

Character Sketch

SAMSON

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Samson
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Once again Israel “did evil in the sight of the Lord” (Judges 13:1), and again God called a Judge to deliver them. This time however, God prepared one from birth as a “Nazarite unto God” (13:5). To be born from what appears to be a Godly Father and Mother. Manoah, a man of prayer (13:8) so wanted to be sure of the Lord’s direction that he requested clarification of God’s instruction. Manoah’s wife also seemed to understand the mercy, grace and fairness of the Lord (13:23). By verse 24, it seems as though Samson was being raised according the commands of God (13:5) by these God fearing parents as we see that “the child grew, and the Lord Blessed him”.

“... every man did that which was right in his own eyes. “ Judges 17:6

This seems to be one of the legacies that Samson left behind. A mighty man (14:6, 14:9, 15:8, 16:3, 16:29) who’s true strength was not of the physical, but was spiritual, and was given by the “Spirit of the Lord” (13:25, 14:6, 14:19, 15:14). This strength was provided through the faithfulness to his Nazarite vow, which he took lightly. On at least one occasion he even disrespectfully deceived his parents regarding these vows (14:9). Samson was full of good intentions; however, he was also a reckless man.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 1 John 2:16

It seems that he was most definitely reckless in the area of the “lust of the flesh” (14:1, 16:1, 16:4), and his failure to maintain his distance from the things “of the world”. These two weaknesses would eventually lead to his demise (16:30).

Many of his actions should not be surprising to us, because he was a powerful man with a determination for justice and the popularity (16:2) and heroism to accompany it. Any man with these attributes might easily find innumerable temptations.

With all of his faults, he was a man who continuously received God's blessing (13:24), protection and provision (15:19). Samson ultimately repented and turned back to the Lord (16:28). Is it not wondrous that when he did, as when we do, God is always waiting with open arms to quickly and completely forgive?

Bibliography

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