

SAMSON (Part 2): DEFEAT AND VICTORY

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Judges 16—Central Baptist Church—July 30th, 2023

INTRODUCTION

“Be killing sin or it will be killing you.” —**John Owen**

1 John 3:8—[8] Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

Victory over sin does not happen when our behaviors are modified, but when our desires are changed.

When our hearts learn to love what God loves and hate what God hates, sin begins to fade and righteousness flourishes.

REVIEW

The Book of Judges is a book of warriors who fought to save Israel from their enemies.

- Six minor judges / Six major judges.
- Judges' Cycle = sin, servitude, supplication, and salvation
- Moral decadence / '*Canaanization*' of Israel.

Samson

- The last of the judges.
- The main human character in this book.
- Not a military leader, but a lone ranger.
- The most immoral of all the judges.
- Nazarite vow = never touch a dead body, never drink alcohol, and never cut his hair
- Out of all the judges, in some ways, Samson was the most unlike Christ; however, in some ways no other judges points us to Christ like Samson.

TEMPTATION

Temptation is Satan's tool to lead men to eternal death.

Judges 14:4—[4] *His father and mother did not know that it was from the LORD, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines. At that time the Philistines ruled over Israel.*

The anatomy of temptation

(1) The Devil uses temptation with precision.

James 1:14—[14] *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.*

Sin is the perversion of a good desire.

(2) The Devil uses temptation with persistence.

Just like Samson, we often believe ourselves to be too strong and not too weak.

James 4:7—*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

We resist the Devil when we actively distance ourselves from temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:12–13—*[12] Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. [13] No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

TRAGEDY

Samson experienced life in incredible ways, but he ultimately chose death.

James 1:15—*[15] Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

The heart in the Bible is the center of a person, his essence, his whole being.

Proverbs 4:23

*[23] Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.*

Proverbs 14:12

*[12] There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.*

Colossians 3:5–6—*[5] Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. [6] On account of these the wrath of God is coming.*

Samson entered the relationships with Delilah thinking of her as a lover, but she thought of him as the enemy.

James 4:4—*[4] You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

TRIUMPH

There is a sense in which it's so hard to see Jesus in Samson, but at the same time, there is a sense in which it's so clear to see how Samson points us forward to Jesus.

Apart from Christ all we have in the Bible is moralism.

When we are able to see Christ in Samson, Samson's story becomes a story of faith.