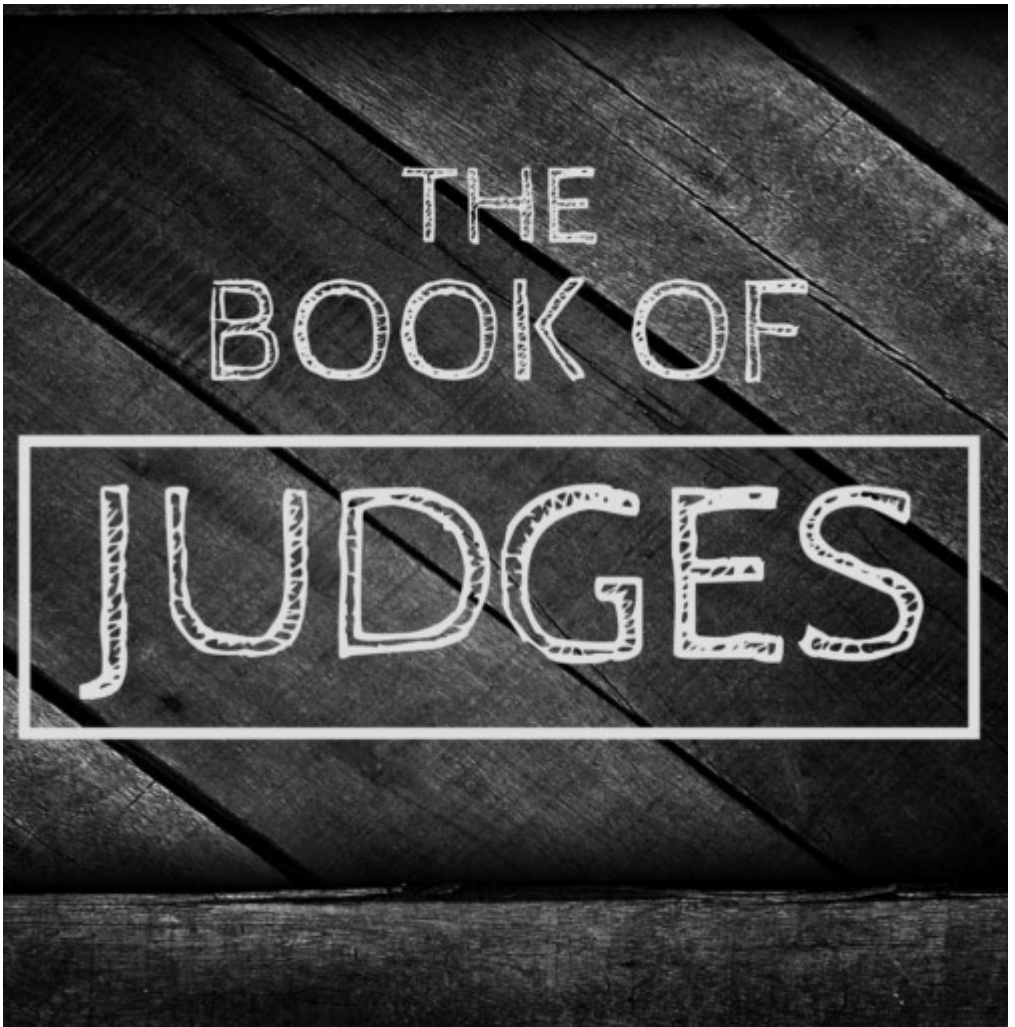


# Let's Worship God

25th-30th April 2022  
Judges



# JUDGES

## **Monday - Judges 13:24-14:4 - God's Sinless Use of Sin**

Between Samson's hometown of Zorah and the nearby town of Eshtaol there was a place that would later become known as Mahaneh-dan (meaning, "camp of Dan," due to events about which we will read in chapter 18). As Samson is in this place, sometime after he grows up, the Spirit of the LORD begins to stir him to do the things which will lead to his conflict with the Philistines. Samson goes to Timnah, a town on the border of the lands of Dan and Judah. At this time, the Philistines occupy Timnah and it is here that Samson sees a young Philistine woman whom he desires. He immediately goes to his father and demands that Manoah get this woman for him. Samson's parents try to dissuade him. They know the law of the LORD, and do not wish their son to marry a woman who worships false gods as Deuteronomy 7:3-4 clearly forbids.

