

Episode #538 Judges 15 Part 2 – Samson 5: Samson the Judge

I. In the book of Judges, we have a brief record of the early history (the first centuries) of the history of the land of Israel. We see the leaders God chose, judges, who ruled under Jehovah, the King. Through the lives and work of these judges, we can learn about God's works and ways.

II. After the Israelites were enslaved to the Philistines for 40 years, Yahweh raised for them a new deliverer named Samson. Yet this self-centered young man was attracted to a "bad girl" Philistine and married her. When it went sour and she was given to someone else, he decided to get revenge on the Philistines by catching 200 jacks, tying them tail to tail with a firebrand tied to their tails, and sending them out into the Philistine grain. The Philistines were so furious at this that they burned down the house of his wife and her family over their heads and killed her whole family. Samson in a rage attacked them and slaughtered many of them. Then, he returned to Israel to a lonely cave in Judah. Yet the Philistines again responded, Judges 15:9-14.

III. Samson's Single-Handed Victory.

- A. Judges 15:15. He find the jawbone of a donkey, his only weapon in the slaughter. The Spirit not only empowers him, but the jawbone too that it does not break. Note: three thousand men of Judah fear this army, but one man defeats them all alone! Hebrews 11:34, Samson did this all through his faith.
- B. Verse 16. Samson composes a poem to celebrate this victory. "Heaps upon heaps" or "Destroying I have destroyed them."
- C. Verse 17. Ramoth Lehi means "Uplifting of the Jawbone." So the name in verse 9 had not been given yet.
- D. Verse 18. Athirst = a very strong thirst. Probably from the great exertion he has gone through. Note Samson's prayer: he credits Jehovah, whereas in his poem he credits himself. His thirst seems to wake him up to this fact. Note his quick change of mind and heart. His reasonable question: would He deliver him from the Philistines only to let him die of thirst? This truly did not make sense.
- E. Verse 19. Water comes from the hollow place in Lehi. But since Lehi means jawbone, does this mean water came from the jawbone? His spirit came again = here means his courage and vigor. En-hakkore = Caller's Fount.

IV. Samson: the twelfth judge. Judges 15:20. His judgeship lasts twenty years. The Philistines were still there, still ready to oppress Israel, but not willing to cross them as long as Samson was there to thwart them.

- A. Hebrews 11:32. Samson is listed in the hall of fame of faith. Why, when he was such a sexually immoral man?
- B. Notice Samson's supreme confidence in the Lord's help.
 - 1. Judges 14:6. He faces a lion as if it was nothing.
 - 2. Judges 15:12. He is ready to face an army that 3,000 men of Judah were unwilling to face all by himself! Compare Gideon and his fleece in Judges 6:37-40.
 - 3. Judges 16:3. He has been mighty in war before, but never lifted an incredible weight. Yet he never doubted that the Lord Who did one miracle through Him could do another. Compare the disciples of Jesus Christ, who getting used to one kind of miracles always seemed amazed when the Lord did a new kind of miracle.

C. Thus we see the greatness of Samson's faith. He may have been immoral and narcissistic, but his faith never wavered in the power of God. Why did God like the meathead? Obviously because of this!

V. Samson faces an army, by himself, with a makeshift weapon that ought to have broken almost right away, and kills a thousand men by himself. He faces a situation that almost everyone would fear to face with supreme confidence. Why? He had utter faith in the power of the LORD that was with him! For all Samson's fault, this can be a lesson to us. Do we have this much confidence in the LORD's power to help when He desires to? He boasts after this feat, but in his need soon remembers the One Who truly gave him help, and He helps him once again. After this great feat he becomes Israel's judge for many years. Do we have this kind of faith?