

THE SAYINGS OF SAMSON

Judges 13 - 16

One outstanding judge, who lived near the end of the era, was famous for his poetic sayings. Read about his life below, and see how these sayings grew out of it:

A. Samson's Birth: Read Judges 13:1-25

1. What enemy did Israel serve at this time? Judges 13:1

2. What did God promise about Samson before he was even born? Judges 13:5b

3. What happened to Samson as he grew up? Judges 13:25

B. Samson's Riddle: Read Judges 14:1 - 15:8

1. After Samson's first visit to the land of the Philistines, what did he ask his father to do? Judges 14:1-2

2. As Samson returned to the land of the Philistines with his father and mother, what great thing did he do? Judges 14:5-6

3. How was he able to do this? Judges 14:6a

4. When he returned to take his wife, what did he find? Judges 14:8-9

5. At his marriage feast, what did Samson tell to his thirty companions? Judges 14:12

6. What was to be their prize if they could discover the meaning within the seven days of the feast, and his prize if they could not? Judges 14:12-13

7. Read Samson's riddle in verse 14. What characteristic of Hebrew poetry do you notice? (See page 10)

8. When the young men could not in three days find the meaning of the riddle, whose help did they seek? Judges 14:15a

9. What did they threaten to do if she did not discover the meaning for them? Judges 14:15b

10. How did she discover the meaning? Judges 14:16-17

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11. When the young men told Samson the meaning of his riddle, what did he say? Judges 14:18b

1. This is a second famous saying of Samson. What do you think it means?

12. How did Samson obtain the reward he had promised for answering his riddle? Judges 14:19

2. When Samson's wife was given to his friend, what did Samson do to the Philistines? Judges 15:3-5

When the Philistines burned his wife and her father, what did Samson do to get even with them? Judges 15:6-8

C. Samson's Great Strength: Read Judges 15:9-20

1. What happened when the men of Judah bound Samson to deliver him to the Philistines? Judges 15:14-15

2. Read Samson's third famous saying in verse 16. What characteristic of Hebrew poetry do you find?

3. Read Judges 16:4-20. Why did Samson lose his strength? Judges 16:20b

4. How did Samson's life end? Judges 16:21-30

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What great weakness of Samson led to his downfall both in riddle-telling and in serving the Lord? See Judges 14:16-17; 16:15-27

2. Will I allow some weakness or besetting sin of mine to limit or end my usefulness in the Lord's service? Romans 6:12-14
