

4-28-01 MESSAGE
LESSONS FROM SAMSON

TEXT:

Judges 16:15 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 16:16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, [so] that his soul was vexed unto death;

Judges 16:17 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I [have been] a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any [other] man.

Judges 16:18 And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.

Judges 16:19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

Judges 16:20 And she said, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

Judges 16:21 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.

LESSONS FROM SAMSON

Intro:

This morning in Sunday School we have been preaching through the Bible and we have come to the account of Samson. We can only wonder how it is that God used such a carnal man. He is listed as one of the judges of Israel for 20 years. The key to understanding why God raised up Samson is to understand this dark period in the History of Israel.

These were years when every man did what was right in his own eyes..

Israel had fallen into idolatry, carnality, and were in bondage to the inhabitants of the land who they failed to drive out..

They were under the control of Philistines for 40 years.

Disobedience to the covenant of their God had placed them in a bad state....

One of the things we see throughout history is that God gives his people the leadership they deserve. Base people get base leadership.

So it is today we often suffer for leadership because of compromise in our own lives.

God raised up Samson to humiliate the Philistines, and also to vindicate his name..

The Philistines, attributed their greatness to their god Dagon...

The Lord was going to show how he could take a man from one of the smallest tribes of Israel, a man who was not even a spiritual giant.. but had enough of the Spirit of God.. to humiliate and disgrace the Philistines..

In Numbers Moses corrected Joshua, when he was worried about people having the spirit of God who were not ordained by them. Moses had to rebuke him.

Numbers 11:27 And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

Numbers 11:28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, [one] of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

Numbers 11:29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? **would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets,** [and] that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

Notice how Moses said, "Would to God all the Lord's people were prophets and have the Spirit of God upon them.

When God's spirit comes on a man he becomes different, that difference is for the better!

Samson told Delilah If I be shaven I will become like any other man...

WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT OF THIS ACCOUNT:

We have this drama concerning finding out the secret to Samson's strength.. it was unusual... it was supernatural... people couldn't understand it...

Samson should not be able to do the things he did...

It was obvious that God was with him and that his strength was from a supernatural source...

I. WHAT MADE SAMSON UNLIKE OTHER MEN WAS THE LORD USING HIS SEPARATION AND NAZARITE VOW:

SAMSON'S CALL TO SEPARATION (A NAZARITE VOW) WAS TO MAKE HIM UNLIKE OTHER MEN. WHEN HE VIOLATED HIS VOW AND FORGOT THE CONDITIONS OF HIS CONSECRATION HE BECAME LIKE ANY OTHER MAN...

An angel appeared to Samson's mom and dad and predicted his birth..

This angel told Manoah and his wife.. that Samson was to be a Nazarite from the womb...

A Nazarite, is a vow of separation to God. Samson was to be separated and consecrated to God from the womb.

Numbers 6:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate [themselves] to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate [themselves] unto the LORD:

Numbers 6:3 He shall separate [himself] from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.

Numbers 6:4 All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.

Numbers 6:5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth [himself] unto the LORD, he shall be holy, [and] shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.

There is a sense where God wants us to be consecrated and separated to him...

I Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

I Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Though we look at Samson as not a very holy righteous person.. Remember in the day he lived he seemed to be pretty good!

Application: We too should be consecrated to God and in this way we should be unlike the common people of this world... we should be separated unto God

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD:

It is the spirit of God that wants to use us. When God gives His Holy Spirit to his saints in the church, he imparts spiritual strengths and gifts that we are to use for his service.

Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:
Acts 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Acts 8:17 Then laid they [their] hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

I Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, [even so] minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Romans 12:3-9 lists some of these gifts..

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

Romans 12:5 So we, [being] many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether **prophecy**, [let us prophesy] according to the proportion of faith;

Romans 12:7 Or **ministry**, [let us wait] on [our] ministering: or he that teacheth, on **teaching**;

Romans 12:8 Or he that **exhorteth**, on exhortation: he that **giveth**, [let him do it] with simplicity; he that **ruleth**, with diligence; he that sheweth **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:9 [Let] love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Today God wants to use us in a supernatural way... if we will separate ourselves to God's service....

This will make us unlike any other man... and that gift that the Holy Spirit chooses to quicken can be used in a supernatural way...

SAMSON WAS STRONG... BUT HE WAS NOT WISE WHEN IT CAME TO WOMEN...

This is why we need a Church...

Too many Christians are out hobnobbing with the Philistines.. and not exercising their gifts in the local church for God's work and service...

God's spirit does not work contrary to leadership..

We have a problem with people today who cannot understand why they should refrain from alcohol today. Or be separated unto God. Let us be reminded about the Rechabites and God's commendation upon them. It was Samson's Nazarite vow that made him special. If we are to serve God we need to be different than the world.

Jeremiah 35:1 The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,

Jeremiah 35:2 Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.

Jeremiah 35:3 Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habaziniyah, and his brethren, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites;

Jeremiah 35:4 And I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan, the son of Igdaliah, a man of God, which [was] by the chamber of the princes, which [was] above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door:

Jeremiah 35:5 And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine.

