

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How strong was Samson?
2. What was Delilah's motive to entice Samson?
3. How does the adversary bribe us today?
4. Four times Delilah deceived Samson. How could Samson be so foolish?
5. How could Samson not know that the Lord departed from him?
6. What was Samson's downfall?
7. What can we learn from Samson's prayer and God answering that prayer by giving Samson the strength to avenge himself of the Philistines?

SUMMARY:

Samson's special blessing of great strength led him upon ways of his own. He listened to the lusts of his flesh and yielded to temptations, counting on his own strength to see him through. Like so many people, he was led deeper and deeper into sin until he was caught and entangled in its sticky web. Samson had to suffer for his sin and when he came to repentance and called upon God to help him again, God honored his prayer and his Nazarite vow, and wrought victory through him.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

September 13, 2015

Third Quarter

SAMSON'S FINAL VICTORY

LESSON TEXT: *Judges 16:1-31; Hebrews 11:32*

LESSON SETTING: The Philistines of Gaza used Delilah to discover Samson's weakness.

TIME: 1120 B.C.

- I. SAMSON'S FOLLY.** Judges 16:1-20
 - A. Allurements of Sin. Proverbs 14:12; James 1:14
 - B. Evil Associations. Exodus 34:12; Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 4:14; 2 Corinthians 6:14
 - C. Yielding to Temptation. Genesis 13:10; Joshua 7:21; 1 Kings 11:1, 4
- II. SAMSON'S CAPTIVITY.** Judges 16:21-27
 - A. Sins Penalty. Romans 5:12; 6:23; Hebrews 2:3
- III. SAMSON'S VICTORY.** Judges 16:28-31
 - A. Prayer. Matthew 7:7; 26:41; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - B. Retaliation. Proverbs 24:29; Matthew 5:39; Romans 12:17; 1 Peter 3:9
 - C. End of the Wicked. Romans 6:21; Philippians 3:19; 1 Peter 4:17; Revelation 21:8

GOLDEN TEXT: *FOR THOU, LORD, ART GOOD AND READY TO FOR GIVE; AND PLENTIOUS IN MERCY UNTO ALL THEM THAT CALL UPON THEE.*
Psalm 86:5

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Ruth 1:1-22

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrews 11:23-29

QUARTERLY THEME: Early Days in Canaan

TOPIC: RUTH'S GODLY CHOICE

INTRODUCTION:

Naomi's walk of life proved to her daughters-in-law what God's blessing meant to her. Both were under the same influence, both loved her, as we know they wept when she bade them goodbye. Why then did Ruth cling to her and Orpah did not? Ruth had learned to love Naomi's God and to go back to her people meant she would have to relinquish Him. The thought must have been unbearable to her. To give up her precious Lord and go back to the lifeless gods of her people was repulsive. Orpah on the other hand, may have yearned for the ungodly life she had previously led. There surely must have been a desperate raging battle within her heart, to give up the life she had been living. How foolish people are to lose such a battle when so much is at stake. Happiness in this life means so much to them. They are self-centered and filled with self-love.

Ruth was willing to sacrifice. Her self-love was under the control of her love to God that led her on, and gave her the courage to follow Him. She had learned to love a living God and no sacrifice for Him would be too great for her to make. May we all be willing to make sacrifices to our precious Lord when He asks us to.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Choosing God always leads to blessing and honor.

GOLDEN TEXT: *ENTREAT ME NOT TO LEAVE THEE, OR TO RETURN FROM FOLLOWING AFTER THEE; FOR WHITHER THOU GOEST, I WILL GO.*
Ruth 1:16

We can be sure that Ruth's choice to go into a strange country with Naomi was not prompted by a hope for material gain. Naomi had come to Moab because of famine in Israel. Now, even husband and sons had been lost, and Naomi was returning empty indeed. So Ruth's decision could only have been made in love, love for her mother-in-law and also love for the God of Israel of whom she had heard so much. Surely she must have realized that the gods and idols of Moab were powerless and vain.

How good for men today if the right choice is made in like experiences! When we come under the influence of the Word of God, when we mingle with the people of God, "what could be lovelier ever" than to humbly say, "Thy God shall be my God". Then we too, will find that the idols and treasures of this world are vanity. Also, as with Ruth, God may have something much greater planned for us if we are yielded to His will.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 14 – 20

M. *Ruth in Moab. Ruth 1:1-5

T. *Ruth's Godly Choice. Ruth 1:6-18

W. *Ruth in Bethlehem. Ruth 1:19-22

T. Moses' Choice. Hebrews 11:23-27

F. Paul's Choice. Philippians 3:7-14

S. Testing Before Blessing. 1 Kings 17:8-16

S. A Disciple's Choice. Luke 14:25-33

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