

## The Judges of Israel: SAMSON!

### Samson's Birth (chp. 13)

- > Samson's mother was BARREN – significance?
  - \* Not a REGULAR birth (a recurring theme in the Bible – Isaac, Samuel, John, etc.)
  
- > What's in a Name?
  - \* When Manoah asks the Angel of the Lord about His name, the response is strange:  
“Why do you ask my name ... it is BEYOND UNDERSTANDING.”
  - \* KJV – “WONDERFUL”
  - \* These 2 words seem very different; what's the link?
  - \* Isaiah 9:6
  
- > A Nazarite
  - \* From the Hebrew word for “separated,” “dedicated,” or “consecrated”
  - \* The Nazarite Vow: Numbers 6:1-8
    - Usually taken for a period of time ... but sometimes for life (1 Samuel 1:11)
    - Usually voluntary (Acts 18:18; 20:23-26)
    - No fermented drink; no eating anything form of grape!
    - No touching a dead body!
    - No haircuts!
  
  - \* What was the source of Samson's strength?
  
- > The Stirring of the Holy Spirit
  - \* How did the HS work in the OT? Empowerment for SPECIFIC EVENTS or MOMENTS

### Samson's Marriage (chp. 14)

- > The Woman: A PHARISEE
  - \* Was this wrong? (Ex. 34:11,16; Deut. 7:1-6; Judges 3:5-6)
  - \* Was this right? (14:4 – “She's the RIGHT ONE for me.”)
  - \* Hebrew for this phrase – “ ... is right IN MY EYES.” (see 17:6; 21:25)
  - \* Cf. Josh. 11:20; 1 Kings 12:15; Ex.10:27
    - > NIV study note: “The Lord uses even SINFUL HUMAN WEAKNESS to accomplish His purposes and bring praises to His Name.”
  
- > The Lion
  - \* Is this lion the source of the riddle ... or more?
  - \* Read v.9b. What is the significance?
  - \* Samson broke his vow for SOME HONEY!
    - > *ill: quiz cheaters – Would you sell your integrity for 1% of your grade?*
  
- > The Riddle
  - \* Why did Samson give his fiancée the answer to his riddle?
  - \* Why did he wait 7 days?
  - \* “Plowed with my heifer” – Chris' Key: *Never compare a lady with a cow!!!*
    - Heifers weren't used for plowing. I.e. “you broke the rules ... you cheated.”
  - \* The Philistines answer Samson's riddle with a riddle of their own. What's the answer?

KEY: Samson let his desire for this woman cloud his sense of right and act foolishly!  
(Chris' Key: *Women will make you act foolishly!*)

\* How did Samson fulfill his end of the deal? How was this God's plan?

### **Samson's Revenge (chp. 15)**

- > Notice the "back and forth" at play in this narrative.
- > What is the motivation for Samson's exploits? REVENGE
  - \* ill: Mafia movie
- > Why did God quench Samson's thirst when Samson seems so unfaithful?  
A: God is FAITHFUL to His vows! (13:7 – "from birth to death")

### **Samson and Delilah (chp. 16)**

- > 16:1-3 demonstrates Samson's continuing MORAL WEAKNESS
- > Is this a love story? (Pointer Sisters "Fire")
- > Compare: Why did Samson's fiancé betray him? FEAR OF BEING BURNED  
Why did Delilah betray him? MONEY! (28 LBS of SILVER)
- > How many times did Samson mislead Delilah? 3X
  - \* So ... why did Samson fall for her trick on the 4<sup>th</sup> time??? (16:16) CONSTANT NAGGING!
    - Chris' Keys: (1) *Don't give in to a nagging wife.*  
(2) *Nagging is of the DEVIL!*
- > Note the progression ... Samson got closer to the truth with his lies. Why?
  - \* He was playing with fire. ("the chair" skit)
- > Samson's Hair – the OUTWARD SYMBOL of his vow.
  - \* Samson DESPISED His vow (see Gen.25:34) – "not valuing"
  - \* A willing choice NOT TO BE SEPARATED to God!!
- > Foreshadowing (16:22) – "But ... the hair on his head began to grow ..."
  - \* Demonstrates the MERCY & FAITHFULNESS of God

### **Samson's Death (16:23-31)**

- > Significance: the people's celebration prompted the supernatural act (16:27).
  - \* Credit for Samson's defeat was given to Dagon, the Philistine god.
- > What was Samson's final motivation: REVENGE (for his EYES)
  - \* What's missing?