

LIFE IN THE SIN CYCLE

(A Study in the Book of Judges)

Pembroke Bible Chapel
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Judges Message #15
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OUT OF WEAKNESS MADE STRONG (SAMSON)

(Judges 16)

BACKGROUND (Judges 13-15)

- God chose Samson to be a Nazirite and to deliver Israel from the domination of the Philistines (13:5; Numbers 6:1-7).
- Samson's behaviour was characterized by worldly lusts, pride, rage and revenge; he did not honour his calling to be consecrated to God (14-15; 1 John 2:15-16).
- God is faithful to His Word; He empowered Samson to begin to subdue the Philistines (14:19; 15:14-15).

VICTORY OUT OF HUMAN WEAKNESS (Judges 16)

- Samson's carnal exploits continue; his desire for Delilah leads to his demise; God no longer empowers him (1-20).
- He is captured by the Philistines; blinded, bound and imprisoned (21);
 - no eyes to lust with;
 - no longer able to indulge himself in his sinful desires;
 - the "strong man" is now weak and humiliated.
- The Philistines and their leaders stage a great celebration to honour their god (Dagon) and to parade Samson (23-27).
- Samson calls out to God in faith; the Lord empowers him to triumph over the Philistines in an act of self-sacrifice (28-30; Hebrews 11:32-34).

REFLECTIONS ON SAMSON'S STORY

- Notwithstanding Samson's shortcomings, God is faithful – He empowered Samson to deliver Israel from their enemy.
- Weakness and humiliation preceded Samson's ultimate victory over the Philistines; this follows a great pattern in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 1:27-29; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10).
- Thus, Samson was patterned after the Lord Jesus Christ (humiliated, mocked, made weak, self-sacrificing, triumphant).

APPLICATION

There is a tremendous parallel between Samson and us. God has promised us victory over sin, death, Satan and hell (through the work of Jesus Christ). He has also promised a great inheritance to those who trust in Christ – we will be like Him (*Romans 8:28-29; 1 John 3:2*). As members of a fallen human race, we inevitably fall into sin (as did Samson). But God is faithful to His Word – our shortcomings will not keep Him from accomplishing His purpose. Our forgiveness through faith in Christ is guaranteed, as is God’s promise to pattern us after His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This patterning process may include rejection, suffering, weakness and humiliation, but will ultimately give way to Christ’s power and glory being revealed in us (*Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:10*).

“...out of weakness were made strong...” (Hebrews 11:34)

“...My strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

“..Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit...” (Zechariah 4:6)

*“...always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus,
that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”
(2 Corinthians 4:10)*

*“...the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be
compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”
(Romans 8:18)*