

Samson

SLIDE 1 7. Samson

Review: Genesis 12: God made a promise or Covenant with Abraham and his descendants or family after him. His grandson was called Jacob and God renamed him Israel and he had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel. The Abrahamic Covenant was many descendants, blessings, a blessing to the whole world (Jesus) and the land of Canaan would become Israel's land. So last time we saw how they were about to enter the land and 10 of the 12 spies did not have enough faith to enter. As a result they all died in the desert and only Joshua, Caleb and those who were under the age of 20 were allowed to enter the promised land (book of Joshua). After they were in the promised land they were told by God to kill off everyone in the promised land because they were extremely wicked and God did not want them to influence His people Israel. They did not obey fully in this so this would come back to haunt future generations to follow false gods of wicked people.

SLIDE 2 Preview: Then after Joshua and the generation that took the promised land, there arose a generation that did not know the Lord or His works. God had warned them "when I bless you, don't forget me", that is what they did as we enter the book of Judges where the key theme is "each man did what was right in their own eyes". They forgot God after the blessing of the promised land so God allowed the wicked people to rule over them and they ended up following their false gods, until they realized their wicked ways and cried out to God to deliver them. The different judges were the ones to lead them out of bondage and back to the Lord (The book of Judges).

SLIDE 3 Samson was called by God before birth by the Angel of The Lord to deliver God's people Israel. God told Samson's parents to obey the Nazarite vow while he was in the womb. God called Samson to be a Nazarite from birth- dedicated to God. (no grapes, no wine, no touching dead animals no cutting of his hair)

SLIDE 4 The Philistines were the enemies of Israel and God allowed them and other wicked people to rule over them due to their disobedience. It was a time of national apostasy- departing from God's Word or truth, yet Samson's parents followed God. Israel kept slipping back into a cycle of sin that had consequences. Each time they would repent and God would send a judge to free them, but then they slipped back into "each one doing what was right in their own eyes" and the cycle continued over and over again. Samson was one of the judges during the time of the judges.

SLIDE 5 We will see Samson has some problems with obeying God fully, and toyed with sin. Samson then had a prostitute while in Philistine territory, so they closed the city gates and plotted to kill him, but he tore the city gate off its hinges and got away.

Judges 16:4-6 Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek. The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "Entice Samson to tell you what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely. Then each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver." So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me what makes you so strong and what it would take to tie you up securely."

- So she asks and he toys with her, until finally he tells her that if they cut his hair he will be as weak as any other man. So she lulled him to sleep and had his hair cut off.

SLIDE 6 Judges 16:20-22 Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." **But he didn't realize the LORD had left him.** So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison. But before long, his hair began to grow back.

- One day when they brought him out for their amusement he asked God for one more chance, so he felt for the pillars of the building and pushed them until they collapsed on 3,000 Philistines and himself.
- Samson killed more Philistines at this time than in all his life.

SLIDE 7 APPLY IT 1 Corinthians 10 Learn from Israel- both the bad and the good

There arose a generation that did not know the Lord- it is important that you continue on following God and teaching your children to follow God, start now.

Israel did not obey fully and their sin would come back to haunt them. There are consequences to sin, some seen immediately some later. Our sin affects other people.

When blessed we can forget God, so have a relationship with God that goes deeper than when trouble comes, but a daily relationship realizing your need for God daily.

Each person did what was right in their own eyes. We need to follow God's Word all the days of our life. Don't follow your feelings or popular opinion but the Word of God.

Samson toyed with sin and it ended up destroying him, leaving him ineffective; his sin led to him being blinded and treading out grain in the hands of the enemy. When we decide to **continue in sin** we too will end up blinded, captive to sin, less effective and we will not experience God's best for our life. Dedicate yourself to God- surrender to experience His best for your life.

July 4th . We are blessed more than any other country in the world. Heed God's warning, "When I bless you don't forget me."

SLIDE 8 Gospel- If you don't know God it is time to get right with God and be set free from the penalty of your sin. Begin a relationship with Him today. What God did for you.....Cross, death, resurrection.

Believe- that Jesus took the penalty for your sin and died in your place for your sin.

Repent- change your mind about your sins and agree with God that you are wrong

Receive Jesus as your savior today.

Is anyone ready to believe, repent and receive Jesus today?