

# Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

## Part 37 – Ephraim Smitten Through The Death Of Samson (Judges 12-16)

1. What caused strife between the men of Ephraim and Jephthah?
  - “And the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said unto Jephthah, **Wherefore passedst thou over to fight against the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thine house upon thee with fire.** And Jephthah said unto them, **I and my people were at great strife with the children of Ammon; and when I called you, ye delivered me not out of their hands.** And when I saw that ye delivered me not, I put my life in my hands, and passed over against the children of Ammon, and the LORD delivered them into my hand: **wherefore then are ye come up unto me this day, to fight against me**” (Judges 12:1-3)?
2. Were the men of Ephraim able to carry out the threat they made against Jephthah?
  - No, they were defeated by the men of Gilead (Judges 12:4).
3. What test was given at the passages of Jordan to assure that no Ephraimites escaped?
  - “And the Gileadites took the passages of Jordan before the Ephraimites: and it was so, that when those Ephraimites which were escaped said, **Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said unto him, Art thou an Ephraimite? If he said, Nay; Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand**” (Judges 12:5-6).
4. What were the names of the next three judges over Israel after Jephthah died?
  - Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel for seven years (Judges 12:8-9).
  - Elon, a Zebulunite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years (Judges 12:11).
  - Abdon the son of Hillel, a Pirathonite, judged Israel eight years (Judges 12:13-14).
5. Why did the Lord deliver the children of Israel into the hands of the Philistines for forty years?
  - “The children of Israel **did evil again in the sight of the LORD**” (Judges 13:1).
6. What did Manoah’s wife have in common with Sarah and Elisabeth?
  - She was barren, but through a miracle of God would have a significant child (Genesis 11:30; 17:15-19, Judges 13:2-3, and Luke 1:7-16).
7. When was the child given to Manoah and his wife supposed to have a hair cut?
  - No razor was to come upon his head at all (Judges 13:5; cf. Numbers 6:1-5 and I Samuel 1:11). He was under the vow from the womb.
  - For discussion: What of those that use Samson as an excuse for long hair today among men (I Corinthians 11:14-15)?
8. When studying the book of Joshua we discussed how Joshua 5:13-15 could not have been merely an angel. What in our current context adds to our points we made then?

- The angel did not want revered as did the captain of the host in Joshua 5:13-15 (**Judges 13:13-18**).
- We discussed the following in our study of Joshua 5:13-15: In light of the Scriptures, we cannot say it is an angel (**Deuteronomy 4:19, Colossians 2:18, and Revelation 19:9-10; 22:8-9**; cf. **Exodus 3:4-6**)? We know it is not the Father (**John 1:18 and I John 4:12**).

9. Was the Lord with Samson?

- Yes: “*And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol*” (**Judges 13:24-25**).

10. Was it the Lord’s will that Samson marry a heathen woman?

- Yes: “*And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well. But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel*” (**Judges 14:1-4**).
- This would, in other cases, be contrary to the will of God (**Deuteronomy 7:1-3**).

11. How was Samson able to kill a young lion with his bare hands?

- “*Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done*” (**Judges 14:5-6**).

12. What is significant about Judges 14:9-10?

- The lion was unclean and Samson did not reveal where the honey he brought was taken from (**Leviticus 11:27**).

13. What happens between Samson, the thirty Philistine companions, and Samson’s wife?

- “*So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do. And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him. And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments: But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it. And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? is it not*”

so? And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people, and hast not told it me. And he said unto her, Behold, I have not told it my father nor my mother, and shall I tell it thee? And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people. And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house. **But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had used as his friend**” (Judges 14:10-20).

14. Was it Samson who gave away his wife?

- No, it was his father-in-law who did so (Judges 15:1-2).

15. What did Samson do when he could not be with his wife and what course of events occurs because of his actions?

- “And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure. And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives. Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire. And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam. Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us. Then **three thousand men of Judah** went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them. And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves. And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock. And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men. And it

came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi” (Judges 15:3-17).

16. What does Samson do when he gets to Gaza?

- “Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, **In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him.** And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron” (Judges 16:1-3).

17. Who did Samson come to love from the valley of Sorek?

- Delilah (Judges 16:4).

18. Did the woman of the valley of Sorek love Samson?

- No, for eleven hundred pieces of silver from each of the lords of the Philistines she was enticed to press Samson to find his weakness (Judges 16:5ff.).

19. Were there any clear indicators to Samson that the woman he loved was against him?

- More than one: “**And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.** And Samson said unto her, **If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.** Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, **The Philistines be upon thee, Samson.** And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. And Delilah said unto Samson, **Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound.** And he said unto her, **If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.** Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, **The Philistines be upon thee, Samson.** And there were liars in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. And Delilah said unto Samson, **Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound.** And he said unto her, **If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.** And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, **The Philistines be upon thee, Samson.** And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web. And she said unto him, **How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth**” (Judges 16:6-15).

20. What two weaknesses did Samson have?

- Women (his first wife and now Delilah) and having his hair cut which caused the Lord to depart from him (Judges 16:16-20).

21. What did the Philistines do when they took Samson?

- “But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house” (**Judges 16:21**).

22. What happened when the Philistines held a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god?

- “Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, **Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.** And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, **Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.** And it came to pass, **when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport.** And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, **Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.** Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. And Samson called unto the **LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.** And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. And Samson said, **Let me die with the Philistines.** And he bowed himself with all his **might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life”** (**Judges 16:22-30**).

23. How long was Samson a judge in Israel?

- Twenty years (**Judges 16:31**).