

Judges 13 - 14

Samson's Birth & Marriage

Lesson 7

Samson was the last judge mentioned in the book of Judges (Samuel served as Israel's final judge). He was a man of legendary physical strength and strong passions used by God to bring victory over the Philistines.

Samson's Birth - 13:1-25

1. Describe Israel's spiritual condition. (vs. 13:1)
2. The announcement of Samson's birth was presented in an unusual way. How did it happen? (vs. 13:2-5)
 - What is a Nazirite? (Numbers 6:1-12)
3. When the woman brought the news to her husband, how did she describe the messenger and the message? (vs. 13:6-7)
4. How did her husband, Manoah, take the news? (vs. 13:8)
5. What was different about this family in light of Israel's spiritual condition described in Judges 13:1?
6. God heard Manoah's prayer and gave him the opportunity he requested. How did that come about? Please comment. (vs. 13:9-11)

7. The angel answered Manoah by repeating the instructions given to his wife. In appreciation and good hospitality, Manoah offered to prepare a meal. How did the conversation go? (vs. 13:15-18)
8. How did understanding come? (vs. 13:19-21)
9. What was the conversation immediately after this event? (vs. 13:22-23)
10. And, the promise? (vs. 13:24)

Samson's Marriage - 14:1-20

11. When Samson reached the age of marriage, he found the girl of his dreams. How did it go when he approached his parents to start the marriage negotiation process? (vs. 14:1-3)
12. Verse 4 is in parenthesis giving insight into the situation. What was said and please comment.
13. What happened during Samson's visits to the intended bride? (vs. 14:5-9)

14. At the wedding feast, Samson asked a riddle and made a wager. What was the riddle and how did the guests respond? (vs. 14:12-14)

15. What happened on the 4th day? (vs. 14:15-16)

16. And on the 7th day? (vs. 14:17)

17. With the sun about to set on the final day of the feast and competition, what happened, how did it end? (vs. 14:18)

18. What was the payoff and how was it acquired? (vs. 14:19)

19. The chapter ends with a strange twist to this most unusual wedding. What was it and please comment. vs.14:20)

Samson stormed home to brood over his hurts at the hands of the Philistines and his wife went to the wedding friend (best man). We can begin to see God's plan unfold, "...the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines..." Judges 14:4.