

THE FIERCE JUDGE IN ISRAEL

Introduction: The story of Samson is difficult to evaluate because he had such contradictions in his life. He judged Israel, but failed to judge himself. He destroyed many Philistine men that enslaved Israel, but was destroyed by several Philistine women that enslaved him. He was physically strong, but morally weak. Samson's spiritual problems began with disregard for his parents, who wanted him to obey the laws of the LORD. When he overruled the objection of his parents to marry the daughter of a Philistine (14:2, 3), he actually overruled the LORD and His authority about marriage to an unbeliever. It was not long before Samson disregarded other laws of the LORD (cf. 14:8-9 with Num 6:6-9). The binding, blinding and grinding power of sin (16:21) is a testimony to the tragic end of a believer who let his fleshly nature rule his life. It is a warning to all believers that willful sin has a weighty price to pay.

Lesson Aim: Be dead to the flesh and its weaknesses, but alive unto God and His strengths.

Memory Verse: "Likewise reckon also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:11).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:**I. Samson Dedicated to the LORD — 13:1-25**

1. How long did the LORD use the Philistines to afflict Israel for its sin against Him? 13:1
2. Name two promises that the angel of the LORD gave to Manoah's wife. 13:3, 5
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. How long would Samson be a Nazarite to God? 13:7
4. Name two spiritual traits that Manoah revealed when he wanted to meet the "man of God" 13:8
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. What caused Manoah and his wife to fall on their faces? 13:20
6. How did Manoah display spiritual discernment? 13:21-23

II. Samson Defied His Parents — 14:1-4

7. What was the reason that Samson defied his parents' counsel? 14:1-3
8. Why did the LORD allow Samson to do this wrong, when Samson disobeyed His will? 14:4

III. Samson Disregarded God's Laws — 14:5-18

9. Why did the Spirit of the LORD come mightily on Samson? 14:6
10. Name at least one way Samson disobeyed the LORD. 14:8; cf Num 6:6
11. How did the LORD discipline Samson at his marriage of a Philistine? 14:11-18

IV. Samson Destroyed Many Philistines — 14:19-15:20

12. Tell why the Spirit of the LORD came mightily on Samson on two occasions? 14:19; 15:14-16

V. Samson Dabbled with Sin — 16:1-22

13. How did Delilah find the secret to Samson's strength? 16:15-17
14. Name some things that Samson lost when he told Delilah the secret of his strength. 16:19-21

VI. Samson Died In Captivity — 16:23-31

15. How did Samson die? 16:28-30
16. What was the great spiritual characteristic of Samson? Heb 11:32-33