

Samson

O. God blesses families who honor Him (13:1-25). ¹

Samson

(Judg 13 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.**

{2} A certain man of Zorah, named

Manoah,

from the clan of the **Danites,**

had a wife who was sterile

and remained childless. {3} The

angel of the LORD

appeared to her and said, "You are sterile
and childless,

but you are going to conceive and have a son.

{4} Now see to it that you

(Be a Nazarite)

drink no wine

or other fermented drink and that you
do not eat anything unclean,

{5} because you will conceive and give
birth to a son.

No razor

may be used on his head, because the boy
is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from
birth, and

he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands
of the Philistines."

{6} Then the woman went to her husband and told
him,

"A man of God came to me.

He looked like an **angel of God, very
awesome**. I didn't ask him where he came
from, and he didn't tell me his name. {7}

But

he said to me,

'You will conceive and give birth to a son.

Now then, drink no wine or other
fermented drink and do not eat anything
unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite
of God from birth until the day of his
death.'" {8} Then

Manoah prayed to the LORD:

"O Lord, I beg you,

let the man of God

you sent to us come again to

Samson

teach us how to bring up the boy who
is to be born." {9} God heard Manoah, and
the angel of God came again to the woman
while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah
was not with her. {10}
The woman hurried to tell her husband,
"He's here! The man who appeared to me the other
day!" {11} Manoah got up and followed his wife.
When he came to the man, he said, "Are you the
one who talked to my wife?" "I am," he said. {12}
So Manoah asked him, "When your words are
fulfilled,
what is to be the rule
for the boy's life and work?" {13} The angel of
the LORD answered,
"Your wife must
do all that I have told her. {14} She must not eat anything
that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or
other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must
do everything I have commanded her." {15} Manoah said
to the angel of the LORD,
"We would like you to stay
until we prepare a young goat for you." {16} The
angel of the LORD replied, "Even though you
detain me,
I will not eat any of your food.
But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the
LORD." (Manoah did not realize that it was the
angel of the LORD.) {17} Then Manoah inquired
of the angel of the LORD,
"What is your name,
so that we may honor you when your word comes
true?" {18} He replied, "Why do you ask my
name?
It is beyond understanding."
{19} Then Manoah took a **young goat**, together
with the **grain offering**, and sacrificed it on a rock
to the LORD. And
*the LORD did an amazing thing while Manoah and his
wife watched:*
{20} As the flame blazed up from the altar toward
heaven, the angel of
the LORD ascended in the flame.
Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their
faces to the ground. {21} When the angel of the
LORD did not show himself again to Manoah and

Samson

his wife, Manoah realized that it was the angel of
the LORD. {22}

"We are doomed to die!"

he said to his wife.

"We have seen God!"

{23}

But his wife answered,

"If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not
have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering
from our hands, nor shown us all these things or
now told us this." {24}

The woman gave birth
to a boy and named him

Samson.

He grew

and the

LORD blessed him

, {25} and the

Spirit of the LORD began to stir him

while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and
Eshtaol

(Before the Danites moved up to foothills of Mt. Hermon,
They were located south of Mt. Carmel and Plain of
Sharon **on the west coast**).

Samson

P. God can turn human trickery, treachery, and hatred to accomplish His purposes (14:1-15:20).

Samson

(Judg 14 NIV)

(Riddle Story)

Samson went down to Timnah

(in southeast Dan on the border with Judah) and
saw there a young Philistine woman.

{2} When he returned, he
said to his father and mother,
"I have seen a Philistine woman in
Timnah; now
get her for me as my wife."

{3} His father and mother replied,
"Isn't there an acceptable woman
among your relatives or among all
our people?

Must you go to the uncircumcised
Philistines to get a wife?" But

Samson said to his father,

"Get her for me. She's the right one for me."

{4} (His parents did not know that
this was from the LORD,

who was seeking an occasion to confront
the Philistines; for at that time they were
ruling over Israel.) {5}

*Samson went down to Timnah together with
his father and mother.*

As they approached the vineyards of
Timnah,

suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him.

{6}

*The Spirit of the LORD came upon
him in power so that*

he tore the lion apart

with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat.

But he told neither

his father nor his mother what he had done. {7}

Then he went down and

talked with the woman, and he liked her.

{8} Some time

later,

when he went back to marry her,

he turned aside to look at the

lion's carcass.

In it was a

swarm of bees and some honey

Samson

, {9} which he scooped out with his hands and
ate as he went along.

When he rejoined his parents, he gave
them some,
and they too ate it.

But he did not tell them that he had taken
the honey from the lion's carcass. {10}
Now his father went down to see the
woman. And Samson made a

feast

there, as was customary
for bridegrooms.

{11} When he appeared, he was given thirty
companions. {12}

"Let me tell you a riddle,"

Samson said to them. "If you can give me the answer
within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty
linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. {13}

(The wager)

If you can't tell me the answer, you must give me thirty
linen garments and thirty sets of clothes." "Tell us your
riddle," they said.

"Let's hear it."

{14} He replied,

"Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet."

