



## THE JUDGES

June 20, 2021  
“Samson”

### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving this ancient text that reveals so much about you and your will for us. We thank you for your faithfulness even when we are not faithful to you. We are sorry for the times we allow our pride to convince us that we can accomplish great things through our own strength. Father, give us the humility to recognize that apart from you we can't accomplish anything. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

#### **Judges 13:1-5 (NIV)**

*Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.*

*<sup>2</sup> A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. <sup>3</sup> The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, “You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. <sup>4</sup> Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. <sup>5</sup> You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”*

#### **Judges 16:20-21, 28-30 (NIV)**

*<sup>20</sup> Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!”*

*He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.*

*<sup>21</sup> Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.*

*<sup>28</sup> Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” <sup>29</sup> Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, <sup>30</sup> Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.*

## INTRODUCTION

The book of Hebrews tells us that Samson was a hero of the faith. His story has been taught for years in Sunday School. But the book of Judges shows him as a man driven by his sexual appetite, his vindictiveness and temper. Though exposed to the things of God, Samson's life is defined by poor decisions, rash judgments and carnal desires. Yet through all of the compromise and moral failure God used him in a powerful way.

The life of Samson teaches us some important aspects of the character of God. We learn that God can use our disobedience as well as our obedience for his glory. We learn that God works through sinners and sinful situations and that God is faithful to us even when we are unfaithful to Him. The story also teaches us something important about ourselves. We are reminded that we are only able to do what we can do by the grace of God.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Are you a superstitious person? Explain?
- 2) During the sermon, pastor Eric said "the phrase 'the Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord' reminds us that sin does not ultimately consist of violating our conscience, personal standards, or community standards, but rather consists of violating God's will for us." Do you agree or disagree? Discuss.
- 3) Samson was set apart by God so that he could influence the surrounding pagan tribes, instead he was influenced by them. How do you feel pressure to fit in with the surrounding culture in your own life?
- 4) Do you often fail to recognize that the things you accomplish are by the grace of God instead of your own strength?
- 5) Has there ever been a time in your life when God was faithful to you when you were not faithful to Him? Explain.

## FINAL APPLICATION

This week, humble yourself before God and thank him for the gifts and talents he has given you.