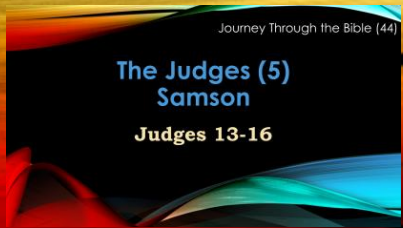


Journey Through the Bible (44)

The Judges (5) Samson

Judges 13-16

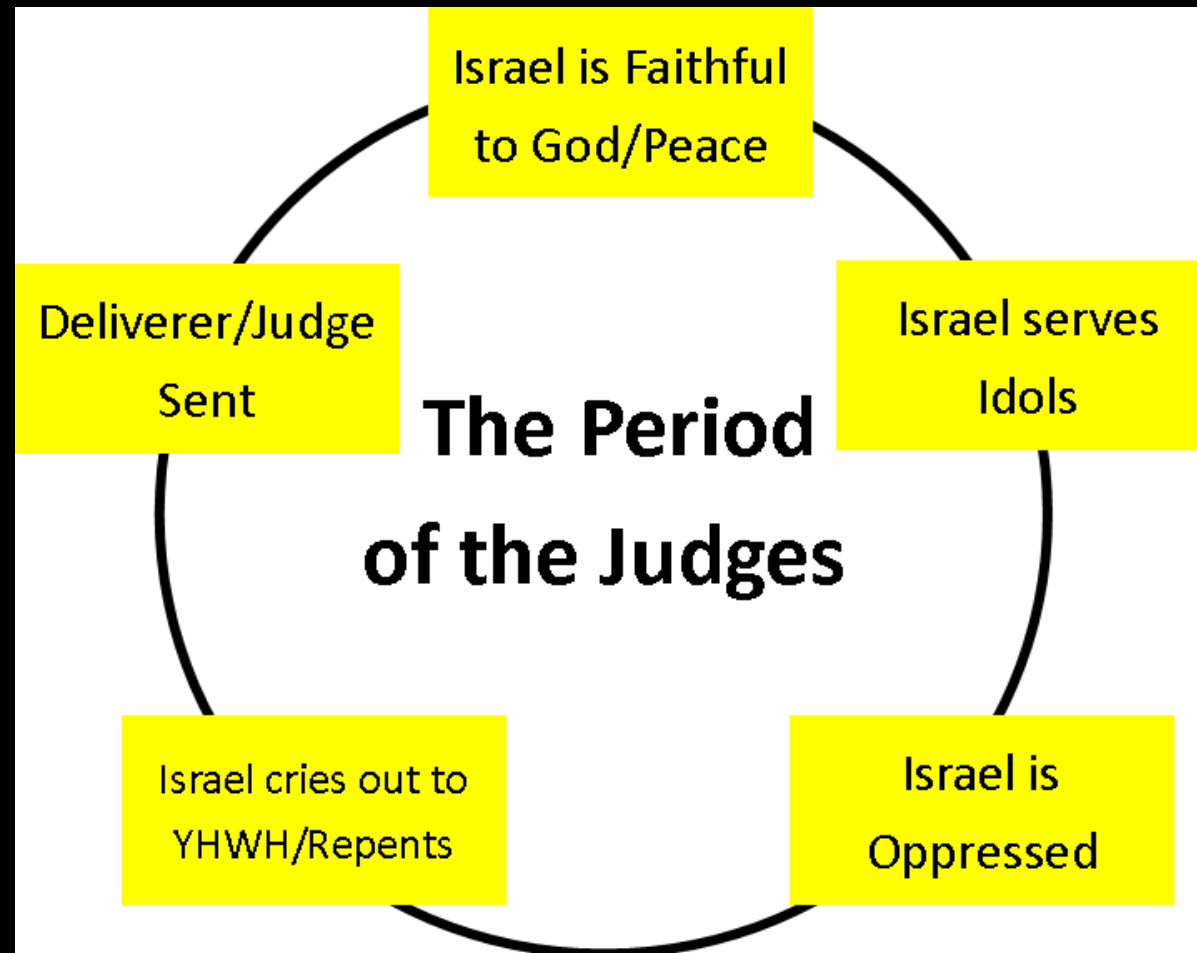


Opening thoughts

- We are examining the 8th of 17 time periods of Bible history – the period of the judges.
- The book of judges is about a period of time where Israel was delivered by “judges”. There are 14 (of 15) judges recorded in the book.
- The period is recorded in **Judges, Ruth & 1 Samuel 1-8**. It ends with Saul anointed king.
- Judges were not judicial advocates, but deliverers from oppressors. They helped God “judge” these oppressors.

Our text – **Judges**

- **Judges 2:11-23** – The recurring cycle of this period



- Thus far we have examined
 - 1) Othniel – a brother of Caleb **3:7-11**
 - 2) Ehud & Shamgar **3:12-31**
 - 3) Deborah & Barak – **4 & 5**
 - 4) Gideon – **6-8** – who with 300 delivered Israel from the Midianites
 - 5) Abimelech (?) – **9**
 - 6) Tola, Jair – **10:1-5**
 - 7) Jephthah – **11-12**
 - 8) Ibzan, Elon and Abdon – **12:8-15**

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

- **Judges 13:1** – Israel did evil again and were oppressed by Philistines for 40 years.
- NOTE: This likely overlapped Jephthah as he dealt with the Ammonites in the NE region and across the Jordan - See **Judges 10:6-7**.
- Perhaps Samson was born around the time Jephthah was delivering Israel.

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

- **Judges 13:2-5** – introduced to Manoah of Dan. The Angel of the LORD appeared to his wife announcing she would give birth to Samson (she was barren). She was instructed to not partake of anything from the grape. Also Samson was all his life to not eat of grapes, anything unclean and not to shave his head.
- This was consistent with the Nazarite vow as recorded in **Numbers 6:1-21**.

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

- **Judges 13:6-23** – Manoah's wife tells her about the man of God. He prays and the Angel of God appears and reaffirms. Sacrifices are offered and they realize they have been in the presence of the Angel of YHWH - **22-23**.
- NOTE: At times we read Angel of the LORD (YHWH - **3, 13-21**) – and at other times Angel of God (Elohim – **6, 8, 9**).

