

SAMSON

BC Youth Conference 2018 Workbook

**DYING
TO SIN**

*Living to
Righteousness*



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WORKBOOK INTRODUCTION

January 2018

Dear young person,

We are excited that you have chosen to undertake this study which spans an important period of history for Israel and in which we will find many powerful principles and lessons applicable to ourselves.

We'll be looking at two contrasting characters. One who is notable for his continual failures in sin, the other who is distinguished for his life-long integrity. One who provides deliverance through incredible bouts of strength without any help from his countrymen, the other who provides deliverance through leadership and bringing the whole nation together in repentance before God. Yet, while contrasting, both are given as examples of acting by faith, and both are incredible types of Christ, having a unique connection in their births and lives, and in the case of Samson, to Christ's death. We believe both Samson & Samuel will be in the Kingdom (Heb. 11:32,39-40), and in the study of these two we will learn powerful lessons, both what we should and should not do which if we apply to ourselves will help us to join them in the Kingdom of God. The great conflict of their days was against the Philistines who we will see typify Sin, and so in them we will recognize the great conflict of our own lives as we seek to overcome the Philistine in ourselves.

We'll be looking at the whole life of Samson, but only the beginning of Samuel's life till he becomes the judge and brings the nation to repentance. Part of looking at these two is also the study of some incredible women of faith, their mothers, from whom too we can gain some powerful lessons.

But you are probably wondering, why look at both Samson and Samuel, instead of focusing on just one? As we will identify at the beginning of the workbook, they actually live very close together, even concurrently for part of their lives. Samson's God-given purpose was to begin the deliverance of Israel from the Philistines, and it was Samuel who completes it. There are also the clear & unique connections to Christ from Samson & Samuel which we will explore in detail, and there must be a reason for that. We believe a significant part of the reason is that between these two characters we see the principles of putting sin to death and living to God (1 Pet. 2:24, Rom. 8:13) which are seen in perfection in Christ. Samson, in whose life God highlights the struggle against sin and shows what must be done to sin, as in Samson's death he in type puts sin (the Philistines) to death. And Samuel, who throughout his life, displays what it's like to consistently live to God and to righteousness. Later in his life he stands before the nation and when asked, they can find no fault in him.

We will look into this in much more detail as we get into the study, and let you be convinced in your own mind.

THE WORKBOOK

The workbook is made up of three sections:

1. An introduction with the background to the times of Samson & Samuel
2. A study of the birth and life of the character Samson from Judges 13-16
3. A study of the birth and early life of the character Samuel from 1 Samuel 1-3, along with some brief highlights of his life in 1 Sam. 7 & 12.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION

The discussion format at Youth Conference can be an extremely effective means of promoting the useful exchange of scriptural principles, and of encouraging one another in their application. This model depends for its success on all participants coming to Youth Conference prepared. **Completion of your workbook is essential** to promote profitable discussion.

Please ensure that the workbook in its entirety is completed in advance of the conference.

GOING DEEPER

This workbook will take you through the study of Samson & Samuel, but we encourage you to go deeper in your own study. Think about the questions and expand on them. Perhaps think of your own questions and find answers to them. While it's necessary that you complete this workbook and you will find great value in it, don't constrain your study to the workbook alone.

EFFECTING CHANGE

The effect of going through this workbook, as with all our Bible reading and study, must be to make changes in your life. So as you go through this study, apply the principles and lessons to your own life, and commit to effecting change so that you can be more of a reflection of God.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Audio Class Series

- Samson by Bro. Ron Kidd
- Samson by Bro. John Martin
- Samson by Bro. Jim Cowie
- Hannah the Handmaid of the Lord – Roger Lewis
- Samuel by Bro. Ken Styles
- Samuel by Bro. John Martin



Reading Material

- Better is He Who Rules his Spirit – C.S.S.S Book by Bro. Ron Abel on Samson
- Samuel the Seer – Book by Bro. Michael Ashton
- Christadelphian magazine articles
- Online Bible or E-Sword – free downloadable Bible software programs

We would like to thank all those who helped review and edit this workbook, particularly Bro. Alex Boiko.

May our Heavenly Father bless your study of His word, that you may gain a greater understanding of these two characters and those around them, and glean the powerful lessons for us that God has given in their lives.

Your fellow Bible student, by grace,

Bro. Josh Bartholomew – joshbartholomew@gmail.com

We have compiled a number of useful suggestions and study tips from the introduction sections of previous Youth Conference workbooks. Come back to this page periodically throughout the study for reminders.

BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

YOUR BIBLE: Questions and references are from the KJV, but a few different reputable translations such as RSV or NASB or Rotherham's would be helpful to have around to compare passages with.



MARGINAL REFERENCES: If your Bible has marginal references, these are great resources. The *Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge* provides even more references.

CONCORDANCE: Strong's, Englishman's, and BDB. Englishman's is particularly useful when you want to find all the places that word/number occurs and the actual English word translated in every case. Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Definitions (BDB) which is used by Online Bible is also very helpful as it often gives more complete meanings.

COMPUTER & ONLINE TOOLS: Bible software like Libronix, e-Sword (www.e-sword.net) or Online Bible. You can download all kinds of versions and dictionaries. Websites like www.blueletterbible.com have many resources as well.

STUDY TIPS

Many have found the following three-step approach extremely helpful for Bible study:

STEP 1 – Find the Facts

STEP 2 – Establish the Principle

STEP 3 – Apply the Exhortation



Following this process ensures that we first do a thorough background study (*'finding the facts'*); that we then tie together these facts and from them develop spiritual principles (*'establishing the principle'*); and finally that we consider how these principles apply to and affect our lives (*'applying the exhortation'*).

ASK QUESTIONS

Asking questions is one of the best ways to find deeper levels in Bible study. The workbook will guide you through a whole host of questions – but make sure you're constantly asking questions of your own, and searching for the answers! Bring the fruits of your own questions with you to Youth Conference.

BALANCE OF PERSONAL AND GROUP STUDY

Study groups are a good way to get motivated, and share lessons, insights and discoveries. They also are a fun and rewarding fellowship opportunity. Having said that, it is important that we develop the habit and skill in *personal* Bible Study. Be sure you have some balance in this area of your Youth Conference preparations.

BIBLE MARKING Don't forget to Bible mark any neat points you discover. You're going to make some amazing discoveries – preserve them in your Bible margin!

ASK FOR HELP! If you're having trouble answering (or understanding!) a question, mark it and come back later. If you still are unable to make any progress, confer with a friend or ask someone for help! Feel free to contact the email on the previous page.

PRAY Make sure to begin your studies in prayer.

INTRODUCTION

PERIOD OF THE JUDGES

Samson & Samuel finished the period of the judges, with Samuel ushering in the period of the kings. This time of judges came after Joshua and the elders of his generation fell asleep. It was a period full of darkness but also great deliverance. In this first section of the introduction we will consider this Period of the Judges, and in particular look at the tribe of Dan which Samson came from. Understanding this background will bring great insight into Samson & his parents and will help set the scene for when Samuel comes on the scene soon after Samson.

The Book of Judges can be split into 3 sections as follows:

- I. Judges 1:1-3:7 – Israel’s failure to take their inheritance
- II. Judges 3:8-16:31 – Period of the Judges
- III. Judges 17-21 – Corruption of Doctrine & Practice – Occurs at the beginning of Judges

Judges: Section I – 1:1-3:7

In the first section we find in chapter 1 that Israel takes their inheritance but fails to drive out the Canaanites. Note that there is a progression, from Canaanites dwelling among the tribes, to tribes dwelling among the Canaanites.

1. Why were they not able to drive out the Canaanites? See 2:2-3

2. The people were faithful while Joshua and the elders who outlived him were alive. What does Judges 2:7-10 say happened after that generation died off?

3. What does this tell you that the previous generation failed to do? Find some verses which speak of the importance of passing on the truth to future generations. (eg. Deut. 6:7). How should we be teaching the next generation?

4. Since this new generation wasn’t taught the truth, what wickedness did they commit? See Judges 2:11-13

5. You may be familiar with the cycle of the judges – Sin, Suffer, Seek, Salvation. We see this cycle given to us in Judges 2:11-19 which summarizes the whole period of the Judges. Identify the verses in 2:11-19 which apply to each one. We've filled out the first one.

- Israel **Sins** – 2:11-13,17,19
- God causes them to **Suffer** – _____
- God brings **Salvation** through Judges – _____
- Because of their groanings (**Seeking**) – _____

Below is a chart of when the cycle is clearly shown in the book of Judges (this doesn't have all the judges). Fill out the last column with the name of the Judge who God sent to bring Salvation.

CYCLE	SIN	SUFFER	SEEK	SALVATION
1	Served Baalim - 3:7	Cushan-rishathaim	Judges 3:9	Othniel
2	Did evil – 3:12	Eglon	Jud. 3:15	
3	Did evil – 4:1	Jabin and Sisera	Jud. 4:3,6,22	
4	Did evil – 6:1	Midian	Jud. 6:6,11	
5	Did evil – 10:6	Ammonites	Jud. 10:10	
6	Did evil – 13:1	Philistines	No specific vs.	

6. What lesson(s) does this cycle in the period of the judges teach you about God's character?
7. Even though God is so longsuffering and keeps saving Israel, they do wickedly, 2:19-20. What does God do in response in vs. 21-23 and why?
8. Just as with the nation of Israel, God puts trials in our lives to prove us, to know what is in our hearts, and to see whether or not we will walk in His way. What verses/examples can you think of that speak of God proving or trying us? Eg. 2 Chr. 32:31.
9. What does this tell you about how we should view the trials in our lives?

Judges: Section II – 3:8-16:31

10. The 2nd section of the book in Judges 3:8-16:31 is the Period of the Judges in which there are 12 judges. Who is the last judge? How % of the chapters out of the 14 are about his birth & life?

The map below shows the 12 judges and where they were from. You will see Samson is from Dan.



Judges: Section III – 17:1-21:25

The last section of the book in chapters 17-21 shows the corruption of doctrine & practice in the nation of Israel. It actually occurs chronologically at the beginning of Judges, about 2:9-10. We know this because Phinehas & the grandson of Moses are still alive (Judges 18:30 – see margin; 20:28), and since the period of the Judges spanned hundreds of years, those chapters have to be at the beginning of that period.

11. Judges 21:25 is a key verse in this section. What does it tell us about what Israel was like before and during the period of the Judges?
12. Where else does this idea of doing what is right in someone's sight come up? (hint: search "right" & "eyes"/"sight" together). Who are those verses talking about? What lessons can we apply to ourselves?

TIMELINE

We have briefly looked at the book of the Judges which ends historically in ch. 16 with Samson. In our Bibles, Judges 17-21 and the book of Ruth separate Samson in Judges 16 & Samuel in 1 Samuel, so how close were they together in time? It's important that we spend some time establishing the timeline for Samson & Samuel. There are some key passages which reveal this to us which we will step through.