However, the Scripture says this was from the LORD. How can this be? Is God the Author of sin? By no means! God is sovereign, ruling over all events. Even sin is not outside the limits He sets. Samson desires this girl because, he says, "She is right in my eyes." His judgment in this case is made sinfully, according to the desire of his eyes and not according to what God has revealed His will to be. Nevertheless, God sinlessly uses Samson's desire for this young woman to bring about the deliverance of His people by means of Samson. Much as He used the sinful intent of Joseph's brothers to bring about His good purposes (see Genesis 50:20), He now uses Samson's ungodly desire for a heathen woman to bring about His good purpose for Israel. We can be confident that, even today, God is using the sinful intent of men and women to bring about His good purposes for those who fear Him. At the same time, we must be careful to make our choices in life based not on what seems good to us, but based on what we know God has told us is good.

### **Questions**

1. What was wrong with Samson's choice of a bride?
2. Is God the author of Samson's sin?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the wisdom to do what God tells us is right.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew and the LORD blessed him." Judges 13:24

**Praise: Psalm 79 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Tuesday - Judges 14:5-7 - Samson and the Lion**

When I was a child, I sometimes watched a cartoon called "Samson and Goliath." In this television show, Samson was a superhero with amazing strength, and Goliath was a lion who aided him in his battle against evil. When we read of the real Samson in the Bible, we find that he did not have such a pleasant relationship with a lion. As Samson and his parents head to Timnah to arrange his marriage with a Philistine woman, Samson finds himself alone at the vineyards of Timnah, where a young lion roars and charges him. The Spirit of the LORD comes upon Samson giving him great strength. He tears the lion as if he were a young goat prepared for cooking. He tells no one, not even his father and mother, what he has done.

This is the first of Samson's great feats of strength. We must keep in mind, though, that it was not really Samson's strength which accomplished this. Samson only has this amazing strength when the Spirit of the LORD rushes upon him.

Just as Samson battled the lion, you and I battle against the spiritual forces of evil, as Ephesians 6:12 tells us. Unlike Samson, we do not wage this war with our bodies or material weapons. Rather, we carry out this battle with spiritual armor and weapons. Like Samson, we do not have the strength in ourselves to win this battle. It must be God's Spirit who empowers us or we will not succeed. Jesus tells us in John 15:5, "Apart from Me, you can do nothing." Apart from Christ and apart from His Spirit, we cannot win the battle against spiritual forces of evil. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can resist Satan who is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8), and if we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7).

### **Questions**

1. From whom did Samson's great strength come?
2. From whom do we get our strength to battle the spiritual forces of evil?
3. What happens when we resist the devil empowered by the Holy Spirit?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the Spirit's strength to resist evil.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew and the LORD blessed him." Judges 13:24

**Praise: Psalm 80 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Wednesday - Judges 14:7-9 - Violating the Nazirite Vow**

Last week, we saw that Samson was to be a Nazirite for life. That is, he was dedicated to a special service for the Lord. For the time of Nazirite service, which for Samson was from before he was born, he was not to touch an unclean thing, drink alcohol, or cut his hair. Samson will systematically violate at least two and probably all three of these points of his Nazirite vow. In today's reading, we see the first violation.

Again, we see in verse seven that Samson makes his judgments based on what seems right to him, and not on God's Word. He visits the woman he intends to marry and confirms that she is right in his own eyes. Having shown himself to make his decisions according to his own wisdom and not according to God's revealed will, he proceeds to disregard his Nazirite regulations. Coming across the body of the lion he has recently slain, he finds that bees have made their hive in the carcass. He gets their honey and takes it home with him, eating of it on the way. He even gives some to his parents, not telling them it had come from the corpse of an unclean animal. By touching the carcass and by eating food from it, Samson has disregarded his Nazirite vow according to which he is to touch no ceremonially unclean thing.

If we make our decisions based on what seems right to us and not on what God has said is right in His Word, we inevitably will sin against our Savior. We get used to doing what we like and excuse even those things which God has clearly forbidden. As the Lord's people, Christians are called to govern our lives by God's wisdom and not by our own judgments (see I Corinthians 1-2) and to take every thought captive to obey Christ, as II Corinthians 10:5 commands us. Let us learn to make our decisions based on what God has said is right, and not on what is right in our own eyes.

### **Questions**

1. By what standard did Samson make his decisions?
2. How did he first violate his Nazirite vow?
3. By what standard should we make our decisions?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the renewal of our minds, that every thought may be held captive to obey Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew and the LORD blessed him." Judges 13:24

**Praise: Psalm 81 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Thursday - Judges 14:10-14 - A Riddle

As Samson prepares for his wedding, he holds a feast, as was customary for the young men of that time to do. The kind of feast in question involved the drinking of wine, and so the Scripture at least implies, though it does not tell us for certain, that Samson violated another point of his Nazirite vow by drinking alcohol.

