



# SAMSON: *Israel's last judge*

---

Judges 13-16

Reading: 13:1-5; 24-25; 16:17-20

# The Times

---

- ❑ Israel did evil – *national sin* (13:1)
- ❑ Under the Philistines for forty years (13:1)
- ❑ Samson led (judged) for twenty years (15:20 & 16:31)

# Samson – specially chosen by God

---

- ❖ **Plan**: God + Samson partnership, working together
- ❖ **Born**: to a childless couple, mother had special conditions
- ❖ **Set aside**: to be a Nazarite for his whole life (13:5)
- ❖ **But** his emotions over-rode being led by the Spirit

# God and Samson

# 13:5 Dedicated to God from the womb

# 13:13 God-directed rearing

---

# 13:24 blessed by God

# 13:25 the Spirit stirred him

# 14:19 the Spirit came powerfully

# 15:14 the Spirit came powerfully

***BUT Samson had not partnered adequately with God***

# 16:20 The LORD had left him

# What is a Nazarite?

- A Nazarite is not a Nazarene

---

- Listed out in Numbers 6:1-21
- Meaning: “to separate, consecrate, abstain” (NBD)
  - ✓ *Abstain from wine, intoxicating drinks etc*
  - ✓ *No haircuts*
  - ✓ *Stay away from dead bodies & unclean food*
- Normally for a period of time
- Samson & Samuel; maybe John the Baptist & James

# Breaking the Nazarite vow

---

1. Vineyards (14:5)
2. Touching a carcass (14:8)
3. Eating unclean food (14:9)
4. Haircut (16:18)

# Four women

---

1. His mother – doting (13:2)
2. His first wife – he saw (14:1-8) *[see also 15:2]*
3. The prostitute – he saw (16:1)
4. His wife, Delilah – he loved (16:4)

# Four “secrets”

---

1. Tied with fresh bowstrings (16:7)
2. Tied with new ropes (16:11)
3. Braided hair (16:13)
4. The haircut - final breaking of the Nazarite vow (16:7)



# What went wrong?

---

- 🌀 He saw (14:1 *[see 14:7]* & 16:1)
- 🌀 His emotions overruled his obedience to God
- 🌀 Emotions or Spirit-led?
  - *Where is God in this?*
  - *Is it best for me or others?*
  - *Does it focus on me or others?*

# Sin statements

---

- x Sin blinds, then binds then grinds
- x Sin will take you further than what you want to go; keep you longer than you want to stay; cost you more than you want to pay
- x It is easier to deal with the temptation than the aftermath of sin

# Samson's return (16:28)

---

- Samson is at the end of his rope! [Sermon 17.09.23]
- Samson prayed...

*Samson called out to the LORD, "Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Please strengthen me just this once, God, so that I may get full revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes!"*

**Judges ends badly: (21:25)**

*"At that time there was no king in Israel. People did whatever they felt like doing."*

# My “vow” with Jesus

---

## 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (Amplified Version)

*<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is within you, whom you have [received as a gift] from God, and that you are not your own [property]? <sup>20</sup> You were bought with a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own]. So then, honour and glorify God with your body.*



I had a  
dream...

---



**God + me in  
partnership**

---

**God will do His  
part;  
I need to do mine!**