Samson's Timing

13. What does Judges 13:1 tell us about the length of the Philistine oppression?
14. When was Samson likely born in relation to that 40 years? Before or during it?
15. How long did Samson judge Israel according to Judges 15:20?
16. Refer again to Judges 13:5, did Samson complete the deliverance?
17. So what is the likely maximum age that Samson would have been when he died?

Based on the previous few questions, for Samson to be old enough to judge, his 20 years would have to be near the end of the 40 year oppression.

18. Samson had only begun the deliverance from the 40 year oppression of the Philistines. So we need to look for when that deliverance is completed. If we search where next the Philistines were subdued, it's not until 1 Sam. 7:13. Who is the leader, and therefore the one who completes the deliverance?

Samson & the Ark

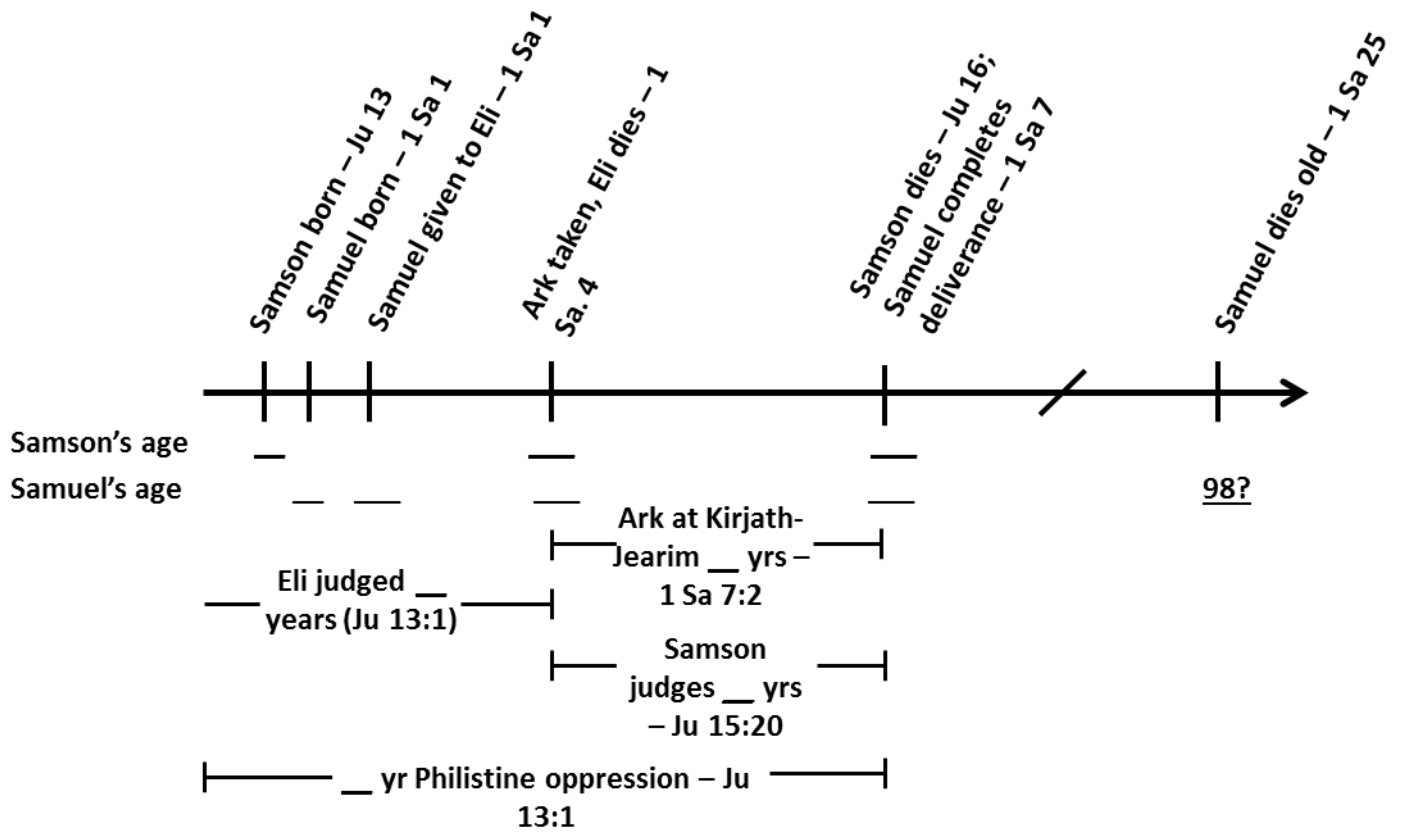
19. By the time the Philistines are subdued, where was the ark and how long had it been there according to 1 Sam. 7:2?
20. If the ark had been there for that long by the end of the 40 year oppression and Samson judged for 20 years near the end of the 40 years, do you think those times might be almost concurrent? Why might this be significant based on Judges 18:12 when we understand that Samson lived in Mahaneh-Dan (Judges 13:25 – see KJV margin)?

Samuel's Timing

21. In what chapter was the ark captured and who died at that point?
22. Samuel had already been established as a prophet to the nation in 1 Sam. 3:19-4:1. Roughly what minimum age do you think he might be at that point? How old therefore would that make Samuel when he completes the deliverance from the Philistines 20 years later?

23. Based on the questions above, how close together do you think Samson & Samuel's births were?

Keeping in mind the questions and conclusions above complete the timeline below, both for Samson & Samuel's ages, and the length in years of the time periods below their ages.



*ages of Samuel & Samson are approximate

TRIBE OF DAN

Samson came from the tribe of Dan (Judg. 13:2), so it's helpful to consider the background to this tribe which will bring out some insights into Samson and his family.

24. When Dan entered the land, how many fighting men does Num. 26:43 say they had? Was this one of the larger or smaller tribes?
25. Consider the following maps. The 1st shows the tribal allotments while the 2nd shows how much land was actually under Israelite control after Joshua's conquests. Is Dan's inheritance large or small? What does Judges 1:34 say? What does this tell you about the tribe of Dan considering your answer to the previous question?



In fact, the tribe seems to end up being forced into a small camp between Zorah & Eshtaol, right on the border with Judah. That's the only place we hear mentioned in Dan through this period.

26. What does Josh. 19:47 tell us about Dan being able to take their inheritance? What do other translations like the ESV say? Was there not enough room in the inheritance, or were they just unable to take it?

27. What was Dan's solution to being unable to take their God-given land? What does this tell you about their faith keeping in mind that God left the nations in their inheritance to test them?

28. Dan gave up on God's ability to help them take their inheritance. Considering their response to trial, what lesson arises out of this for us?

Judges 18 gives the events of Dan searching out their new inheritance. On the map on the previous page, draw an arrow showing where the Danites go.

29. Judges 18:7-31 tells how the Danites took their easier inheritance. In v. 7 what kind of land specifically were they looking for? And what were they afraid of?

In vs. 12-26, the 600 men of Dan go north, forcibly taking the corrupt priest Jonathan & the idols from Micah. Then in vs. 27-31 they take Laish, name it Dan & set up false worship & a corrupt priesthood.

30. Summarize in your own words the character of the tribe of Dan during this time.

Yet, many years later, a faithful family arose in this faithless tribe – Manoah & his wife (Judges 13:2), who stayed in the southern inheritance which God had given them.

31. What does Manoah mean? How might that be significant in relation to the inheritance he chose?

32. What does Samson mean?

Into this dark, faithless tribe, God was to cause a brilliant ray of sunlight to burst onto the scene.

THE PHILISTINES

The Philistines figure prominently throughout the period of the Judges, and particularly in the times of Samson and Samuel. They were a major thorn to Israel as they continually fought against them.

33. Look up the Philistines in a Bible dictionary and make some notes of what it says, particularly of their character, technological capabilities & their relationship with Israel.

34. The Philistines consisted of the 5 Lords of the Philistines who were the Lords of the 5 major Philistine cities. Look these cities up in Samson's life to see which figure prominently in his life and circle them on this map which shows their 5 cities identified by squares.



The Type of the Philistines

The Philistines are a clear type of Sin in scripture. Let's consider the proof.

35. What does the word 'Philistines' mean? (we will have to look at the roots to find this)

Strong's # H6430

Word: *pelishtiy* Meaning:

From Strong's # H6429

Word: *pelesheth*

Meaning:

Prim. Root Strong's # H6428

Word: *palash*

Meaning:

a) What echo does the meaning of the primitive root remind you of from Gen. 3:14?

b) So what seed do the Philistines represent from Gen. 3:15?

36. What phrase is often used to describe the Philistines in scripture, especially by David? And where are the occurrences?

37. What does it mean to be spiritually uncircumcised? Provide scriptural proof.

There was great enmity between Israel and the Philistines, and as we consider the deliverance from the Philistines that's accomplished by Samson & Samuel, we will see the deeper lessons of how we need to deal with the Philistine in our life.

SAMSON



SAMSON

WHY STUDY SAMSON

So why study Samson? What value does God want us to take from considering Samson? There are a number of reasons and a tremendous value which we will summarize below. There are also a number of questions and challenges that arise from Samson's life which we look forward to exploring. First of all though, let's consider the divine commentary on Samson which is made outside of Judges and which is a key to understanding Samson.

1. There is only one other place in scripture that Samson is mentioned outside of the record of his life in Judges 13-16. Where is that place and which actions in its context could be attributed to Samson? Are there any that you think specifically apply to Samson? You may want to come back to this question at the end of the study as well.

2. How do we know from that same chapter that Samson will be in the Kingdom?

Here is a summary of some of the reasons to study Samson:

- God's emphasis on the story of Samson – 4 chapters out of the 14 that are on the Judges (3-16). Some judges only have 1 verse. There must be a reason for this.
- Samson is a unique, interesting & challenging character in Scripture, full of contrasts.
- Samson showed faith at times in his life and particularly in the end, but he had huge weaknesses & committed great sin.
- In fact, sin is undeniably highlighted in Samson's life. He judges 20 years but we are only given 3 short periods of his life, each involving serious sin:
 - Woman of Timnath and the conflict with the Philistines [period of months]
 - Visit to harlot of Gaza; taking of city gate [1 day]
 - Delilah, his capture, and his victory in death [period of months.]
- Yet despite this, God continuously works through Samson to achieve His purpose

God gives Samson as an example of one who showed faith, and who will be in the Kingdom! (Heb. 11:32-34,39-40) – "out of weakness were made strong"

- Great lessons for us in Samson. He was someone who struggled mightily with sin in his life, and yet God worked with him and he was counted faithful.
- There are great types in the life of Samson:
 - He is a type of state of Israel in period of judges
 - He is a type of Israel as a nation, from beginning to end
 - He typifies Christ in incredible ways

TYPES IN SAMSON

Types in scripture help us understand the deeper meaning behind the events in scripture and are one of the incredible and wonderful aspects of God's Word.