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

- **Judges 13:24-25** – Samson is born and grows. YHWH blesses him. The “Spirit of the LORD” began to move upon him.
- **14** – Samson goes to Timnah and sees a Philistine woman and wants her as his wife. Note **vs. 3-4**, but Samson is not swayed because it was from the LORD.

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

- **Judges 14** – On his way to see her, he kills a lion by the strength of the LORD. Later as he returns to visit her again, there was in the lion bees and honey. He eats some of it.
- Visiting her he poses a riddle to the Philistines. They threaten his wife and family to find the answer. She pesters Samson until he tells her the riddle.
- The prize was 30 garments. Samson goes to Askelon and kills 30 men and gives their garments to the men.
- Samson returns home and the father of his wife gives her to Samson's best man.

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

- **Judges 15** – Samson returns to visit his wife and when he learns she was given to another, Samson takes revenge in the area.
- He captures 300 foxes and ties them together in pairs by their tails with a torch between. Released they destroy their grain, vineyards and olive groves.
- **15:7-8** - The Philistines then burn Samson's wife and father. Samson takes vengeance slaughtering a great number

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

- **Judges 15:9ff** – The Philistines then harass Judah at Lehi. When told why, they demand to be given Samson. 3000 men of Judah approach Samson and tell him. He agrees to go, but asks that they do not kill him and that they tie him with a 2 new ropes.
- Delivered to the Philistines, the Spirit of the LORD comes on him. With a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he kills 1000 men, throws it down and names the place, Ramath Lehi (Jawbone Height)
- YHWH continues to protect him.

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

- **Judges 16:1-3** – Samson visits a harlot in Gaza and at night he destroys the gates of the city as he escapes.
- **16:4-5** – in the valley of Sorek, he meets Delilah (NOTE: Text does not say he married her). Philistines bribe her with great wealth to find out the source of his strength.