As part of their side of the preparations for the wedding, the Philistines send thirty companions for Samson to the feast. Samson makes them a wager - if they can answer a riddle which he will put to them, he will give each of them a new linen undergarment and change of clothes; if they cannot answer the riddle, each of them must give him a linen garment and change of clothes. His riddle concerns the honey he obtained from the lion he slew, "Out of the eater came something to eat; out of the strong came something sweet." The companions have seven days in which to answer the riddle or they must each provide Samson with his prize.

Samson may only be trying to get something for free, but God is overruling these events to bring about His planned outcome. Samson's riddle sets the stage for Samson's conflict with the Philistines. Samson means to marry a Philistine woman, but God means to use him to defeat the oppressors of His people.

## Questions

1. Why might we think Samson violated his Nazirite vow not to drink alcohol?
2. What does Samson hope to gain by putting his riddle to his companions?
3. What is God's plan for the outcome of these events?

## Prayer Points

1. Thank God that He sovereignly rules over all events, that nothing can change the outcome He intends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew and the LORD blessed him." Judges 13:24

**Praise: Psalm 82 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Friday - Judges 14:15-18 - The Riddle Solved

As we saw yesterday, the Philistine companions have seven days in which to answer Samson's riddle. If they cannot, they will each have to provide him with a linen garment and change of clothes. After three days, they have been unable to solve the riddle. So, on the fourth day, they threaten Samson's bride, saying they will burn down her father's house and will burn her alive as well if she does not find out the answer to the riddle.

She then weeps and accuses Samson of not loving her, since he has not told her the answer to his riddle. Samson's answer again demonstrates that he does not have a Bible-based worldview. He says he has not told his father or mother the answer, so why should he tell his wife? This is backwards thinking. According to Genesis 2:24, a man's wife is to be more important to him than even his father and mother. Therefore, Samson's excuse is weak. Eventually, Samson gives in to her pleading and tells her the answer to the riddle. When the thirty Philistines give him the answer, he realizes they have gotten it from his wife and accuses them of interfering in his marriage, saying, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle."

Marriage is a sacred institution created by God in which a man and woman leave their own families and hold fast to one another. Of all human relationships, the marriage between a man and a woman is to be the most important. Samson should have valued his wife above his parents, and his wife should have been loyal enough to him to tell him the truth, rather than entice the answer out of him in order to help those who threatened to murder her and her family.

### Questions

1. Why might we say Samson's thinking about his parents and his wife was backwards?
2. What might his wife have done to show her loyalty to her husband?
3. If you are married, what should be the most important earthly relationship you have?

### Prayer Points

1. Ask God to help us honor marriage.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew and the LORD blessed him." Judges 13:24

**Praise: Psalm 83 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Saturday - Judges 14:19-20 - A Mighty Deed**

Thursday, we noted the feast Samson held at his wedding time and the riddle he put to his thirty Philistine companions. Yesterday, we took note of the underhanded way in which the companions threatened Samson's wife, the way in which she wheedled the answer out of him, and the way in which this demonstrated how everyone involved did not have a proper view of the institution of marriage.

God used these troubling human actions and attitudes to bring about His good plan for His people. Now that the thirty companions have solved the riddle, according to their wager, Samson must provide each with a linen garment and change of clothes. The Spirit of the LORD comes upon Samson and he travels about twenty or thirty miles south to the Philistine city of Ashkelon. There, strengthened by the Spirit, he strikes down thirty Philistine men, takes their garments and gives them to the thirty men who had solved his riddle. In his fury, he does not return home to be with his wife, but goes back to his father's house. Perhaps thinking Samson is not going to return, his father-in-law gives Samson's wife in marriage to Samson's best man. This, again, shows a lack of proper respect for the marriage covenant.

No human being in this scenario has acted righteously. Samson has violated his Nazarite vow. His wife has betrayed his secret. His companions have threatened murder and coerced his wife to betray him. His father-in-law has unjustly taken back Samson's wife and illegally given her in marriage to another man. Yet in all this, God has been faithful to bring about His plan to deliver His people from the Philistine oppression, using even the folly and sins of men to bring about a good outcome. Samson is now aroused to anger against the Philistines, and the LORD will use that to defeat this great enemy of Israel.

### **Questions**

1. How does Samson pay the debt from his wager?
2. What does his father-in-law do that violates Samson's marriage?
3. Who was using this for His good purposes?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

### **Memory Verse**

"And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew and the LORD blessed him." Judges 13:24

**Praise: Psalm 84 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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