For three days they could not give the answer. {15} On
the fourth day, they said to Samson's wife,

"Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us,
*or we will burn you and your father's
household to death.*

Did you invite us here to rob us?" {16}

Then Samson's wife threw herself on him,
sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really
love me. You've given my people a riddle,
but you haven't told me the answer." "I
haven't even explained it to my father or
mother," he replied, "so why should I
explain it to you?" {17}

She cried the whole seven days of the feast.

So on the seventh day

he finally told her,

because she continued to press him.

She in turn explained the riddle to her people.

{18} Before sunset on the seventh day the men of the
town said to him,

Samson

"What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?"

Samson said to them,
"If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle."

{ 19 }

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him

In power. He went
*down to Ashkelon,
struck down thirty of their men,
stripped them of their belongings
and gave their clothes to those who had explained the
riddle.*

Burning with anger,

he went up to his father's house. { 20 } And
Samson's wife was given
to the friend who had attended him at his wedding.

(Judg 15 NIV) Later on, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat and went to visit his wife. He said, "I'm going to my wife's room." But her father would not let him go in. { 2 } "I was so sure you thoroughly hated her," he said, "that I gave her to your friend. Isn't her younger sister more attractive? Take her instead." { 3 } Samson said to them, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them." { 4 } So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, { 5 } lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves. { 6 } When the Philistines asked, "Who did this?" they were told, "Samson, the Timnite's son-in-law, because his wife was given to his friend." So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father to death. { 7 } Samson said to them, "Since you've acted like this, I won't stop until I get my revenge on you." { 8 } He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them. Then he went down and stayed in a cave in the rock of Etam. { 9 } The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, spreading out near Lehi. { 10 } The men of Judah asked, "Why have you come to fight us?" "We have come to take Samson prisoner," they answered, "to do to him as he did to us." { 11 } Then three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to

Samson

Samson, "Don't you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?" He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me." {12} They said to him, "We've come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines." Samson said, "Swear to me that you won't kill me yourselves." {13} "Agreed," they answered. "We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and led him up from the rock. {14} As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. {15} Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men. {16} Then Samson said, "With a donkey's jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men." {17} When he finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was called Ramath Lehi. {18} Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the LORD, "You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" {19} Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, and it is still there in Lehi. {20} Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

Samson

Q. Unfaithful leaders cannot follow selfish lusts and expect God's blessing (16:1-21).

Samson

(Judg 16:1-21 NIV)

(Gaza Prostitute and City Gate Story)

One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute.

He went in to spend the night with her.

{2}

The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!"

So they surrounded the place

and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate.

They made no move during the night, saying,

"At dawn we'll kill him."

{3}

But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night.

Then he got up and

took hold of the doors of the city gate,

together with the two posts, and tore them

loose, bar and all.

He lifted them to his shoulders and carried

them

to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

{4}

(Samson and Delilah Story)

Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

(Sorek is a valley on the western side of Palestine. It runs from near Jerusalem toward the Mediterranean Sea.)

{5}

The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said,

"See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength

and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him.

Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver."

{6} So Delilah said to Samson,

"Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued."

{7} Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with

seven fresh thongs

Samson

that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man." {8} Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh thongs that had not been dried, and she tied him with them.

{9} With men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the thongs as easily as a piece of string

snaps when it comes close to a flame.

So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

{10} Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied." {11} He said, "If anyone ties me securely with

new ropes

that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man." {12}

So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them.

Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!"

But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads.

{13} Delilah then said to Samson, "Until now, you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied." He replied, "If you weave the

seven braids - of my head

of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I'll become as weak as any other man."

So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric {14} and tightened it with the pin.

Again she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric.

{15} Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength."

{16} With such

nagging

she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. {17}

(Seven braids 2 - of his hair)

So he told her everything.

Samson

"No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man." {18} When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. {19} Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair,

and so began to subdue him.

And his strength left him.

{20} 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.

{21}

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 in the prison.*

Samson

R. God delivers His people by the prayers and efforts of His leader (16:22-31).

Samson

(Judg 16:22-31 NIV)

But the hair on his head began to grow again

after it had been shaved.

{23} Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon

their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." {24}

When the people saw him, they praised their god,

saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain." {25}

While they were in high spirits, they shouted,

"Bring out Samson to entertain us."

So they called Samson out of the prison,

and he performed for them.

When they stood him among the pillars, {26} Samson said to the servant who held his hand,

"Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them."

{27}

Now the temple was crowded with men and women

;

all the rulers of the Philistines were there,

and on the roof

were

about three thousand men and women

watching Samson perform.

{28}

Then Samson prayed

to the LORD,

"O Sovereign LORD, remember me.

O God, please strengthen me just once more,

and

let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines

for my two eyes." {29}

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, {30}

Samson said,

"Let me die with the Philistines!"

Samson

**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. {31}***

**Then his brothers and his father's whole family went down to
get him.**

**They brought him back and buried him
 between Zorah and Eshtaol
 *in the tomb of Manoah his father.***

He had led Israel twenty years.