to the Lord in 1 Samuel 1:11, "I will give him to the Lord all his days and no razor will ever be used on his head." Samuel was a contrast to Eli and his sons, who were thieves and immoral priests. He had spiritual strength, not muscle strength. He had great victories over the Philistines.
11. Samson illustrates Christ. Jesus also died and had a greater victory in death than in his life. Jesus like Samson demonstrated mighty power. Jesus healed many, cast out demons, raised the dead and lived a completely holy life. But on the cross he conquered more enemies. Samson killed more in his death than in his life. The great difference is that Samson died for his own sins and Jesus died for, not his own sins, but for our sins.
12. Samson also illustrates the death of the old nature in us. The day we die the old nature dies. After death we no longer have to suffer the presence of the old nature.