SAMSON: TYPE OF ISRAEL

Samson was a type of Israel during the period of the Judges. Consider the following references and how they match the cycle of the Judges we considered on page 6.

- _____ – 14:1,3*; 15:1,16; 16:1,4
- _____ – 14:20; 15:6,13,18; 16:19,21
- **Seek** _____ – 15:18; 16:28
- _____ – 14:6,19; 15:15,19; 16:3,30

Samson was also a type of Israel from its beginning with the patriarchs to its end with King Zedekiah. Complete the chart below by filling in some of the similarities based on the verses/ideas given. Keep this in mind as we go through the study.

Similarities	Samson	Israel
	Manoah's wife –13:3	Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel
	13:5 – Nazarite from womb	Lev. 20:24-26; Ex. 4:22
	14:6	Ex. 15:2,13
	14:1,3; 15:1,16; 16:1,4	Judges 2:17-18
Impregnable as long as faithful to vows	14:6,19; 15:15,19; 16:3	Deut. 28:7; Psa. 81:13-14
Mystifying strength	16:5	Mic. 7:16
Broke vow which brought downfall	16:17	Lev. 26:15-20 - Went into captivity after completely breaking vow
	16:21	Zedekiah – 2 K. 25:7; Jer. 52:11.
Future Salvation	Heb.11:32,39	Rom. 11:25-26

SAMSON: TYPE OF CHRIST

Samson was an incredible type of Christ, from his birth, to certain events in his life, through to the circumstances of his death. There is probably no other character who is as much of a type of Christ in their birth & death.

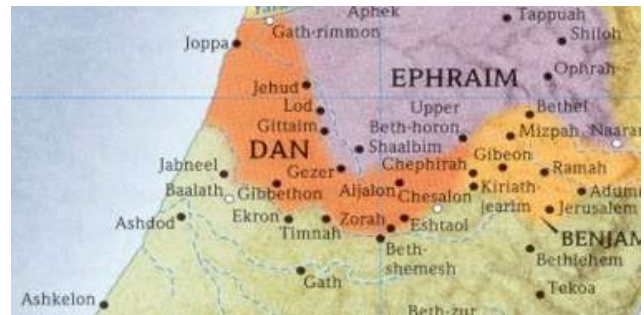
At the end of most chapters we will have a section exploring the type of Christ in that chapter.

JUDGES 13

Read Judges 13 and summarize in your own words what this chapter is about.

Manoah

1. What does Manoah's name mean?
2. Where was Manoah from in v. 2? Find & circle the place on the map.



3. What does the fact that Manoah stayed in the south suggest about his faith? You can go back to q. 31 on page 7.
4. What does v. 8 tell you about the character of Manoah?

Manoah's Barren Wife

Manoah's wife was a very faithful woman, and we'll find was more discerning than her husband. Much emphasis is placed on her in this chapter.

5. What is repeated concerning Manoah's wife in vs. 2-3, and how many times?
6. Barren women play key roles in God's purpose. Who else can you think of that was barren? (there are at least 6 others)
7. Why does God use barren women to achieve His purpose? What principle do you think is being established? Jn. 1:12-13 may help.
8. Is Manoah or his wife emphasized more in this chapter? Who does the angel work with and give instruction to?

God makes clear to us in the record that the focus is all on Manoah's wife, and mostly to the exclusion of Manoah. He makes the point that man is to play a very little part in this birth. There must be a reason for this which we will explore at the end of this chapter when we'll find an amazing type in this chapter centred around Manoah's wife.

9. In Judges 13:3-5, the angel of the LORD appears to the woman. Summarize what the angel tells her.
10. What a joy this message would be that she would bear a son. It was a unique message though in that she was told to play a part as well. What was she to abstain from, and what does that remind you of from the law?

A Nazarite

11. In v. 5, she is told that her child will be a Nazarite unto God. What does "Nazarite" mean?
Strong's # H5139 Word: *naziyr* Meaning:
12. The Law of the Nazarite is given in Numbers 6 and summarized well in vs. 2-9. What word is repeated many times, and what are the three things that the Nazarite was to do/not do in vs. 3-6?
13. The word for "separation/consecration" is very similar to the word for Nazarite itself. Look up the word below and then answer the questions following.
Strong's # H5145 Word: *nezer* Meaning:
- How is it most often translated outside of Num. 6?
 - The use of this word *nezer* in Lev. 8:9 is particularly insightful in giving us the key principle of the Nazarite separation. What is this verse talking about?
 - What was written on the 'holy nezer', and where was it worn? (Ex. 29:6) What does this represent?
 - Based on the above, what specifically is to be separated by the Nazarite, and what is it separated to?

The key of the Nazarite is that their head is separated. Their thinking needed to be lifted up to be spiritual instead of natural and fleshly. We see this principle explored further by the three particular requirements the Nazarite had to follow.

14. The first was no strong drink(v.3). What does this represent in scripture in relation to our thinking? We have provided some references, but look for others as well. (Isa. 28:7; Pro. 23:20-21,29-34; Rev. 17:2)

15. The second was no cutting hair (v. 5). This is especially important for us to consider as it is the key Nazarite requirement focused on in Samson's life. What does the hair represent in Num. 6? Consider vs. 5,9,18.
16. The third was not to touch any dead body, including immediate family (vs. 6-7). They couldn't do what they would naturally want to do. What would this represent? (2 Cor. 6:17)
17. Now the Law of the Nazarite was unique in who could separate themselves to God which is revealed in Num. 6:2. What is unique about it and how does this apply to Judges 13:3-5.
18. The Law of the Nazarite was particularly unique in that it allowed a man or woman to be as much as the high priest as possible. Complete the table below comparing a Nazarite with the High Priest.

Similarities	The Nazarite	The High Priest
Separated to God...	Num. 6:2	Lev. 21:6 (holy)
	Num. 6:3	Lev. 10:9
	Num. 6:5	Lev. 21:5
	Num. 6:6	Lev. 21:10-11 (only High Priest)
	Num. 6:8	Ex. 28:36
	Num. 6:7	Lev. 21:12

19. Those who wanted to be a Nazarite only did it for a period of time as a vow. How was Samson unique according to Jud. 13:4-5.
20. Who else can you think of in scripture who was to be a life-long Nazarite? This is another link between these characters.
21. Having considered the Nazarites, and the principles they teach us, what lessons can/will you apply to yourself?
...
22. At the end of v. 5 what does the angel say will be the child's purpose?
23. Would Samson complete that deliverance?

Vs. 6-8 - Manoah's Wife Tells Her Husband

24. In vs. 6-7, Manoah's wife tells her husband the message of the unnamed man of God. What does she add to the message that we weren't told in v. 5? Why do you think she added it?
25. In v. 8, does Manoah believe what his wife tells him, and that it will happen? Who can you think of that did not believe a promise of a son? What does this verse reveal to us about his faith and prayer life?

Vs. 9-14 – The Angel Returns with Further Instruction

26. God listens and responds to Manoah's prayer in v. 9, but who does He send the angel to, and where is Manoah?
27. Manoah's wife hastily finds him and brings him to the man of God in vs. 10-11. Once Manoah confirms that he was the man who spoke to his wife, what is his first phrase in v. 12 and what does it tell you about his belief in the promise? (other translations may help).
28. Manoah asks two questions of the man of God in v. 12. In the KJV they don't really make sense. What is Manoah asking? (use other translations, the Hebrew meanings, and/or commentaries)
29. The angel replies to Manoah in vs. 13-14.
 - a) Does he answer Manoah's questions?
 - b) Does he add any new instruction to what was told to Manoah's wife in v. 5?
 - c) Who is his response focused on?
 - d) What is the angel emphasizing to Manoah?

Throughout this chapter, the point is being driven home that this is all about the woman and the son. Man was not to influence it. This is God's work with "the woman"

Vs. 15-23 – Manoah and the Angel Interact Further

30. In v. 15 Manoah asks the angel to stay while they prepare a 'thank you meal' as it were to the man for his message. (Cp. Abram in Gen. 18). Does Manoah know this is an angel? When does he find out?
31. Who does the angel turn Manoah's focus to in v. 16, to whom should any offerings should be directed?
32. Manoah feels he must do something for this messenger, so he asks for his name to give him honour when his saying comes to pass. What is the angel's response in v. 18? Does this remind you of anyone else?

The Wonderful Angel

33. The angel says his name is “secret”. What does “secret” mean?

Strong’s # H6383 Word: *piliy* Meaning:

34. (Optional) Who do you think this angel was? (Bro. Ron Cowie’s series on Angels touches on this)

35. The angel whose name is “wonderful” does “wonderously” in vs. 19-20 after Manoah makes an offering. What was the wondrous thing the angel did, and where else do we read of an angel in a flame in a wonderful/incomprehensible situation?

36. The angel never appears again. What does Manoah finally realize? Do you think his wife knew already?

37. In v. 20 Manoah and his wife had fallen on their faces. What is Manoah’s fear in v. 22?

38. Manoah’s wife speaks sense to him in v. 23. What three reasons does she give that they won’t die?

SAMSON’S BIRTH AND GROWTH

39. As promised, the woman bears a son. Who names him? What does his name and its root mean?

Strong’s # H8123 Word: *shimshon* Meaning:

Strong’s # H8121 Word: *shemesh* Meaning:

40. The end of v. 24 tells us that “the child grew and Yahweh blessed him”. Can you find three other characters who have similar phrases used of their growth from a child?

41. What do you think tie these 4 characters together and why?

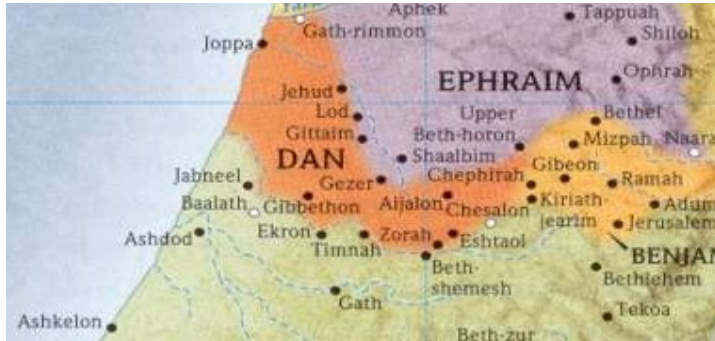
42. Samson was to be a Nazarite from the womb. How does the Nazarite blessing of Num. 6:23-24 match Jud. 13:24?

The Spirit of Yahweh Begins to Move Samson

43. In v. 25, the Spirit of Yahweh began to “move” Samson. Look up what “move” means.

Strong’s # H6470 Word: *pa-am* Meaning:

44. Where else does this word occur, how is it translated, and who is being affected?
45. Based on the above, what do you think it means that the Spirit of Yahweh began to move Samson at times?
46. V. 25 tells us that this happened in the camp of Dan between Zorah & Eshtaol which may give a hint to us as to why Samson was agitated. Identify that area in the map below.