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

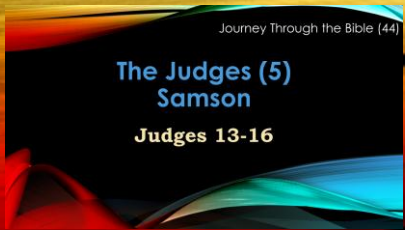
- **Judges 16:6-22** – She entices Samson to tell her the source. Samson misleads her 3 times.
 - 1) Use 7 fresh bowstrings and he would lose his strength.
 - 2) Use a new rope
 - 3) Tie the 7 locks of his hair to a weaver's beam.Each time, she tries it with Philistines waiting. But his strength overpowers.

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

- **Judges 16:6-22** – Delilah continues to pester him and finally he reveals the source of his strength to her.
- She lulls him to sleep and the Philistines cut his hair. The LORD had departed from him (**20**). He is bound and his eyes put out, and enslaved as a grinder in prison.

Our text – **Judges 13-16**

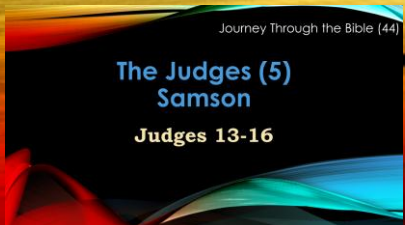
- **Judges 16:23-31** – records his death. The Philistines are sacrificing to Dagon, their god. Samson is brought out before the large crowd to “perform”. 3000 men and women, including the lords (leaders) are watching from the roof of the temple.
- Samson is tied between 2 supporting beams. He prays to God to give him strength one more time. It is granted and he collapsed the temple. More died in his death, than those he killed while alive.
- **16:31** – he is buried in the tomb of his father.
- He “judged” Israel 20 years (**15:20 , 16:31**)



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

God can accomplish His will in unexpected ways and sources

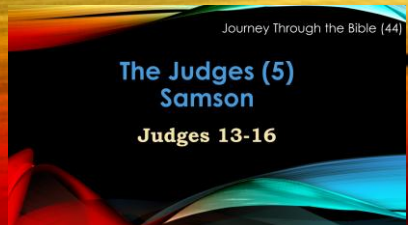
- This account is one of many that show God can use whomever He desires to accomplish His purpose.
Cf. Romans 9:21-24 we are clay in His hand. He can use the ungodly to accomplish His will.
- Samson was by no means virtuous.



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

The importance of dedication

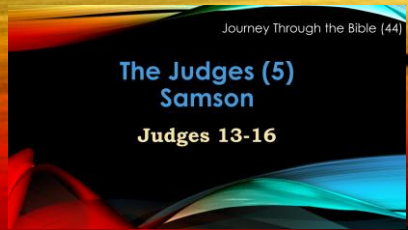
- The Nazarite vow was one of dedication. Including Manoah's wife as she bore Samson.
- Even Samson, for the most part, seemed to be faithful to this way of life.
- Let us understand that the Christian life is one of dedication – **Romans 12:1-2**



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

The faith of Samson

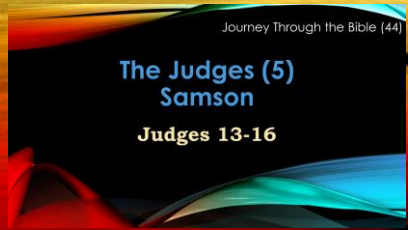
- **Hebrews 11:32**, he is mentioned for his faith along with other judges, David, Samuel, etc.
- Samson was greatly flawed and violated numerous laws of God. But Hebrews 11 is not about perfect lives, but the FAITH of those mentioned. 1) He kept most of his Nazarite vow; 2) He confronted the enemies of God (He was with him); 3) By faith, at the end of his life, he prays to YHWH.
- Where he stands with God, is between God and him.



