

“Nobody could be less like the ordinary idea of an Old Testament ‘saint’ than Samson. His gift from ‘the spirit of the Lord’ was simply physical strength, and it was associated with the defects of his qualities. His passions were strong, and apparently uncontrolled. He had no moral elevation or religious fervor. He led no army against the Philistines, nor seems to have had any fixed design of resisting them. He seeks a wife among them, and is ready to feast and play at riddles with them. When he does attack them, it is because he is stung by personal injuries; and it is only with his own arm that he strikes.” - *MacLaren*

Scars of Sin

Judges 16:21

21But 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 sad end of mighty Samson, who once had been so greatly energized and utilized by the Lord, is also an allegory and a grave warning to every Christian.

James 1:14-15

14But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Satan knows our individual weaknesses and tempts us accordingly. Many Christians have fallen into sin through pride, covetousness, compromise, and apathy. Beloved; like Samson when we are drawn away from God’s will for us we become separated from our purpose and in the end we become bound by the chains of sin; built link by link through our own self will and disobedience to God.

Samson Blessed of the Lord

Judges 13:1-5, 24

1And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

2And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name *was* Manoah; and his wife *was* barren, and bare not.

3And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou *art* barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

4Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean *thing*:

5For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

24And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

Samson was born with a purpose to deliver his people (Israel) from the Philistines. He was born to do the will of God. You too beloved are born for a purpose. Think not that you were born in vain; no you were born to receive salvation.

1Timothy 2:3 *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.* But; God in his love has given us the free-will to accept Him or reject Him, to accept or reject His will in our lives.

Samson’s Fall

Judges 16:1, 4-6, 17-25

1Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.

4And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name *was* Delilah.
5And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength *lieth*, and by what *means* we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred *pieces* of silver.
6And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength *lieth*, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.

17That 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.

18And 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.

19And 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.

20And 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.

21But 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.

22Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.

23Then 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.

24And 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.

25And 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.

Samson was enticed by lust; what enticements has Satan put before you to separate you from the will of God? What is keeping you from your purpose? Are you lost? Without salvation you have no strength to face the enemy to fulfill your purpose. Are you saved but have lost your strength? Has the LORD departed from you as He did Samson because of your disobedience? God will not be a companion in your sins. However; He stands ready to return if you will receive Him; remember it is you that left Him, He did not leave you. If He is not your savior remember He did not reject you; you rejected Him.

You do well beloved to understand that the false Philistine god Dagon did nothing to deliver Samson to his enemies; Samson delivered himself into the enemies hand by his on lusts. How often we do the same. The safest place to be is in the will of God.

Sin Blinds {"and put out his eyes ;"}

II Peter 1:4-8, 9

4Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Samson was blinded physically but he was blinded spiritually before his eyes were put out. Samson lost sight of his purpose he had no vision of Gods will and purpose for his life; sin had blinded him to Gods will for him before the Philistines put out his eyes. Dear friend are you blinded by sin to the purpose God has for you?

Sin Binds {"bound him with fetters of brass"}

II Peter 2:19

19While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

It may not be with chains, as with Samson, but unconfessed sin quickly enslaves its practitioners; as false teachers promise freedom through false religion so the devil promises freedom through sin; but in the end sin binds and the slave to sin is in bondage. Sin binds stronger than any chain or fetters of brass because it gives the illusion of freedom.

Sin Grinds {"and he did grind in the prison house"}

II Peter 2:22

22But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Instead of the promised freedom from restraint, a sinful life soon becomes a "grind," tedious and tasteless, like "the dog turned to his own vomit again"

This is called a true proverb: for it is a fact that a dog will eat up his own vomit; and the swine, howsoever carefully washed, will again wallow in the mire. As applied here it is very expressive: the poor sinner, having heard the Gospel of Christ, was led to loathe and reject his sin; and, on his application to God for mercy, was washed from his unrighteousness. But he is here represented as taking up again what he had before rejected, and defiling himself in that from which he had been cleansed.

Proverbs 26:11As a dog returneth to his vomit, *so* a fool returneth to his folly.

The blind Samson, grinding at the mill, has a warning for us, too. That is what God here's comes to, if once they prostitute the God-given strength to the base loves of self and the flattering world. We are strong only as we keep our hearts clear of lower loves, and lean on God alone.

Samson Returns To The Lord. {"And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray only this once"}

"Even the ruin of a believer may be the temple of the Holy Ghost." -Pulpit

Judges 16: 26-30

26And 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.

27Now 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.

28And 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.

29And 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.

30And 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.

As Samson stretched out his arms upon the pillars and destroyed the lords of the Philistines and himself; our LORD Jesus Christ stretched out His arms upon the cross and died; destroying Satan and his principalities and powers.

Samson did return to God again before his death, but he was still blind, and bound, and grinding. God forgives, but the effects of sin are not easily removed. How much better it would be never to yield to the temptation at all.

Samson's Faith

Hebrews 11:32-33

32And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and *of* Barak, and *of* Samson, and *of* Jephthae; *of* David also, and Samuel, and *of* the prophets:

33Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

In the end Samson returned to God and is mentioned with those of great faith. Samson was imperfect as all sinners are, yet in the end he realized where his great strength came from and he rightly called unto the Lord, knowing that his past actions had broken his relationship with God. He prayed for the Lord to remember him and to strengthen him only this once, because he was humbled and knew that after such a fall he would never return to the exploits and glories of his former days.

“He ‘counted not his life dear’ unto himself, that he might be God’s instrument for God’s terrible work.” –*MacLaren*

Mark 8:35

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

And so it is a lesson for us today; the dangers of drawing away from God and being tempted and enticed of our own lusts. But sweet is the knowledge of who is the author and finisher of our faith, and from whom our strength comes and that when we also fall as we surely at times will where our forgiveness comes from.

Hebrews 12:2

12:2Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Phillipians 4:13

13I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me

I John 1:9

9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

JESUS SAVES-To God be the Glory

R.E.G.