47. What do Zorah & Eshtaol mean?
- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Strong's # H6881 | Word: <i>tsorah</i> | Meaning: |
| Strong's # H6880 | Root Word: <i>tsirah</i> | Meaning: |
| Strong's # H847 | Word: <i>eshtaol</i> | Meaning: |
48. What do previous occurrences of hornet(s) such as Ex. 23:28, Deut. 7:20, & Josh. 24:12 tell us about their significance in the way that God would help Israel?

There are three different plausible reasons for the agitation of Samson that we have heard:

- I. Based on what we considered on page 6, it seems likely that the tribe of Dan has been forced into this little camp. Our suggestion is that God agitates Samson by causing him to consider the sad state of his tribe not taking their inheritance. This inheritance in which God had said He would send hornets before them to drive out the inhabitants, but the tribe had failed because they had turned away from entreating God to serve other gods. Now was the time for God through Samson to, as it were, bring a hornet against the Philistines to begin to drive them out of the inheritance. God would have done this in response to the entreaty of faithful ones such as Manoah and his wife to be saved from the Philistine oppression.
- II. Another possibility or additional reason is that the ark coming to Kirjath-jearim, right in Samson's backyard, was what sparked the Spirit of God moving him at times as the ark returned from the Philistines in miraculous ways, and the glory of God was among the nation again. Remember from our consideration of the timeline of Samson & Samuel that when the ark goes there, it corresponds to when Samson's 20 years began (q. 20 on p. 4).
- III. A further suggestion is that Zorah & Eshtaol are the story of Samson's life, with Zorah, the hornet, representing the power of God to strike down the enemy like the stinging of a hornet, while Eshtaol is suggested to be the entreaty of the flesh, so Samson entreating/demanding of his parents to marry the Philistine woman in ch. 14. Through the rest of his life he oscillates "at times" between the entreaty of the flesh, and the power of God.

49. Which do you think it might be, and why? Or can you think of other reasons?

...

THE TYPE IN JUDGES 13

We have seen in this chapter that Manoah's wife's namelessness & barrenness are emphasized, and that it is very much focused on the woman and the son. Manoah was to have little influence as this is God's work with "the woman". These facts highlight an amazing type of Christ in this chapter. We can't think of anyone else whose birth is as much a type of Christ as Samson's was.

50. As we saw in q. 9. Manoah's wife is never named, and is referred to as "wife" or "the woman". Go through the chapter to find out how many times they are each used.
51. The number 7 is the covenant number (eg. "covenant" comes up 7x in Gen. and in this case it is doubled to 14. What does it mean to double something according to Gen. 41:32?

Now we may think that we are making too much of the occurrences of a word and are going to go on to stretch things to make a type. Consider the following though which we believe lends weight to at least considering this. We'll briefly consider the contrasting women in Samson's life to his faithful mother

52. How many times is Samson's Philistine "uncircumcised" wife referred to in Judges 14-15? (hint: look up Strong's #H802). What does this number represent?
53. How many times does the name "Delilah" occur in Judges 16? What does this number represent?

So the occurrences of the women set in contrast to Samson's mother represent rebellion & flesh, while Samson's mother is referred to by a number representing an established covenant. There is something to this that we believe God is trying to tell us.

54. So we are speaking of an established covenant. Where else do we see "the woman" and an established covenant which is a key verse for us? Summarize the significance of this verse and who in the context is called "the woman" multiple times.
55. Who is the seed of the woman that would bruise the head of the serpent?
56. Samson was to begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. What did the Philistines represent and how are they connected to Gen. 3:14-15 again? (refer to q.34 on p. 8)

In this chapter, in type we see that "The Woman" is told she will bear the "Seed of the Woman" who will begin to deliver Israel from the "Seed of the Serpent".

We saw other major connections to Christ in this chapter as Samson is one of the very few who were life-long Nazarites, who were meant to separate their heads to God. In Christ, though he was not a Nazarite under the law, was found all the principles of the Nazarite in perfection.

Below are some more similarities between Samson & Christ. Fill out the similarity based on the verses provided.

Similarities	Samson	Christ
Birth announced by angel to mother	13:3	Lk. 1:28-31
	13:5	Lk 1:35 – “holy” (separate)
	13:5 – Began deliverance	Lk. 1:74
	13:24	Lk 2:52
	13:25	Lk 4:18

JUDGES 13 CONCLUSION

57. What did you find interesting or powerful out of chapter 13?

58. What lessons can you take from chapter 13?

JUDGES 14

In chapter 14 we will get into Samson's life and the first terrible departures from the principles of separation of the head/thinking that his life-long Nazariteship was supposed to follow. In this chapter will be some powerful lessons and principles for us to consider.

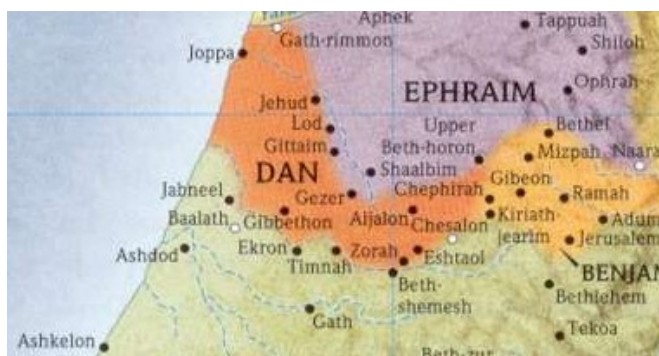
Read Judges 14 and summarize in your own words what this chapter is about.

Went Down to Timnath – v. 1

1. In v. 1, the first thing we are told is that Samson "went down". Where else in this chapter does this phrase come up? This is a great phrase to highlight in this chapter.
2. This phrase actually begins each section of the chapter, and each of those sections contains something hidden. It is a chapter of secrets. Fill out the following table:

Section	What is Secret
Vs. 1-4	Secret of Yahweh's purpose with Samson. Hid from his parents.
Vs. 5-6	
Vs. 7-9	
Vs. 10-18	
Vs. 19-20	Secret of Samson's strength as he slays those of Ashkelon by God's Spirit

3. What often is the spiritual meaning of "going down"?
4. Samson "went down" to Timnath. Where is that located on the map below?



5. Timnath means "a portion assigned". Where do we find proof that it was part of Dan's original inheritance?

Why does Samson go down to Timnath? We would suggest based on what we considered about Samson being “agitated” at times in 13:25, that Samson is agitated about the inheritance that Dan should have had, so he goes down to “a portion assigned” to Dan’s inheritance, which was now in Philistine hands. He seems to go down with good motives – to see his tribe’s God given inheritance.

He “Saw a Woman” – vs. 1-3

6. If Samson did have this good motive, he is nevertheless immediately and completely distracted. What was that distraction?
7. What does Samson tell and demand of his parents in v. 2?
8. What had God said about marriages to the nations? Deut. 7:2-3 is one of a number of passages.
9. God’s view is repeated again as they come into the land. What is very fitting about Josh. 23:12-13 with Samson, a Philistine wife, and his eyes?
10. What a shocking thing his parents would have heard. Their son who was a Nazarite and to deliver the nation was demanding to do something that transgressed the law and went against the whole purpose of the Nazarite - separation. What is their response to Samson? In what situation was a similar one made in Gen. 27:46?
11. Does their plea sway Samson at all? What does he again demand?
12. What reason does he give this time? What does your margin or another version say this means?
13. This same phrase is repeated again in v. 7. Where else in Judges does the meaning of this phrase come up? What does this tell you about Samson’s spiritual level at this point?
14. Samson’s lifelong problem was his eyes – what he “saw” and desired. State beside each verse below what is said in relation to his sight.
 - a) 14:1 –
 - b) 14:2 –
 - c) 14:3,7 –
 - d) 16:1 –
 - e) 16:4 – While we aren’t told, it’s clear that Delilah’s beauty captivated Samson
15. What happened to Samson’s “offending eyes” at the end of his life before he turned fully to God?

16. We believe Christ bases what he says in Matthew 5:28-29 on Samson's life. How does it fit Samson so well?
17. Scripture records a number of bad situations where someone "saw" or looked at something and took sinful action. Who saw what in the following verses, and what action did they take?
- Gen. 3:6 -
 - Gen. 6:2 -
 - Gen. 34:1-2 -
 - Gen. 39:7 -
 - 2 Sam. 11:2,4 -
18. What's very interesting is that there is only one other event recorded in scripture that is at Timnath – Gen. 38:12-14. What happened here that ties in to Samson's issue at Timnath?

A further connection to Judah with the theme of the eyes, is that Tamar sat in an "open place" which means "the door of eyes"(see KJV margin). We will consider this connection further in ch. 15.

MAJOR LESSONS FROM VS. 1-3

These first 3 verses are rich with important principles and practical lessons which are major lessons that we learn from the character Samson. They include controlling our eyes, dealing with temptation, and marriage with the unbeliever.

Controlling Our Eyes

The issue of having to control our eyes is nothing new, whether looking with desire at riches, objects, or particularly in the context of Samson, looking with sexual desire. It's been around for millennia. What is new today is the ease with which we can look at whatever we may desire at any point, whether in the grocery store, in entertainment, or particularly in private on screens.

The promiscuity of the world is prevalent all around us, crying out to us to look with desire and covetousness – whether in advertising, in clothing (or lack thereof!), or in entertainment. We would be naive to think that it doesn't have an effect on us. It is therefore imperative that we consider what scripture tells us about how to deal with our eyes lest we follow Samson's greatest failing.

A major issue today is becoming entrapped in the use of the internet to try to satisfy the desire of the eyes. For some this has become habitual. Once it gets to that point, it is incredibly difficult to overcome. It's vital that we uproot this deadly thorn before it has a chance to grow. But for any who are already in this terrible position, the record of Samson shows that there is still hope! Samson was addicted to the desire of his eyes, but by God's strength he was ultimately able to overcome and be an incredible man of faith. It required drastic action in Samson's life, and so we too need to be willing to make significant change in our lives so we don't perish forever. We see the longsuffering and mercy of our God shown with Samson.

Prov. 27:20 tells us that "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied." Trying to satisfy our desires by permitting ourselves to look at things or people with desire will never actually satisfy, just as the grave never stops taking people. In fact, giving in to the lusts of our eyes will lead right to the grave. We will want to keep looking, and at a certain point that will turn into taking further action which is what Samson did.

