

Judges Session 8

The Career of Samson the Danite. 13:1-16:31

“Israel did evil” v1 (seventh and last time of specific mention)

Samson is the last of the listed judges in the book. The three chapters that describe his career reveal a powerful man, used mightily and intentionally of God, but a man nevertheless with his own particular flaws. His birth is heralded by angels, his death is portrayed as a tragic sacrifice. He is regarded in the Book of Hebrews as a hero of the faith along with Gideon, Barak, and Jephthah (Hebrews 11:32), but he is the only one of the judges to have been born into his responsibilities.

- A. Samson’s birth 13:1-25
 - a. Forty years under the Philistines! 13:1

Question: what has happened to give the Philistines such dominance?

- b. A Nazirite son promised to wife of Manoah 13:2-23
 - c. Samson is born to Manoah’s wife in Dan 13:24-25
- B. Samson takes and loses a Philistine wife 14:1-15:8
 - a. Samson courts a Philistine girl 14:1-11
 - b. The girl proves treacherous over a riddle 14:12-17
 - c. Samson reacts in anger to losing the wager 14:18-19
 - d. The girl is given to another 14:20
 - e. Samson is denied access to the girl 15:1-3
 - f. Samson takes angry revenge burning their crops 15:4-5
 - g. The Philistines burn the girl and her father 15:6
 - h. Samson takes angry revenge in slaughter 15:7-8
- C. The Judahites surrender Samson to the Philistines 15:9-13
- D. Samson kills 1000 captors with a donkey’s jawbone 15:14-19
- E. Samson judges for 20 years 15:20
- F. Samson’s strength becomes legendary 16:1-14
- G. Samson’s source of strength is discovered and exploited 16:15-21
- H. In captivity, Samson takes final revenge 16:22-31