Jeremiah 35:6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, [neither ye], nor your sons for ever:

Jeremiah 35:7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have [any]: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye [be] strangers.

Jeremiah 35:8 Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters;

Jeremiah 35:9 Nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed:

Jeremiah 35:10 But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

Jeremiah 35:11 But it came to pass, when Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, that we said, Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans, and for fear of the army of the Syrians: so we dwell at Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 35:12 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,
Jeremiah 35:13 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my words? saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 35:14 The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me.

Jeremiah 35:15 I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending [them], saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

Jeremiah 35:16 Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them; but this people hath not hearkened unto me:

Jeremiah 35:17 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon Judah and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them: because I have spoken unto them, but they have not heard; and I have called unto them, but they have not answered.

Jeremiah 35:18 And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you:

Jeremiah 35:19 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever.

Notice the commendation the Lord gives to these people because they obeyed the voice of their Father.

How could a man make such a command of his children, and his children obey the command?

Consider how many years passed from the time of Jonadab to Jeremiah

841 Jehu, King of Israel (2 Kings 9-10). Jonadab appears at the beginning of his reign..

586 The fall of Jerusalem. In the summer of this year Jerusalem and the Temple are We find Jeremiah and the sons of Rechab in Jerusalem together..

841 - 586 = this is a period of 255 years...

Could you imagine.. In fact there are many groups today that claim to be decedents of the Rechabites.. in the late nineteenth century a [Bedouin](#) tribe was found near the [Dead Sea](#) who also professed to be descendants of Jonadab. There are Christian orders that claim to follow Jonadab and call themselves a Society of Christian Rechabites even to this day.

What is sad is that we cannot even get our children to be faithful to church for more than one generation or basically for the time that they live with us..

These were gown men, with families and children and for over 200 years they obeyed Jonadab the son of Rechab's voice.

They kept his vow of sanctification , concerning drinking wine..

My question is why can we not obey our Lord!

You will not find anywhere in the Bible that there is such a command to not build houses, or to take a Nazarite vow for you and your children forever....

But it made sense.. Jonadab believed God's judgments was coming and a nomadic life style and sobriety would protect his children and it did.

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

The teaching of parents go unheeded and children suffer for it till this day.

Things do not go well for them and they do not live long on the earth because of it.

The Nazarite vow was pleasing to the Lord because it showed a persons sanctification and separation unto God. It was going above and beyond what was required.

II. WHAT CAUSED SAMSON TO BECOME WEAK LIKE OTHER MEN WAS HIS LACK OF SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

He broke his vow and disaster followed.. telling Delilah his secret was liking casting his pearls before swine. He let her desecrate him and preferred her above his God in this instance of spilling out his source of power. She had not part in it, and he allowed himself to be desecrated by her.

WHEN SAMSON VIOLATED HIS VOW AND DESPISED THE TERMS OF HIS CONSECRATION THE SPIRIT OF GOD DEPARTED FORM HIM...

BECAUSE SAMSON FAILED TO BE MORALLY SEPARATED UNTO GOD... THIS LEAD TO HIS DOWNFALL SPIRITUALLY, THEN HE BECAME LIKE ANY OTHER MAN.. WEAK..

Morally, Spiritually, Physically...

Delilah... was a prostitute.. and Samson had fallen into sin with her...

Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Proverbs 23:27 For a whore [is] a deep ditch; and a strange woman [is] a narrow pit.

Proverbs 23:28 She also lieth in wait as [for] a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

Delilah, pressed him day and night...

Satan never lets up..... He will press us and tempt us day and night to cease to be separated unto God...

The temptations for each of us press upon us continually...

I Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

I Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].

I Corinthians 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

Why did Samson let himself be pressed by this Harlot?

Sin makes no sense at all...

Those who fall into sin do so to their own hurt...

When a person's actions cease to make sense.. look for the sin...

How many people who have fallen into the sin of immorality destroy themselves and their testimonies and bring a reproach to themselves and God because of the pleasures of sin for a season...

Samson should have learned his lesson when he fell in love with his first wife.. She was a Philistine, and his entanglement with her brought destruction..

SAMSON WENT FROM THE FRYING PAN OF SIN INTO THE FIRE ITSELF....

He started playing around with Philistine prostitutes..

Sin un-repenting leads to deeper sin...

Thought life.... entertaining thoughts of immorality is the door opener to adultery and fornication...

When we repeat our mistakes we reinforce patterns of sin..
Sin habits become hard to break... so it is with the pattern of immorality...

God may let many years go and give us space to repent...
but be sure your sin will find you out ... most people fail to fully repent as they should and instead of appreciating God's mercy and grace they fall into deeper patterns of sin...

Delilah... as much as she tells Samson what she is going to do...

Judges 16:6 And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength [lieth], and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.

Judges 16:7 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.

Judges 16:8 Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

Judges 16:10 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.

Judges 16:11 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.

Judges 16:12 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.

Judges 16:13 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.

Judges 16:14 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.

Judges 16:15 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 16:16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, [so] that his soul was vexed unto death;

Judges 16:17 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I [have been] a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any [other] man.

There is a limit to what God will tolerate of us.. and one day we may press the Lord to his limits.. God is longsuffering... LONG MEANS LONG... But even a long rope has an end to it...

