

## Notes from Judges Ch 14 & 15

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We can make a few assumptions about the early life of Samson, the 13<sup>th</sup> Judge of Israel. Samson's birth was a miracle:

- Birth was a miraculous event from THE ANGEL OF THE LORD to Samson's parents.
  - I'm sure he was told the story many times as he grew up
  - He was to be dedicated to the Lord from the womb until his death. His mother had specific instructions for her to follow during her pregnancy and childhood. He would be a Nazirite and take a Nazirite vow.
    - No Razor ever touch his hair. Grow long
    - No wine, grape products, or fermented drink
    - Remain both internally clean and ceremonially clean. Never touch anything dead
  - He was born and raised that way and the Lord blessed him. Samson was big and strong, a Hercules for his time, and a great warrior for God
  - Then comes Chapter 14, what do we take away from the failings of Samson? As he grew from a child to a young man, he changed, and we see it unfold
1. Clearly Samson was blessed by God. He lived in a land being ruled by the Philistines, who were a very pagan people with many gods, and who were both apostates themselves and were making the Jews comfortable with the paganisms and practices. Samson was raised by a devout Jewish family and brought up as a Nazirite. It was the Best of Life in the Worst of times.
  2. As a Nazirite, Samson both looked different and should have acted differently. We was called and committed to a service life to God in both his looks and his Holiness. He had the looks and the look, but his heart was NOT Holy and dedicated to God. We can look the part of whatever God has called us to do, but the heart is where the commitment really takes place. We can fool some people but we never fool God
  3. Anyone who ignores the inside and only focuses on the outside will fall prey to attraction for all the wrong reasons. The heart and the inside thoughts are the most important attributes of a person. Samson was seduced by his eyes to fall for external attractions.
  4. A Parents commitment to the Lord cannot be passed to the children directly. They can be raised, they can be guided, and they can be taught about the Lord, but the commitment and obedience is theirs alone.
  5. Samson mirrored the failings of the Israeli people. Lack of obedience and faithlessness to God.
  6. Samson's failures did not derail the path and purposes of God. So it is with us.
  7. One of the most deceptive and destructive incentives to continue sin, is the lack of swift judgment to persistent sin in our lives. We begin to think either God doesn't care, or we are so special that we are exempt from the commandments of God. See Eccles Ch 8.
  8. If we are controlled by our Anger, and Passion, we will never learn from our past mistakes and gain any wisdom in the Lord.