

LIFE IN THE SIN CYCLE

(A Study in the Book of Judges)

Pembroke Bible Chapel
2012 January 8
Judges Message #13
Speaker: Don Axford

Samson (Judges 13)

BACKGROUND

- Because of Israel's sin, the Lord allowed the Philistines to oppress them for 40 years (*vs.1*).
- The Lord will begin to deliver Israel through Samson (*vs.5*).
- Samson will have great strength (*14:6, 19; 15:15; 16:3, 30*).
- Samson will also have great character flaws (*14:2,15; 15:12; 16:4,5*).

I. THE GREATNESS OF GOD

- God delights in doing the impossible
- The greater the impossibility of man, the greater God's result
- Many of great men in the Bible were born to mothers who were physically unable of having children apart from the power of God (*Gen.11:30; 25:21; 29:31; Jud. 13:2; 1 Sam. 1:2; Lk. 1:7*).

II. THE GLORY OF THE LORD

- The Angel of the Lord, who appears frequently in the Old Testament, is in reality the pre-incarnate Christ.
- He speaks authoritatively; His name is "wonderful"; and, He ascends in the flame of the offering (*vs.3, 18, 20; Acts 1:9*).
- He instructs Samson's mother what she must do in preparation for her son's birth; and tells her Samson will be a Nazarite from his birth (*vs.4, 5, 7, 14; Num.6*).

III. THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

- Samson is born and grows up under the favour of the Lord
- The Spirit of the Lord begins to work within him to accomplish the task God had set out for him (*vs. 24, 25*)

Application

God chose Samson to begin to deliver Israel from the oppression of the enemy. Even though Samson had many character flaws, his life was dedicated to the Lord and as such he could be used by the Lord. Many of the people in the Bible who were close to God and greatly used by Him also had character flaws. The Lord looks at the heart. He knows where our allegiance lies in spite of our failures. The question for you and I today – Am I devoted first and fully to the Lord? Is He the owner and controller of my life? Also let us not be quick to judge a person by behavior or appearance but consider that God may see him differently.

I. THE GREATNESS OF GOD

God delights in doing the impossible. He is the one who brings forth fruit from those who are unfruitful. Are you willing and able to trust Him to do impossible things in and through you?

II. THE GLORY OF THE LORD

The pre-incarnate Christ appears frequently in the Old Testament in all His glory. As the living Word of God, He reveals His plans and purposes for us. Are you listening to His voice through the written Word of God?

III. THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

If you are a born again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ this morning, you are indwelt by God Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit. It is He alone who empowers your life. It is He alone who gives you gifts of service. It is He alone who makes you a fruitful Christian. Do you believe this?