

# JUDGES 15

## SAMSON – THE FAITHLESSNESS OF MAN AND THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD



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## SAMSON'S RETURN

Judges 15:1-2 *After some days, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife with a young goat. And he said, "I will go in to my wife in the chamber." But her father would not allow him to go in. 2 And her father said, "I really thought that you utterly hated her, so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please take her instead."*

- Samson is only concerned about himself.
- Our calling:
  - Philippians 2:3-5 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,*

## SAMSON'S MISPLACED ANGER AND FIERY FOXES

Judges 15:3 *And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be innocent in regard to the Philistines, when I do them harm."*

- Judges 14:4a *His father and mother did not know that it was from the LORD, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines...*

Judges 15:4-5 *So Samson went and caught 300 foxes and took torches. And he turned them tail to tail and put a torch between each pair of tails. 5 And when he had set fire to the torches, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines and set fire to the stacked grain and the standing grain, as well as the olive orchards.*

- Dagon (1 Sam 5) – grain “god”
- Unexpected weapons in Judges:
  - Ehud -hidden dagger
  - Shamgar - oxgoad.
  - Jael - tent peg
  - Gideon - 300 men, their torches, jars and trumpets.

## VENGEANCE

Judges 15:6 *Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they said, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." And the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.*

- Receive what was threatened for not telling the riddle (14:15)

Judges 15:7 *And Samson said to them, "If this is what you do, I swear I will be avenged on you, and after that I will quit."*

- All about Samson
- But, YHWH will continue to stir up enmity (hatred, opposition, quality of being an enemy)

Judges 15:8 *And he struck them hip and thigh with a great blow, and he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.*

- "He stuck them hip and thigh with a great blow" – two options:
  - Hebrew idiom - "he tore them limb from limb" (HCSB)
  - Description of a particular battle technique

## JUDAH BETRAYS THEIR DELIVERER

Judges 15:9-10 *Then the Philistines came up and encamped in Judah and made a raid on Lehi. 10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" They said, "We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him as he did to us."*

- Judah in Chapter 1:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> to go up against the Canaanites after the death of Joshua (1:1-2)
  - Worked together with Simeon (1:3)
  - YHWH was with them and they had great victories:
    - Defeated 10,000 Canaanites and Perizzites (1:4)
    - Captured and destroyed Jerusalem and Zephath (1:8,17)
  - When things got difficult they would not trust in the promises of YHWH and were unable to drive out the Canaanites that lived in the plains (1:9).

## JUDAH BETRAYS THEIR DELIVERER

Judges 15:11-13 *Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so have I done to them." 12 And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you, that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines." And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not attack me yourselves." 13 They said to him, "No; we will only bind you and give you into their hands. We will surely not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.*

- *Judges 6:7-10 When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites, 8 the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery. 9 And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 And I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.' But you have not obeyed my voice."*

## JUDAH BETRAYS THEIR DELIVERER

Example of downward spiral:

- Ehud – Judges 3:28 ... *“Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand.” ...*
- Gideon – Judges 7:18 *When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’”*
- Samson – Judges 15:11... *“As they did to me, so have I done to them.”...*

*John 11:50 Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”*

## OUR CALLING

In the time of Judges, the call for God's people was to utterly destroy the Canaanites and occupy the land, be obedient to the covenant with YHWH and be a light to all nations.

Our Calling:

*2 Corinthians 10:5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ*

*1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.*

*Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*



## JAWBONE HILL

*Judges 15:14-15 When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. 15 And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men.*

- Fresh jawbone – once again breaks Nazirite vow.

*Judges 15:16 And Samson said, “With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey have I struck down a thousand men.”*

- Again, all about Samson (in contrast w/song of Deborah in Ch 5).

## JAWBONE HILL

*Judges 15:17-19 As soon as he had finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone out of his hand. And that place was called Ramath-lehi. 18 And he was very thirsty, and he called upon the LORD and said, "You have granted this great salvation by the hand of your servant, and shall I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" 19 And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore the name of it was called En-hakkore; it is at Lehi to this day.*

- Ramath-lehi – “Jawbone Hill”
- Samson (Hebrews 11):
  - Was commended through his faith (11:39)
  - Died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar (11:13)
  - Among the great cloud of witnesses (12:1)

## JAWBONE HILL

Splitting of the rock – Moses (Ex. 17:1-7, Num. 20:2-13)

One of the grand themes of the Old Testament – Israel's faithlessness vs. YHWH's covenant faithfulness.

En-hakkore – “The fountain of him who is calling”

Contrast with Hagar, Abraham's Egyptian concubine:

- “The well of the Living One who sees me” (Gen. 16:14)

*Judges 15:20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.*

*James 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

*Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

"No doubt there is a cross to be carried, if we follow Christ. No doubt there are trials to be endured, and battles to be fought. But the comforts of the gospel far outweigh the cross. Compared to the service of the world in sin, compared to the yoke of Jewish ceremonies, and the bondage of human superstition, Christ's service is in the highest sense easy and light. His yoke is no more a burden than the feathers are to a bird. His commandments are not grievous. His ways are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths are peace."