19. This idea of the challenge of our eyes and controlling what we look at with them comes up multiple times in scripture. Spend some time considering the following passages to find God's instruction and how we should apply it to our lives. Look at other versions and the meaning of any words to help you understand the message. Add any other passages you can think of.

a) **Matt. 5:28-29**

The message:

Practical application/principle:

b) **1 Jn. 2:16**

The message:

Practical application/principle:

c) **Job 31:1**

The message:

Practical application/principle:

d) **Psa. 101:3**

The message:

Practical application/principle:

e) **Psa. 119:37**

The message:

Practical application/principle:

f) **Pro. 23:30-33**

The message:

Practical application/principle:

g) **Isa. 33:15**

The message:

Practical application/principle:

Dealing with Temptation

We have looked at dealing with our eyes specifically, but let's look more broadly at how to deal with temptation. In other words how to overcome the lusts of the flesh.

20. There are two keys to not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. Identify what those are from the following references.

- I. Gal. 5:16 –
- II. Rom. 13:14 –

The more permanent solution is to walk in the spirit. This requires a change of thinking – replacing our carnal thinking with spiritual. It requires living as a Nazarite by separating our thoughts from our natural lust and desires. By doing this we can learn to hate evil, and love what is good (Amos 5:14-15). Then when times come that we're placed in a difficult situation of temptation, our spiritual mind will help us overcome. This can only be achieved by a regular diet of the Word of God and effort in putting it into practice in our lives.

21. Consider what the following verses tell us about walking in the spirit and how to change our thinking:

- a) Rom. 8:1-14 –
- b) Gal. 6:8 –
- c) Matt. 3:3-10 –
- d) Rom. 12:1-2 –
- e) Deut. 6:5-9 –
- f) Pro. 4:25-27 –

The second key is taking proactive steps to remove ourselves from temptation by making no provision to fulfil the lusts of the flesh. We often refer to the 'Joseph principle' which is to flee temptation.

22. Prov. 27:12 is helpful when we consider fleeing temptation. Based on this verse what should we be doing in our lives? Is it being spiritually weak or shameful to not be able to stand up to temptation?

23. There are many things we can do to make no provision for the flesh. What are some proactive steps that have helped you? What are three things you should do?

Marriage to the Uncircumcised

The last major lesson from vs. 1-3 is marriage to the uncircumcised. Dating (or courtship) and marrying those who have not accepted and/or do not live the truth is often addressed in scripture. We have provided on the following page a helpful summary of key principles and verse related to this topic which was considered in the Jehoshaphat workbook. Take the time to review this in detail.

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN THE TRUTH

By Bro. Roy Styles, compiled and edited by Bro. Dan Osborn

Marriage out of the Truth is NOT God's will

- Do not be mis-mated with unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14)
- A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If the husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord** (1 Cor. 7:39)
- You should not make marriages with them, giving your daughters to their sons, nor taking their daughters for your sons (Deut. 7:1/3)

Scriptural examples of bad marriages with unbelievers

- Esau with two Hittite wives, a grief of mind to his parents (Gen. 26:34-35; 27:46)
- Esau married Ishmael's daughter, vainly hoping to please Isaac (Gen 28:9)
- Solomon's many foreign wives turned him away to idols (1 Kings 11:1-8)
- Samson's bad experiences with foreign women (Judges 14-16)
- Jews intermarried with women of the land, then put their wives away at Ezra's counsel (Ezra 9:2-10:3)
- Jews married foreign women, and children grew up not understanding Hebrew. Nehemiah beat and cursed some of them and pulled out their hair (Neh. 13:23-29)
- There are **no** examples of good marriages out of the Truth in the Bible.

Warnings not to marry unbelievers

- Abraham to his servant about Isaac (Gen. 24:3-4)
- Isaac to Jacob (Gen. 28:1)
- God to all Israel (Deut. 7:1-3)
- Joshua to all Israel (Josh. 23:11-13)

Some people will be baptized just to marry us

- Men of Shechem were circumcised just to marry Jews (Gen. 34:1-24)

Some of the day to day problems for those who marry unbelievers

- Harder to attend ecclesial classes and activities.
- Will the children go to our meetings or a church?
- Must put up with the unbeliever's family and friends of the world.
- Where will the home be located-near an ecclesia, 30 miles away, or in isolation?
- How to handle the unbeliever's association with their church - attendance, money, activities, etc.?
- Will the unbeliever accept out of town Christadelphian guests?
- High rate of divorce in the world-who would get the children?
- Possibility of being drawn away from God forever.

Every major period of apostasy in the Bible included a casual attitude to relationships and marriage outside the Truth

- **The Flood:** the Sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair...
- **The Exodus:** The whoredoms committed with the daughters of Moab at Balaam's prompting
- **The Judges:** Elimelech's sons, Samson and the Philistine women, also Judges chapter 1-2.
- **The Kings:** Solomon and his wives; Ahab and Jezebel
- **The Exile:** intermarriage to the point that the children produced didn't speak Hebrew
- **1st Century:** Paul's warnings re: marriage '*only in the Lord*'

24. If someone came to you saying they met this amazing person in the world who they wanted to, or were dating, what advice would you give them?
25. With Judges 14:3 in mind, is believing that there is no one in the ecclesia who is compatible or available for us a good excuse to date someone outside the truth?

It was of Yahweh – v. 4

26. After Samson's parents' protests in v. 3, what does v. 4 say Samson's parents didn't know?
27. Some take this verse to mean that God approved of what Samson was doing even if it was wrong, because it was a means to a good end. Others say that this verse tells us that God told Samson to do this, and Samson was just obeying God. Does this fit with what we have already considered? Does God only care about the end result, and not how it is achieved?

So what does this verse mean then? It can be a challenge to understand, but we'll explore this in the next few questions.

28. Consider the example of Rehoboam in 2 Chron. 10:15. Because the cause was of God, did that make what Rehoboam did the right thing to do, or show that God approved of what he did?
29. Can you think of other situations in scripture where God uses someone's bad character, sins, or weaknesses to further His purpose? Pharaoh would be one example to get you started.
30. In the situations you found, did God approve of the sins these people committed?
31. So was God condoning what Samson did, or was it rather that He used Samson's weakness as an opportunity to further His purpose?

Yahweh sought occasion against the Philistines through Samson, so when Samson did what he chose to do of his own freewill, God used it as an opportunity to bring conflict between Samson & the Philistines to begin delivering Israel from the Philistines.

The Lion & the Honey – vs. 5-9

32. In v. 5, Samson goes down again to Timnath with his parents. Samson came to the vineyards of Timnath which it was known for. Was it wise for Samson to be in the vineyards considering his vow?

33. At some point Samson is separated from his parents, and a young lion roars against him. Is this a small, weak cub or a strong young lion at the peak of its strength & fierceness? Find some other occurrences of “young lion” to determine this. Isa. 5:29 is a good start.



34. In v. 6 the Spirit of Yahweh came mightily on Samson. Where else in Samson’s life does this happen?

35. Samson kills the lion. How does the record describe it? Did he use any weapons?

36. Could Samson have done this without God’s strength? Samson is popularly portrayed as being a large muscle-bound man with impressive natural strength. Is that the case?

37. At the end of v. 6 we are told that Samson doesn’t tell his parents. Why do you think we are told that?

38. Samson talks with the woman again and is pleased with her, or finds her right in his eyes, confirming to him that he did want her as his wife. Do you think his conversations had anything to do with the truth?

39. Samson returns home, and then after a time in v. 8 returns to Timnath to take her for his wife. He turns aside to see the carcass of the lion. What does he find and do?

40. Samson also brings honey to his parents. Again he doesn’t tell them where he got it? Any thoughts as to why?

The Parable of the Lion & the Honey

This event of the lion and honey is very curious, and there must be something deeper behind this. We will consider the meaning of the different symbols to find out what God was trying to tell Samson in this event.

41. This occurs at the vineyards of Timnath. Timnath means “assigned place”. What do vineyards represent according to Psa. 80:8-9 & Isa. 5:1-2?

42. What do lions often represent, particularly a roaring lion? Consider Jer. 2:15, 50:17.
43. What nation do you think this particular lion represents?
44. The lion roared against Samson. What do the Philistines do against Samson in 15:14?
45. So what does Samson killing the lion, and the resulting lion's carcass represent?
46. What might the "swarm of bees" represent? Look up the meaning of the words & any helpful root words.
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Strong's root #H5712 | Word: <i>edah</i> | Meaning: |
| Strong's #H1682 | Word: <i>deborah</i> | Meaning: |
| Strong's root #H1696 | Word: <i>dabar</i> | Meaning: |
47. What does honey represent? Consider Ex. 3:8 & Psa. 119:103.
48. What about the honey being in the carcass?
49. So what message do you think God is trying to tell Samson ?

By God's strength, Samson (& Israel), could destroy the Philistines in the land of inheritance, and would be able to partake of the honey of the Promised Land, with their families, as a congregation in orderly motion. Or in other words, as a nation working together. At this point in Israel's history they were working against each other and in fear of the Philistine oppressor.

50. Despite what God is trying to tell Samson, what does he still go ahead and do in the next verses?

The Wedding Feast – vs. 10-18

51. Samson makes a wedding feast with the Philistines to celebrate his marriage to the Philistine woman. What does "feast" mean?
- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------|
| Strong's #H4960 | Word: <i>mishteh</i> | Meaning: |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------|
52. How long was this feast? (v. 12) As a Nazarite, was it right for Samson to make and partake in a drinking feast?
53. Who were Samson's companions and who chose them?
54. Is this a wedding of the world, or an Israelite wedding before God?

55. Who goes to the wedding feast?
56. Before this verse it has been Samson's "father and mother". Now it is only his father. In fact his mother never comes up again in the rest of Samson's life. While we don't know for sure, where do you think his mother might be during the feast and why?
57. Samson tells a riddle in vs.12-14. What is the riddle and the bet he makes with the Philistines?
58. This bet has high stakes. These are very valuable winnings as changes of clothes were not easy to come by. What do the following passages suggest about the value of changes of garments, let alone 30 of them.
- a) Gen. 45:22 –
 - b) 2 Kings 5:5 –
 - c) 2 Kings 5:22 –
59. What do the 30 companions say in v. 15 about the effect on them if they lost the wager? What are they willing to do to get out of this?

Samson gambles on his deliverance from the lion to bring gain to himself. That deliverance in which was a parable that if he overcame the Philistines he would partake of God's inheritance! He just doesn't get it. What about us, do we 'get it' when God works in our lives?

60. After 3 days they could not solve the riddle. In vs. 15-18 they target Samson's wife to find out the answer. What is "seventh" in v. 15 in the Septuagint or some other translations?
61. They tell her to "entice" Samson. What does that word mean and where else does it come up in Samson's life?
Strong's #H6601 Word: *pathah* BDB Meaning:
62. What is their threat to her? What do they accuse her of?
63. What does she proceed to do and say to Samson? How long does she do this? (look at the KJV margin for "the seven days" in v. 17.
64. Who does she identify as her people in v. 16 & 17? Was she interested in becoming an Israelite? Which faithful foreign woman does this contrast with who lived during the time of the judges?