Samson reached the end of that rope and God said that is it... he has played games long enough ...

THE SPIRIT OF GOD DEPARTED FROM HIM...

We too can grieve away the blessing of God in our lives... Sin un-repent-ed of will cause us to be spiritually Blind..

And so it is Samson... becomes weak like other men.. and his enemies come and take advantage of his weakness... and they poke out his eyes...

III. CAN A BACKSLIDDEN SERVANT OF GOD BE RESTORED? YES!

Samson Became Weak Like any Other Man When The Lord Departed form Him..

Judges 16:18 And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.

Judges 16:19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

Judges 16:20 And she said, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

Judges 16:21 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.

The Bible says, that Samson wist not that the Lord departed from him..

But he soon found out when he no longer could do what he used to do...

Heard stories of Pastors who have been involved in immorality losing the power to preach and teach...

Church members who drift away...

Sunday school teachers lose their desire to teach...

SAMSON LOST HIS EYES... HE NEVER WOULD GET HIS EYESIGHT BACK..

But after grinding at the mill I believe he got his spiritual eyes back and received forgiveness... of sins and restoration...

He did not die defeated.... he died victorious...

Judges 16:23 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.

Judges 16:24 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.

Judges 16:25 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.

Judges 16:26 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.

Judges 16:27 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.

Judges 16:28 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.

Judges 16:29 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.

Judges 16:30 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.

Many a Christian have to serve God with two poked out eyes...
But God can still use you

CONCLUSION:

GOD INTENDS FOR US NOT TO BE LIKE THE WORLD BUT TO BE SEPARATE...

SIN WILL BRING US DOWN AND WEAKEN US.... AND EVEN CRIPPLE US...

WE MAY FIND GOD'S GRACE WILL RESTORE US.. BUT WE MUST STILL SUFFER
THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SIN LIKE... **SAMSON**

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF SAMSON PART II

I. GOD EVEN USED SAMSON'S CARNALITY TO DESTROY AND CHASTEN THE PHILISTINES

Judges 14:1 And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.

Judges 14:2 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.

Judges 14:3 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.

Judges 14:4 **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.

II. SAMSON GOT HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE.. Before with a Philistine Woman OFTEN GOD SENDS A WARNING BEFORE WE FALL

Judges 14:5 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.**

Judges 14:6 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 14:7 And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

Judges 14:8 And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, [there was] a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion.

Judges 14:9 And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.

Judges 14:10 So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do.

Judges 14:11 And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

Judges 14:12 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:

Judges 14:13 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.

Judges 14:14 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.

Judges 14:15 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]?

Judges 14:16 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?

Judges 14:17 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.

Judges 14:18 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.

Judges 14:19 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.

Judges 14:20 But Samson's wife was [given] to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.

Satan is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.. The Lion was sent for more reasons than just for Samson to come up with a riddle on his wedding day..

III. GOD FURTHER INSITGATED TROUBLE THROUGH SAMSON TO SPOIL THE PHILISTINES..

Judges 15:1 But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in.

Judges 15:2 And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: [is] not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her.

Judges 15:3 And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure.

Judges 15:4 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.

Judges 15:5 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.

Judges 15:6 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.

Judges 15:7 And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease.

Judges 15:8 And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.

Samson's weakness for woman caused a lot of problems in his life. He often found himself licking his wounds on a Rock all alone.

Proverbs 5:3 For the lips of a strange woman drop [as] an honeycomb, and her mouth [is] smoother than oil:

Proverbs 5:4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.

Proverbs 5:5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

Proverbs 5:6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, [that] thou canst not know [them].

Proverbs 5:7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 5:8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

Proverbs 5:9 Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

Proverbs 5:10 Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours [be] in the house of a stranger;

Proverbs 5:11 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,

IV. IMAGINE IF SAMSON WERE A RIGHTEOUS MAN AND ISRAEL TRUSTED IN THE LORD THEY COULD HAVE DONE GREAT THINGS AND COMPLETELY LIBERATED ISRAEL FROM THE PHILISTINES

Judges 15:9 Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi.

Judges 15:10 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.

Judges 15:11 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.

Judges 15:12 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.

Judges 15:13 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.

Judges 15:14 [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.

Judges 15:15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

Judges 15:16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.

Probably Samson's lack of discipline in his life, did not allow for much confidence in the minds of the men of the nation. How sad it was that the nation and Samson could not unite around the great cause of seeing God deliver Israel from their oppressors.

Just imagine what could have been in our nation if Donald Trump had shown more restraint with his temperament and tongue during his tenor in office. Great men are not always great.

V. WHEN GOD CALLS US TO A WORK HE MAKES ALL PROVISIONS FOR US:

Judges 15:17 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 Ramath-lehi.

Judges 15:18 And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

Judges 15:19 But God clave an hollow place that [was] in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof En-hakkore, which [is] in Lehi unto this day.

Judges 15:20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

Application how sad it is that Samson were not a more righteous and noble man.. Imagine what God could have accomplished through him...

Yet because of the times he was God's man for that hour and he was used to single handedly bring some deliverance to the nation.