

Cherished Bible Stories

Lesson 15



A Story Of "Weak Strength" (Judges 13-16)

Introduction

Philistine domination over Israel continued to demonstrate God's displeasure with Israel's sinfulness during the period of *The Judges*. To rescue His people, God had in mind one who would possess great strength (both moral & physical) to lead them out of their oppression. However, Samson proved to be a man much like his times. For the most part, he was concerned with himself. No matter our "greatness"...unless we use it all for the glory of God, we will eventually become only a shadow of what we truly could be.

Read the story and be prepared to answer the following questions.

- 1) What was Israel's condition? (13:1)

- 2) What was the first "sign" of God's answer to Israel's oppression? (13:2-5) What was the Lord's instructions re: this child? (13:5)

- 3) Research: find all you can about the Nazirite vow. (Num. 6)

- 4) What commendable parental attitudes did Manoah & his wife possess? (13:8-12)

- 5) What early indication do we have that Samson appeared to be "governed" by more than the Nazirite vow? (14:1-2) How did his parents respond? (14:3a) Thought question: what applications can modern-day parents make of this re: their own children?

Cherished Bible Stories

Lesson 15

- 6) What was Samson's reply? (14:3b) How does this illustrate the "inappropriate criteria" many use in selecting a spouse?

- 7) What "providential fact" is revealed in 14:4? Do you see any difficulty in harmonizing all this with Deut. 7:1-4? (cp. Josh. 13:2-3)

- 8) What did Samson do in 14:5-9? Does this present any problems for one supposed to be governed by the Nazirite vow? (cp. Lev. 11:27) *Thought question:* why didn't he tell his parents?

- 9) What was Samson's conduct in 14:10? [Note: Hebrew word for "feast" = drinking feast] Does this present any problems for one supposed to be governed by the Nazirite vow?

- 10) What conduct is recorded in 16:1-3? How does this behavior harmonize with Num. 6:8?

- 11) What begins to be recorded in 16:4? Does this indicate a "weakness" on Samson's part?

- 12) What happens in 16:5-17? How does this "association" show a lack of wisdom on Samson's part? (cp. 1 Cor. 15:33)

Cherished Bible Stories

Lesson 15

13) What “dangerous moment” is recorded in **16:19a**? What happened as a result? (**16:19b-21**)

Thought question: can you think of any modern-day equivalents to Delilah’s lap?

14) What is recorded in **16:22**? Do you think this indicated anything significant?

15) How did Samson’s life end? (**16:23-30**) Would you describe the end as “promising” (like the great plans God & his parents had for him), or “pitiful” (in that he was reduced to a blind slave because of what he allowed to happen to him)?