65. Samson kept it from her till the 7th day when she “lay sore” on Samson. What does that phrase mean?

Strong’s #H6693

Word: *tsuq*

Meaning:

a) Where else does it come up again in Samson’s life?

b) How is this word used in Deut. 28:53,55,57 that helps to explain the force behind it?

66. She causes such severe distress to Samson (her life depends on her success after all) that he finally gives in at the last moment. How enjoyable was Samson’s wedding feast do you think?

Samson’s Anger – vs. 18-20

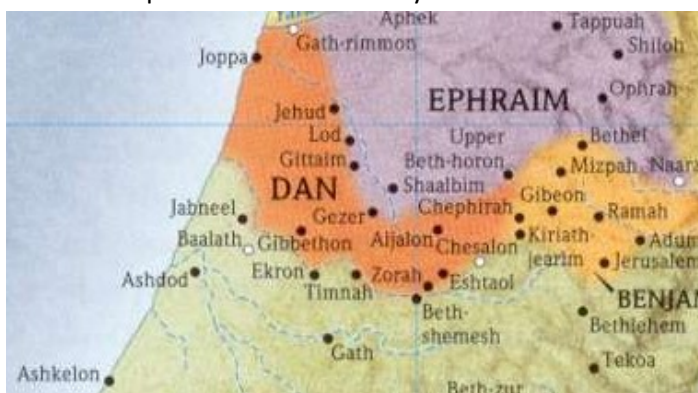
67. Before the sun goes down on the 7th day, Samson’s 30 “companions” triumphantly tell Samson the answer to the riddle. He was extremely angry (v.19), but he knew how they had found out. What was his reply to them in v. 18?

So what does Samson’s phrase mean? Consider that a heifer (female calf) was not meant to plow. Samson is saying that they forced his wife to do something she was never meant to have done – betray her newlywed husband.

68. How does Samson fulfill his end of his bet? Whose strength does he do this in?

69. What is God beginning to achieve in Samson now?

70. Circle Ashkelon in the map below? How far away from Timnath is this?



71. Why do you think Samson would go all the way to Ashkelon to do this?

72. Once Samson fulfils his debt where does he go?

73. What does v. 20 say happens? What’s the modern equivalent of his “friend” in today’s weddings? (another translation may help)

74. How would you rate the success of Samson's marriage to the uncircumcised woman so far?

We'll see in the following chapter that things turn out even worse for Samson's failed marriage to the unbeliever. Yet God is using him to begin to achieve His purpose in Samson.

TYPE OF CHRIST IN JUDGES 14

There is not much by way of types of Christ in chapter 14 except that we begin to see the incredible strength that God gives to Samson in order to achieve His purpose. God also made Christ strong for Himself, to achieve His purpose – Psa. 80:17.

JUDGES 14 CONCLUSION

75. What did you find interesting or powerful out of chapter 14?

76. What lessons can you take from chapter 14?

JUDGES 15

In chapter 15 we will continue the events of Samson's involvement with his Philistine woman of Timnath and what it leads to, along with his first large scale attacks on the Philistines.

Read Judges 15 and summarize in your own words what this chapter is about.

Samson Seeks His Wife – Vs. 1-2

1. What does Samson do in v. 1 after the events of ch. 14?
2. What present does Samson bring down. Is this another connection to Judah & Tamar at Timnath?
3. What terrible shock is in store for Samson?

Foxes & Firebrands – vs. 3-5

4. What is Samson's response in v. 3? What do you think Samson means?
5. What does Samson do in vs. 4-5?
6. Why is the time of year (v. 1) in which this happens significant? How effective was Samson's ploy?



7. Whose example might Samson have been loosely following? Where else in Judges do we read of the number 300 and torches being used against the enemy? Do you think he is trying to follow his example?

Samson completely destroyed their economy. He burnt their standing grain, heaps of harvested grain, vineyards, and olive trees. The first two were the work of 1 season, but vineyards take 7 years to set up, and olive trees can last for 2,000 years!

The Philistines Response – v. 6

8. The Philistines ask who had done this. Who are they asking? What is the reply?
9. Who do they transfer the blame to, and what is the Philistines response?

10. What is the terrible irony in this considering what was threatened to Samson's wife if she didn't find the answer to the riddle in 14:15. Did her actions make any difference to the result in the end?
11. Yet again there is a close connection to Judah & Tamar in Gen. 38. What was Judah's judgment against Tamar in Gen. 38:24?
12. We have seen a number of connections between Judah in Gen. 38 and Samson in Judges 14-15. Complete the following table summarizing those connections.

Samson	Judah	Similarities
Judges 14-15	Gen. 38:12	The only 2 events in Timnath
14:1	38:15	
16:1	38:16	
15:6	38:24	
15:1	38:17,20-23	
Throughout early life	Throughout early life	Both had major sin
16:28	43:8-9; 49:8-12	

13. There must be a reason for this connection between the two characters, Samson & Judah. What do you think that might be?

What an encouragement this is to know that God will work with people over many years to bring about amazing transformations, even when they have failed miserably multiple times! Our God wants to save us, and is full of mercy and grace, and desires that we change our ways to bring fruit to His name.

Samson's Revenge – vs. 7-8

14. What is Samson's response in v. 7? What does he mean by this?
15. What action does he take in v. 8? How many Philistines are killed?
16. After this Samson goes down to the top of the rock Etam. What does "top" mean?
 Strong's #H5585 Word: *saiyph* Meaning:
 a) Is Samson on the top of a rock, or in a hidden, defensible cleft of the rock?

17. Circle Etam on the map below.



The Philistines Threaten Judah – vs. 9-10

18. In v. 9, how do the Philistines respond to Samson's great slaughter?

19. Circle Lehi in the map above. What does Lehi mean? (remember this for later)

Strong's #H3896 Word: *lechiy* BDB Meaning:

Strong's #H3895 Word: *lechiy* Meaning:

20. The men of Judah, obviously alarmed, ask the Philistines why they are coming against them. What is the Philistines response?

21. What had Samson just done to them? How serious is their threat to Samson?

Judah Betrays Samson – vs. 11-13

22. Judah has a decision to make between giving in to the Philistines & betraying Samson. What do they choose?

23. How many men of Judah go to Samson? Why send so many men?

24. What other multiples of 3 had already been in Samson's life that showed that he could deliver Israel from the Philistines?

25. They direct 2 accusatory questions at Samson in v. 11. Who do they identify as their rulers in v. 11? When we consider the type, were they happy to be under the bondage of sin at this time?

26. What is their 2nd question and what focus does it show they had?

27. Did they have any hope or desire of being delivered through Samson?

28. How does Samson respond to their hostility in v. 11? Is there any declaration that God was to deliver Israel from the Philistines by his hand?
29. Do you think Samson understood at this point that God was using him to achieve deliverance from the Philistines, or that he simply was enacting his own revenge? Think about this as we continue in our study.
30. What does Judah say they are coming to Samson to do in v. 12? In what state do they want to give him to the Philistines?
31. What is Samson's concern? How does this show how little the men of Judah cared for Samson?
32. The men of Judah promise that they won't kill him, but they are quite willing to bind him fast and deliver him to the Philistines. What would the Philistines likely be doing anyways when they get him? Do the men of Judah have any desire to save Samson?
33. Does Samson fight against his own countrymen? What does he allow them to do? Would you do the same?
34. Stepping back for a moment, consider how Samson is treated by his own countrymen. What is unique about him among all the judges in how he works together with them?
35. Samson shows a tremendous amount of faith here. Had he ever been bound up before this? What did he believe that God would do once he was delivered to the Philistines?

Samson's Victory with a Jawbone – vs. 14-17

36. The men of Judah take Samson directly to the Philistine army in Lehi. What do the Philistines do as soon as they see Samson? Is their intention to take him peacefully?
37. The Spirit of Yahweh comes mightily on him. How does v. 14 describe the ropes being loosed? What does it mean that his bands were "loosed"? What picture does this give of how quickly and powerfully the Spirit of Yahweh affected Samson?
38. What does Samson find in v. 15 that he uses as a weapon? Is it old and brittle?
39. How many does he kill with it? Consider Josh. 23:10 which is tied closely to this event. Who does it say is the one fighting for Israel?



40. In fact, you can compare much of Samson's life to Josh. 23:8-13. Read through those verses and see what you can find that applies to Samson's life.

41. In v. 16 how does Samson describe the dead?

42. But why a jawbone? What is the jaw(bone) used for in the following references?

- a) Isa. 30:28 –
- b) Eze. 29:4 –
- c) Eze. 38:4 –

43. Why a donkey? What does the stubborn donkey represent?

God was showing Samson (and Israel) that if they let Him direct them, He could use them to accomplish incredible victory against the enemy. They could destroy the Philistines, and every man could make 1,000 flee. If the 3,000 men of Judah put their faith in God, imagine what God could have accomplished through them!

Samson's Error, Thirst & Deliverance – vs. 18-20

44. In v. 16 who does Samson say had slain the thousand men? Is there any recognition of God helping him?

45. Moses did a similar thing of taking the credit for something God did through him in a similar situation in Num. 20:2-4,8-12. What does Moses say? What is God's rebuke to him?

46. Don't forget that the 3,000 men of Judah who had brought Samson right to the Philistines would have possibly been watching all of this happen. Who were they seeing Samson sanctify in his speech? Himself or God?

47. In v. 17 Samson casts away the jawbone and names the place "Ramath-Lehi". What does that mean?

Strong's #H7437 Word: *ramath lechiy* BDB Meaning:

48. God intervenes to teach Samson a lesson in vs. 18-19 as Samson becomes extremely thirsty, even to the point of death. What did Samson have to learn that he had lost sight of?

49. Who does Samson turn to in his time of need? There is only one other time recorded that he does this, where is that?

50. Now who does Samson say brought the great deliverance? Whose servant is he now? Has he realized his error and changed from v. 16?

51. Samson learnt his lesson. Any victory is for God's glory, not man's. What phrase in Jer. 9:23-24 fits Samson so well in this event?
52. Samson asks God if He is going to allow him to die after this great deliverance. What is God's response in v. 19?
53. God cleaves "a hollow place in the jaw" out of which he provides water. What does the name of the place Samson was in, Lehi, mean? Does God cleave a hollow in the donkey's jawbone, or a hollow place in the ground in Lehi? Look at other translations too.
54. Samson drinks of the water God provided and is revived. He renames the place as "En-hakkore". What does it mean?
Strong's #H5875 Word: *eyn haqqore* Meaning:
55. Samson had previously named this place Ramath-Lehi (the height of the jaw) celebrating his victory over the Philistines by his hand. Why is the name change significant? How does it reflect Samson's understanding?
56. Consider Isa. 41:17-18 (also vs. 10-13,20). How does this fit with this event? What's the encouraging lesson for us?
57. Samson had to be brought to weakness to understand that it is God who strengthened him. 2 Cor. 12:9 is a good principle for Samson (particularly in ch. 16). What is it?
58. Consider how Samson had begun this section showing faith that God would break his bonds and help him deliver the Philistines, but then in his spiritual high he fails as he sins before God in taking the glory to himself. This often happens in Samson's life as he swings between spiritual highs and lows in such short periods. Do you find this happens in your life? How is Samson's example helpful for you?
59. V. 20 tells us how long Samson judged Israel. How long was that?
60. Why do you think this is inserted here at the end of ch. 15 before its repeated again at the end of ch. 16?

