

## JUDGES 13-16

### SAMSON

#### Chapter 13 Samson's Birth

**Summary:** Samson is born to godly parents who fear God, pray, and believe Him. God promises them a special child (1-23) and fulfills His promise (24-25). Samson is to be a Nazarite ("separated one") for life. [A Nazarite must (1) not partake of the vine; (2) not cut the hair; (3) not touch dead bodies (Num 6:1-8).] His strength will come from his obedience.

**Lesson:** *"Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you" (2 Cor.6:17).*

#### Chapter 14 Samson's Philistine Wife

**Summary:** Samson defies his parents, who object to his marrying a heathen woman (1-4). [Read 2 Cor. 6:14.] He defies God's word and is defiled by touching a lion's dead body for the sake of honey. He gives some unclean honey to his parents, then makes a riddle about it (5-20).

**Lesson:** *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7).*

#### Chapter 15 Samson's Victories

**Summary:** Samson is victorious in destroying the enemy's crops (1-13) and some of the enemy (14-20). But he loses his wife [6] and is given up to the enemy by his own people [10-13]. He judges Israel 20 years [20]. He can't govern himself, he acts alone without leading others, and has a strong ego [note his name for a well {19} contrasted with Hagar's in Gen. 16:14].

**Lesson:** *Paul says "in Him we live and move and have our being" Acts 17:28). Samson's life says "in me I live and move and have my being".*

#### Chapter 16 Samson's End

**Summary:** Samson's downfall comes again through sinful passions, as he yields to Delilah (1-22) [read Prov. 7:21-27]. He falls quickly, losing his hair, strength, sight, liberty, usefulness, testimony, and life. In 20 years he fails to totally defeat the Philistines; being defeated instead by them (and by himself). [Samuel accomplishes more with one prayer to defeat the Philistines than Samson does in his whole life (1 Sam. 7:9-14).]

**Lesson:** *Verse 21 shows the blinding, binding, and grinding results of sin.*