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

Be careful who you marry

- Samson's parents even warned him against it (**14:3**). While it was from the LORD, it still posed great problems.
- It is dangerous to marry one who does not have the same spiritual values as you.
Cf. 2 Corinthians 6:14, does apply.

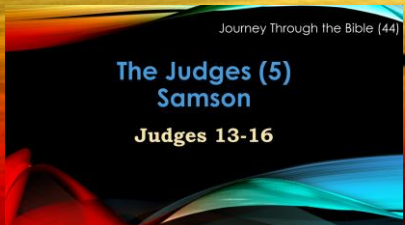


Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

The problem when we compromise God's will

- Samson DID violate his Nazarite life at times.
- Compromise is dangerous and often sinful –

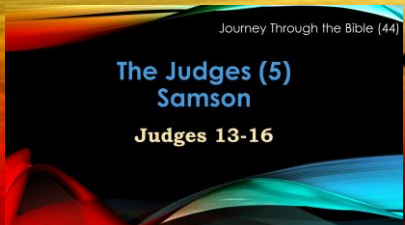
Ephesians 5:11, 2 John 9-11, Matthew 6:24



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

Will we learn from our past?

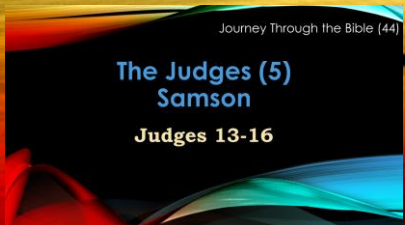
- Samson should have known from the pestering of his first wife and Delilah's continued deception NOT to reveal the real source of his strength.
- A wise man **LEARNS** from his failure and takes measures to avoid them in the future.



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

The cost of betrayal

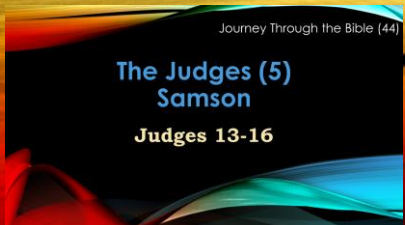
- Samson was betrayed by his first wife, her father and Delilah.
- We may not be able to prevent betrayal, but we need to be alert, aware and act with caution.
- HOW many times does one need to betray you before you learn? **Matthew 10:16.**
- Trust is earned!
- NOTE: How often have we betrayed our Lord?



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

Persistence is a two-edged sword

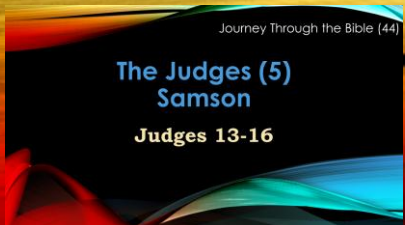
- Persistence is a good thing – **Galatians 6:9, etc.**
- But know that Satan is also persistent – **1 Peter 5:8**. And so are our enemies. The Philistines and Delilah were both persistent (and evil).
- Be alert!



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

Pride comes before a fall

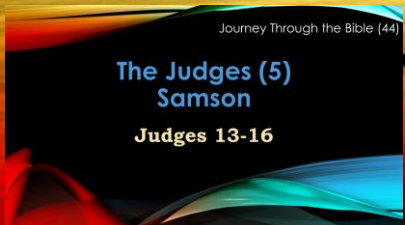
- **Proverbs 16:18, James 4:6, 1 Corinthians 10:12.**
- Samson was prideful – throughout his life, and with Delilah.



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

Has God left you?

- When we are living in open rebellion, God is NOT with us! He will not stay when we refuse to serve Him!
- **Hebrews 2:1** – we must be alert, lest we drift away. **Hebrews 10:25-31, 2 Peter 2:20-22**



Lessons from Samson – **Judges 13-16**

God WILL accomplish His purpose.

- That is the recurring message of the accounts of scripture. **Romans 15:4**
- He is in control regardless of what we think or do.
- Am I living in a way that makes me available to Him?

Is God with you or against you?



Let us pray!