TYPES OF CHRIST IN JUDGES 15

Samson	Christ	Similarities
15:11	Matt. 26:47	
15:11	Acts 2:22-23	
15:11	Jn. 11:48	
15:13	Jn. 18:31	
15:13-14	Acts 4:27	
15:17 – lifting up of the jawbone	Jn. 3:14	Lifted up

JUDGES 15 CONCLUSION

61. What did you find interesting or powerful out of chapter 15?

62. What lessons can you take from chapter 15?

JUDGES 16

We come in chapter 16 to some incredible events in Samson's life, including his death. We will see him brought to the lowest point in his life, completely broken. But out of that he will renew his Nazarite vow, and God will bring about incredible deliverance.

Read Judges 16 and summarize in your own words what this chapter is about.

SAMSON IN GAZA - VS. 1-3

Ch. 16:1-3 really stands on its own in this chapter as the rest is about Delilah and the events leading to Samson's victory in death. This section is full of meaning, and is really an epitome of Samson's life. It shows both the great failing of his life, but also his incredible achievement in just 3 verses. We'll see a picture of Samson struggling and failing against sin, but by God's strength still able to perform something incredible by faith. We'll find in addition an incredible type of Christ in these verses.

The Harlot in Gaza – v. 1

1. Samson goes down to Gaza. What does Gaza mean? Look it up in a dictionary or commentary to see how important of a city it was.
Strong's #H5804 Word: *azzah* Meaning:
2. Gaza was one of the 5 major cities of the Philistines. It was likely the chief of the 5 cities as it was their stronghold and was where all the 5 lords of the Philistines gathered. What else will happen to Samson in Gaza?
3. Circle Gaza on the map below. How far does Samson go this time?



4. Why do you think Samson goes all the way to Gaza?
5. What's the first thing that happens when he gets there? When else previous to this did the exact same thing happen?

Here we see Samson's life-long problem of his eyes rear itself up again. He sees the Philistine harlot and acts on the lust of his eyes, going in to her.

6. Samson displayed faith in the previous chapter, but here again falls in serious sin. Samson was unable to rule his lusts. Pro. 16:32 seems to be based on Samson. How does it fit his situation in vs. 1-3 so well?

Plotting of the Gazites and Taking the Gates– vs. 2-3

7. The Gazites find out Samson is come to their city. What do they plan against him? Where specifically do they wait?
8. How does Samson foil their plan in such an incredible way?
9. This would not be a small gate if Gaza is the chief strong city of the Philistine civilization. This is humanly impossible. What are all the components of the gate that Samson rips out & carries on his shoulder a distance? Draw a picture of what you think this includes.
10. Gates represent so much more than just the physical gate. What do the following references reveal to us of what they symbolize?
- Deut. 12:12 –
 - Josh. 20:4 –
 - 2 Kings 7:1 –
11. Considering the answers above, what effect would Samson have on Gaza?
12. Samson places the entire gate on his shoulders. Where does he carry it? Is this an easy traverse?
13. Circle Hebron on the map below. How far is it from Gaza?



14. It says he took it to the top of a hill before Hebron. Look at other translations. What does this mean? Does he take the gate all the way to the city of Hebron, or to the mountain overlooking Hebron which is still a huge distance?

Now why would Samson go to all this work? Ripping out the gates and carrying them a great distance up a mountain? And why toward Hebron? There is an incredible reason why, which shows that despite Samson's failings, he had a great understanding of the promises and their meaning.

15. Who lived in Hebron and was buried there? See Gen. 35:27, 23:19
16. Abraham received a key promise at the end of Gen. 22:17. What was that?
17. While this is of course applies specifically to Christ, how well does this fit with Samson in Judges 16:3? Do you think Samson understood that promise to Abraham and was trying to fulfill it in part? Can you think of any other reason he would go to all this work?

Type of Christ in vs. 1-3

We see an incredible type of Christ in Samson in vs. 1-3. We've already seen that brought out in Samson taking the gate to Hebron, but we want to see what further connections there are.

18. In v. 2 Samson was compassed by the gentile enemy in the 'strong' city (Gaza). How does Psa. 22:12,16, a Messianic Psalm, tie this to Christ?

Samson was imprisoned in the "strong" place of the Uncircumcised Philistine (Sin), but he himself who like us was in that prison-house of sin, completely removed its gate, opening the prison to them that are bound – Isa. 61:1

19. Samson opened the 'strong prison' by laying the gate on his shoulder. How did Christ carry the cross which opened the way out of the prison of sin for us?
20. Christ was crucified in Calvary, or Golgotha which dictionaries tell us was likely a hill. Where did Samson carry the gate?
21. Samson carried the gate toward Hebron. What does Hebron mean?
Strong's #H2275 Word: *chebron* Meaning:
- a) How is it that we have fellowship with God?
22. Samson placed the gate on his shoulder. We saw that the gate represents the government among other things. How does Isa. 9:6 tie this to Christ?

SAMSON AND DELILAH - VS. 4-20

We come now to the section where Samson falls under the power of the incredibly powerful, merciless, and cruel woman Delilah. He will completely break his Nazarite vow and become powerless before the Philistines. But he will

Samson Loves Delilah – v. 4

23. After the events of vs. 1-3, what does Samson do in v. 4?

24. Circle Sorek on the map below. How far from Timnah & Zorah is it?



25. What does Sorek mean?

Strong's #H7796

Word: *soreq* Meaning:

26. Samson falls in love with Delilah. What does her name mean?

Strong's #H1807

Word: *deliylah*

Meaning:

27. How does that meaning fit with her effect on Samson?

Who was this woman who brought Samson down through enticements, cunning, & cruelty? There are a number of facts we can deduce about her from Judges 16.

28. Is there any mention of her having a husband? How large is her house considering v. 9?

29. Consider the way the Lords of the Philistines interact with her in vs. 5,8,18. What does this tell you about the way they regard or respect her?

30. What kind of character does she have? Consider vs. 5-6,15,19.

31. Delilah is suggested to likely be a high class harlot, who was well known, 'respected', and rich. Do you think this matches the facts from the record, as well as Samson's history? We will see that she is also a fitting type of the 'strange woman' who comes up often in Proverbs.

32. The record does not tell us what nationality Delilah was, and since the valley of Sorek went between Philistine and Israelite control throughout the period of the judges there is a divergence of opinion. Many think she was Philistine, but some believe she was Israelite. There are arguments both ways. Which do you think she was? Do you think it matters significantly?
33. The Philistines obviously hear that Samson is in love with Delilah and seize on their chance to take Samson. Their lords (the 5 lords) come to her. What do they ask her to do?
34. We have seen this request to entice before with Samson's wife in Timnah. What did you find was the meaning for "entice" in q. 61 on p. 28?
35. They ask her to find out the secret of Samson's strength. What hint might that give us of Samson's appearance?
36. What do they want to do with Samson once he is in their hands?
37. How much do they offer her in total? Use a bible dictionary or commentary to find out how much this might be worth.
38. Does Delilah hesitate at betraying the man who loves her?

Samson's 'Game' – vs. 6-15

We find in vs. 6-14 Delilah's first three efforts at enticing Samson. He seems to play a game with her as three times he tells her a lie of the secret of his strength.

39. Delilah is quite up front in v. 6 in the fact that she wants to know his secret so that he could be bound and afflicted. How do you think she asked him this question?
40. Samson doesn't refuse to give her an answer in v. 7, what does he tell her? Why do you think he's doing this?
41. Who in v. 8 brought the materials Delilah needed? Who actually bound Samson?
42. There were men lying in wait in the house ready to take their great enemy. What does Delilah tell Samson? Do you think they jumped out at this point, or were waiting to see his response after being warned?
43. What is Samson's response? Was his strength affected?

44. Do you think Samson would have found out that men were actually there to take him? Do you think that he suspects that Delilah is trying to give him up to the Philistines?
45. How does Delilah respond to Samson's lie?
46. What is the second lie Samson tells her? What other time in his life did this happen to him?
47. Who gets the material & ties Samson this time? Who is still lying in wait?
48. Delilah warns Samson again, with the same result. Twice now Samson has lied to Delilah. How does she respond in v. 13? When compared to vs. 6 & 10, does she ask as 'nicely' this time?
49. What lie does Samson tell Delilah this 3rd time in v. 13. The first 2 lies were very similar, but with this third one how much closer to the truth is he getting?
50. (Optional) Look up in other translations or a commentary to understand what the meaning is of the weaving with the web, fastening with a pin, and Samson going away with the pin of the beam and the web.
51. Yet again, Delilah warns Samson and he is still as strong as ever. What is Delilah's furious and calculated response this time in v. 15. What does she say about his heart?

Delilah's Triumph – vs. 16-20

We find in vs. 16-20 that Delilah by her wiles and snares brings Samson, the strong man of Israel, down to weakness & humiliation, and ultimately even death.

52. What does Delilah do next in v. 16? When else had this happened before to Samson?
53. This time is worse though. Over a period of time, she daily distressed and urged him so intensely that he preferred to be what rather than have this continue? What was the only way out that he saw?
54. What does Samson finally do in v. 17? Who has he given his heart to now?

55. Though Samson had broken other aspects of the Nazarite vow before this (wine & touched dead bodies), had he been untrue to this one key part of keeping his head unshaven which was the one God specifically focused on back in 13:5?
56. Note how Delilah has been the one doing all the binding and weaving in the 3 earlier attempts to snare Samson. Now she successfully snares him in this 4th attempt. How well does Eccl. 7:26 fit Delilah with Samson?
57. What does Eccl. 7:26 say about who would and wouldn't escape from her? Which one was Samson?
58. Delilah understands in the beginning of v. 18 that he had told all his heart. Who does she call and what do they bring up in their hands?
59. Delilah puts her plan into effect in v. 19. Does she just shave his head and then call the Philistines? What does she do to him?
60. Look up what "afflict" means? It's used in the same way in Ex. 1:11. What is that referring to?
Strong's #H6031 Word: *anah* Meaning:
61. She doesn't leave afflicting and weakening Samson to the soldiers or Philistine Lords, rather she wanted to humble him herself and have victory over this strong man. What does this tell you of her character? Does she care for Samson at all, let alone love him, despite all her words and show?
62. In v. 20 Delilah warns Samson of the Philistines, as before, but what does Samson say this time? Where is his confidence? Does he realize any change yet?
63. What was the terrible effect at the end of v. 20 of breaking his vow in having his hair cut?

