

## CATCHING UP

Joshua is dead. A generation has died out.

A new generation arose “who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel.” (2:10)

As that generation’s disobedience and rebellion grew, so did the anger of the Lord against them.

He delivered them into the hands of nations which would plunder them.

(One answer to why bad things happen)



In time God would send a judge to deliver the people of the Covenant. Samson was one such judge. God raised him up after 40 years of Philistine oppression

Note the grace and mercy displayed here throughout this cycle...  
(Consider Heb. 12:3-11)



THE ANCIENTS WERE  
COMMENDED: SAMSON

Judges 13-16

## CHAPTER 13

A miraculous birth foretold by the Angel of the Lord  
(the pre-incarnate Christ)

“You are going to conceive...” Samson was known  
by God before birth, and was created on purpose,  
with purpose

Consider Ps. 139:14-16

# The Nazirite vow: A vow of separation to the Lord

From Num. 6:1-8

No wine or other fermented drink

No razor used on his head

No contact with a dead body

“the Lord blessed (Samson) and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him...” Judges 13:24-25

## CHAPTER 14

Samson sees and desires a Philistine woman (The Philistines were Israel's uncircumcised oppressors)

But "the heart wants what the heart wants," correct?

Maybe, but consider Prov. 14:12 and recall the warning in Jer. 17:9

The lion slain (14:6)  
Honey in the carcass (14:8)  
The riddle (14:14)  
The manipulative bride (14:16-17)

Side note: If your beloved cannot be trusted, only a fool would meet them at the marriage altar.

Also of note: referring to your wife as a heifer will negatively impact marital bliss

God's judgment (14:19-20)

## SAMSON'S VENGEANCE    CHAP. 15

He destroys their crops, so they kill his wife and FIL.

He slaughtered many Philistines, so they come after him. Men of Judah handed him over, but the Spirit of the Lord delivers him. He slays 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey.

God miraculously provided water to restore him (15:18-19) and he ruled 20 years



## CHAPTER 16

Vss. 1 - 3 Sleeps with a prostitute (Consider Prov. 6:20 - 30) and yet God allows him to escape (Ps. 103:10)

Vss. 4 – 22 Enter Delilah. She is commissioned to betray Samson, but God is not finished with him yet

“Sleeping with the enemy” recall Num. 32:23

16:15 True? Yes. Yet another case against 'unequal yoking' (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

16:16 Nagging is exhausting. Effective, perhaps, but damaging to relationships

16:17 Strength wasn't in the hair but in the vow of consecration

16:20 God won't go with us in to our wandering and going astray

16:21 – 22 A picture of helplessness and hope

16:23ff Samson's sin led to great praise to a false god. Their celebration of Dagon ended in Samson's death and in God's judgement on the Philistines. Samson "killed many more when he died than while he lived."

Almighty God,

In my health or in my sickness,  
In my pain or in my pleasure,  
In my wealth or in my poverty,  
In my strength or in my weakness,  
In my life or in my death,

Be glorified...