



SAMSON

Heroic Feats and Tragic Failures

“³²And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of righteousness*, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.” (HEB 11: 32-34)

Oppression by the Philistines (JGS 13:1)

- ⊙ What was the cycle Israel was stuck in throughout Judges?

Samson is born and raised (JGS 13:24-25)

“And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him (Samson)” (vs 25)

- ⊙ What is meant by this? Was Samson a good son until he began to be stirred?

Samson shows his character (JGS 14)

- ⊙ Samson lusts after foreign women (vs 1-4)
 - Is this problematic today?
- ⊙ Broke part of his Nazarite vow (vs 5-6)
 - Touching the carcass of a dead animal was considered unclean (LEV 5:2) (LEV 11:24-25) (DEU 14:1-8)
- ⊙ Riddle at the wedding feast (vs 12-20)
 - What does this show about Samson’s character?

Foxtails and fire (JGS 15)

- ⊙ Samson uses the situation in verses one and two to justify his anger fueled actions
 - How do we prevent our selves from falling into the same trap?
- ⊙ The spirit of the Lord comes upon Samson (vs 10-14)
- ⊙ Samson slaughters a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey (vs 14-17)



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- ⊙ Samson nearly dies of thirst (vs 18-20)
 - Do we see any change in Samson's character?

Samson's final revenge (JGS 16)

- ⊙ Samson reveals more of his lustful nature (vs 1-2)
 - Also reveals more of his strength (vs 3)
- ⊙ Introduced to Delilah (vs 4) Makes a deal with the Philistines (vs 5)
- ⊙ The Lord departs from Samson (vs 20) and so does his strength
- ⊙ Samson calls upon the Lord (vs 28) and dies with the Philistines (vs 29-31)

Why is Samson included in the hall of faith?

- ⊙ Performed acts of righteousness (HEB 11:33a)
 - Recognized that God is the _____.
- ⊙ Shut the mouths of lions (HEB 11:33b)
 - We must also be ready for the _____ spiritual trials that come our way.
- ⊙ Became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. (HEB 11:34)
 - "Struck them _____ with a great _____" (JGS 15:8)
 - "With the _____ of a donkey I have killed a _____."
(JGS 15:16)

Despite the evil things Samson did in his life, he still put his faith in God and God still regarded him as Faithfull. This gives us hope because God can still use us for his purpose, even though we are not perfect. We can still turn away from our failures and follow God's plan.