The Delilah Effect

64. Note the focus on Samson's heart and who it belonged to. How many times is his heart mentioned in vs. 15-18?
65. Deut. 6:5 is very applicable to Samson here, but in the total opposite way it should have been. What four things are we told need to be given to our God? Where in vs. 4,15-19 had Delilah taken every one of these away from God and to herself?
- i. Our _____. Taken by Delilah in v. ____.
 - ii. Our _____. Taken by Delilah in v. ____.
 - iii. Our _____. In effect taken by Delilah in v. ____.
 - iv. Our _____. Taken by Delilah in v. ____.

66. What an incredibly powerful lesson of the effect that Delilah has on Samson's love for God! Delilah is a perfect representation of sin and the 'strange woman' of Proverbs who entices, urges, and pressures us to take everything that should be for our God, and use it instead to fulfill our lusts. Consider the Proverbs below and explain the following for each:
- i. How well they fit with Delilah & Samson, including the result to Samson in vs. 19-30
 - ii. Do the ideas of the strange woman taking the heart, soul/life, or might/strength come up?
 - iii. Is any antidote provided to not be taken by the strange woman?
- a) Prov. 5:3-5,8-10**
- i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- b) Prov. 6:23-27**
- i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- c) Prov. 7:21-27**
- i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
67. Is there any particular 'Delilah' in your life? What lessons from Samson and the Proverbs can you take for how to deal with it?

Samson's Humiliation – vs. 21-27

Delilah calls the Philistines once Samson is already weakened, and they come and take their greatest enemy.

68. What gruesome thing do the Philistines do to Samson once they take him?
69. What do they bind him with? How does this represent the effect of sin?
70. Where do they take Samson? What was the last thing that happened in Samson's life there? How different would this time be as he was taken through the gates?

71. What is Samson forced to do in Gaza in v. 21?

Consider the sad irony that Samson started the deliverance by destroying the crops of the Philistines, but now he is grinding their grain. He had killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass, but now he was doing the work of an ass. He had chased after strange women all his life, but now was doing the work of maidservants (Ex. 11:5)

72. During this time in the prison house, with his eyes gone, Samson would have been left alone with his thoughts. What do you think he might have thought about?

73. Who else in scripture needed to be blinded to change their life?

74. It's interesting that Samson along with these other characters needed to be made naturally blind in order to be able to see spiritually. How is this ironic considering the meaning of Samson's name?

75. What does v. 22 tell us starts to happen? Do you think there is a spiritual meaning to what was happening with his thinking & his separation as a Nazarite?

76. Do you think having been brought to such complete weakness was exactly what he needed to completely turn to God?

77. Being brought to such complete weakness was exactly what Samson needed to completely turn to God. It's the same with us. What do the following verses tell us about this key principle? Can you think of other verses?

a) 2 Cor. 12:9-10 –

b) Psa. 51:17 –

c) Isa. 57:15 –

d) _____ –

78. In v. 23 the Lords of the Philistines organize a great victory celebration over Samson. Who do they sacrifice to and claim delivered their enemy into their hand?

79. Look up Dagon in a Bible Dictionary to find out more about him.

80. What do they say about Samson that shows his tremendous effect on the Philistines?

81. In v. 25, what do they do once their hearts were merry? What does it mean that they Samson "made them sport" as they had desired?

Strong's #H6711

Word: *tsachaq*

Meaning:

82. In addition Samson is led by the hand by a lad, emphasizing his weakness. Describe what the scene might have looked like as the former strong man of Israel is mocked and toyed with by the Philistines. What would this be like for Samson?
83. In v. 26 Samson where does Samson ask to be put?
84. What does v. 27 reveal to us about the number of people at this celebration, the structure of the building, and where the people were?
85. (Optional) Look up a Bible dictionary or commentary to determine in more detail the likely structure of the building. Perhaps draw a picture if that helps.

Samson's Victory in Death – vs. 28-31

We find in vs. 28-31 that out of weakness Samson is made incredibly strong as he destroys thousands of Philistines in his death.

86. In the midst of being made sport of, who does Samson turn to in v. 28? What does this suggest about his thoughts and spiritual development in the time since his eyes were removed?
87. What are the different aspects of Samson's prayer?
88. What name and titles does he use of God? What do they mean and why is this significant?
89. Who does he recognize in his prayer as having the source of strength? How different is this to v. 20?
90. He says he wants to be strengthened to be avenged for his two eyes. On the surface it may appear that personal vengeance for his own sake is his only motivation here. Do you think this would be the case considering he is fully turning to God now?
91. The RSV renders "for my two eyes" as "for one of my two eyes", so the suggestion has been made that Samson realized his position before God and was asking to be left with infirmity. What does 2 Cor. 12:7-10 say about this?

92. Eze. 25:15-17 is an interesting passage regarding vengeance & the Philistines. How does this compare to the events of Judges 16?
93. Jeremiah's writings have similarities to Samson's situation. Consider how Jer. 15:15 and Lam. 3:55-66 fit with Samson's prayer and the events surrounding it.
94. After Samson's prayer, what does he do in v. 29 and beginning of v. 30? Do you think he had faith that God would answer his prayer?
95. Does God answer Samson's prayer? What does Jn. 9:31 therefore tell us about Samson's spiritual state.

Note that in v. 29, the words "all his" are not in the Hebrew (in italics in the KJV). Samson didn't bow himself down with all his might, but rather with might from God which he had just prayed for.

96. This event at the end of Samson's life when God grants strength to him in his situation is the primary application to Samson of what phrase in Heb. 11:32-34?
97. Even though Samson had failed terribly, losing his love for God by the enticements of Delilah, he turned to his God again, and was heard and answered. What a wonderful and merciful God we have who is so willing to save us if we but turn to Him! Psa. 107:10-15 has a number of comparisons to Samson's situation. What connections can you find, and what does it tell us about God's character?
98. This is one of the major lessons that we glean from Samson's life, that no matter how far we have strayed, He will save us if we turn to Him. How should this affect you, both in considering yourself and others?
99. Picture the scene of v. 30. Imagine how the mocking of the Philistines as they see him start to push the pillars would quickly turn to consternation as the pillars begin to shift and crack, and then terror as the roof starts to cave in. They try to run, but it's too late. How many were killed? What kind of effect would this have on the Philistines?
W
100. Consider the message of Judges 5:31. How does Samson finally live up to his name in his death?

101. Who comes to take Samson's body in v. 31? How far do they come? What is wonderful about this considering how solitary Samson had been?

102. Where is Samson buried?

So Samson's life comes to an end. His life of turmoil had now come to an end as he is laid beside his father Manoah (rest). Samson will rest in peace until he is raised to eternal life and will experience the rest of the Kingdom.

TYPES OF CHRIST IN JUDGES 16

We come now to the great type of Christ in Samson's death. We saw that in his birth, at times in his life (particularly with the gates of Gaza), and now in his death.

103. What was Samson betrayed for in v. 5? What was Christ also betrayed for?

104. Samson was ridiculed, mocked, and made sport of right before his death by the hand of Gentiles. Compare this with what Matt. 27:29-31 tells you about how Christ was treated right before his death?

105. What is similar in language between v. 29 and Matt. 27:38 when both die?

106. Samson died with the wicked and rich Lords of the Philistines ("let me die with the Philistines"). What aspects of Samson can you find in Isa. 53:8-9 which is speaking of Christ? Samson was only a type though, what can only fit to Christ?

107. The key type of Christ is in Samson's triumph over the Philistines in his death. Let's explore what this type of Samson putting sin (the Philistines) to death through his death represents.

a) What does Heb. 2:14-15 tell us about the victory Christ had in his death? How does it compare to Samson?

b) What did Christ destroy that has the power of death? Consider Rom. 5:12 & 6:23

c) Rom. 8:3 is a good cross reference for Heb. 2:14-15

108. Having further established the type, let's consider at this point the principle of putting sin to death, or dying to sin which is so important for us to do. This can be found throughout scripture, but particularly in verses like the following. Explain how they show the principle.

a) 1 Pet. 2:24

- b) Rom. 6:6-8
- c) Rom. 8:13 (mortify in KJV means 'to kill')
- d) Gal. 5:24
- e) Col. 3:5-9

109. Where was Samson's body taken to in relation to his father? Where did Christ go to after his resurrection? (Heb. 10:12)
110. Remembering that Manoah's name means rest and that Samson will not see corruption for ever, what are the comparisons to Psa. 16:9-11.
111. (Optional) Read Psa. 22:6-24 which is a Messianic psalm pointing forward to Christ's crucifixion and salvation. What similarities can you find to Samson's birth, any events in his life, and the events leading up to his death?

JUDGES 16 CONCLUSION

112. What did you find particularly interesting or powerful out of chapter 16?
113. What lessons can you take from chapter 16?

SAMSON CONCLUSION

This brings our study of Samson to a close. We have seen someone who was born to be a life-long Nazarite and to begin the deliverance of the nation from the Philistine oppression. At times in his life he displayed great acts of faith, but unfortunately he let his lusts and desires distract him many times and turn him to great sin, culminating in him giving everything that was to be God's to Delilah – his love, heart, soul, and strength.

So in Samson we see the great struggle against sin highlighted, and the power that sin had in his life. It was the same struggle that the nation was having during the time of the Judges. Do we not have the same struggle against sin? We are to separate our thinking to God, and in our baptisms make a vow like that of the Nazarite, yet we so often fail and give in to the pleasures of sin for a season. We can identify with Samson, and so we are encouraged that God in His longsuffering continued to work with him to achieve His purpose and to save him. Samson had to be brought to utter weakness so he could recognize his need for God who alone could give him strength. He did fully turn to His God, renewing his Nazarite vow, and in a great act of faith destroyed the Philistines in his death.

Samson was an incredible type of Christ in whose birth God was showing a type of the Seed of the Woman being brought forth to begin to destroy the Serpent. His birth and childhood are similar to Christ's, and in his life he possessed the gates of his enemies echoing back to the promise made to Abraham. Finally in his death he put the Philistines to death through his death. Samson was clearly not the Messiah though, and we see the power of sin in his life. But in him we believe that God is showing us the principle that sin must be put to death. He struggled with sin throughout his life, both personally and in type with the Philistines, and through him God showed what had to be done to sin (the Philistines) in Samson's death.

Now Samson only began this deliverance from the Philistines, and God used him to set the scene for another great man of faith to come onto the scene and complete the deliverance from the Philistines. The man Samuel who consistently lived to righteousness from his childhood on, and brought a whole nation to repentance. We will consider part of his life next.

There are many powerful lessons and principles which we have considered in the life of Samson which we hope will be transformational in your life. May we all together, by God's grace, meet this mighty man of faith in the Kingdom of our God.

1. As we bring Samson to a close, what are the major principles and lessons that you are going to take from Samson?

