

SAMSON and DELILAH

וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁכַּח שָׁמְסוֹן אֶת דֵּלִילָה וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁכַּח אֶת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לָּהּ וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁכַּח אֶת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לָּהּ וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁכַּח אֶת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לָּהּ

And when Samson had forgotten Delilah, and all the things which he had done unto her, and when he had forgotten all the things which he had done unto her, and when he had forgotten all the things which he had done unto her

The Book of Judges
SAMSON AND DELILAH
March 8, 2017
Session 8

1 In last week's study, we learned of Samson's weakness: he loved women. Every person
2 has some point in their make-up in which they are vulnerable. One of the reasons we are
3 not to judge each other is because "all have sinned" and we all have vulnerabilities.
4 However, our weaknesses are not all the same. Some fall prey to drugs, some to
5 extortion, some to sex, some to lying, etc. And when Satan tempts us he does so in the
6 area of our own weakness. He does not normally tempt us in the areas of our lives in
7 which we are strong.

8
9 We observed last week in chapter 14 that Samson fell for a Philistine woman. His
10 marriage to her was disrupted and Samson went on a killing rampage against her people.

11
12 In chapter 16, we read of Samson's liaison with a Philistine prostitute: Judges 16:1
13 **Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.** The
14 upshot of that saga was Samson's ripping the locked gate from the walls of Gaza.

15
16 But those women were pale in comparison to the final one in Samson's checkered career.
17 This one, from the valley of Sorek, was named Delilah. And she would bring about
18 Samson's eventual death.

19
20 Judges 16:4 **And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of**
21 **Sorek, whose name was Delilah.**

22
23 In 1949, the legendary film producer Cecil B. DeMille created a film, SAMSON AND
24 DELILAH, featuring Victor Mature as Samson and Hedy Lamarr as Delilah. Lamarr
25 was not only one of Hollywood's most beautiful women, but she was also brilliant -
26 perhaps a genius. She became a pioneer in the field of wireless communications
27 following her emigration to the United States. Along with co-inventor George Anthiel
28 she developed a communication system that helped defeat the Nazis in World War II.
29 Her invention formed an unbreakable code to prevent classified messages from being
30 intercepted by enemy personnel.

31
32 DeMille chose his female lead well. Not only was Delilah probably a beauty, but she
33 was also cunning, highly intelligent. She was also a paid agent for the Philistines who
34 sold out her lover, Samson, for money. She goes down as one of the most despicable
35 women in the Bible, and Samson goes down as one of the biggest fools.

1 Judges 16:5-7

2 **And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him,**
3 **and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against**
4 **him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us**
5 **eleven hundred pieces of silver.**

6 [6] **And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength**
7 **lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. [7] And Samson said**
8 **unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I**
9 **be weak, and be as another man.**

10
11 It seems probable that Samson did not take this situation seriously. Perhaps Delilah was
12 merely teasing him. He did not for a moment sense the danger facing him.

13
14 Sin and its pitfalls never appear at first to its victims as something dangerous. The youth
15 taking the first drink of alcohol is only blending in with his buddies, he thinks. The girl
16 smoking her first marijuana does not see the perils of far more dangerous drugs peeking
17 around the corner. The innocent (it seemed) flirtation in the office did not appear to the
18 people involved as a threat to a home. The craving for a bigger home or fancier car
19 (which comes to many of us, I must say) does not hit our fancy as the lust of the flesh -
20 only "getting ahead." Satan is so clever.

21
22 Listen - Delilah was not some old crone with scraggly teeth and warts on her nose. Such
23 a person would never have posed a threat to Samson. But Delilah? Well now, that was
24 something else, wasn't it? So she wanted to play this teasing game? Sure. Samson
25 thought he could play it, too.

26
27 Judges 16:8-11 **Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green**
28 **withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. [9] Now there were**
29 **men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The**
30 **Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is**
31 **broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. [10] And Delilah**
32 **said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I**
33 **pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. [11] And he said unto her, If they**
34 **bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be**
35 **as another man.**

36
37 By now, Delilah is growing weary of her "boyfriend," and presses him even harder:

38
39 Judges 16:13-14

40 **And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies:**

1 **tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the**
2 **seven locks of my head with the web. [14] And she fastened it with the pin, and said**
3 **unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and**
4 **went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.**

5
6 Two things strike me in this passage: 1) Samson is the most dense man who ever lived;
7 or 2) Delilah was so incredibly gorgeous he lost all sense of danger.

8
9 But notice this also: With each lie he grows closer to the truth. Now he is talking
10 about his hair - no, not the truth about it, but his hair nevertheless. Samson is really on
11 dangerous ground now as Delilah turns up the heat:

12
13 Judges 16:15-17

14 **And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not**
15 **with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy**
16 **great strength lieth. [16] And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her**
17 **words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; [17] That he told her**
18 **all his heart, and said unto her. There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I**
19 **have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my**
20 **strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.**

21
22 The secret of Samson's strength, remember, was not his hair but rather his Nazarite vow
23 to God. His lengthy hair was only an outward indication of that vow. If he allowed his
24 hair to be cut, it meant in his heart he had already disavowed his commitment to God.
25 Hence his strength was merely human from that time on.

26
27 Now Samson's life would plummet to the depths of despair for "**sin, when it is finished,**
28 **brings forth death.**" (James 1:15)

29
30 Judges 16:18-20

31 **And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for**
32 **the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his**
33 **heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in**
34 **their hand. [19] And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man,**
35 **and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict**
36 **him, and his strength went from him. [20] And she said, The Philistines be upon**
37 **thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times**
38 **before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him.**

39
40 Obviously Samson was so comfortable with Delilah he didn't even wake up when he got

1 that "haircut." That's one of the aspects of sin: it lulls its victim to such an unaware
2 state that he or she doesn't even know death is approaching.

3
4 Now, for the fourth time, Delilah cried out, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!"
5 And the Israeli hero awoke saying, "Here we go again....I got 'em, Delilah!" – and didn't
6 even know God's power had left him.

7
8 An issue with which every minister must deal is this: is God the center of what I'm
9 doing, is it by HIS Spirit, or am I so good at what I do that I don't even know the Lord is
10 not in it at all?

11
12 I am committed to good education; I believe in it. But knowledge is no substitute for the
13 Spirit of God. I am committed to sharpening skills God has given me, but they mean
14 nothing unless God uses them for His glory. Samson lurched to his feet when Delilah
15 alerted him to the Philistines, thinking he would take them out as he always had before,
16 and didn't even realize that he was no longer strong, that God had left him alone and
17 helpless.

18
19 *Samson, called to be a judge for his people, called to deliver his people from the*
20 *oppression of the Philistines, is a carnal man. The glory of God had departed from him.*
21 *He never raised an army. He never rallied the people to God. Sex was the ruin of this*
22 *man – the man who had been chosen by God!*

23 THRU THE BIBLE / VOLUME II / J VERNON MCGEE / NELSON PUBL / PAGES 80-81

24
25 Now comes one of the most chilling verses in all holy scripture:

26
27 Judges 16:21 **But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him**
28 **down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison**
29 **house.**

30
31 As a young preacher, traveling around the country, I often used this scripture in my
32 closing meetings of revivals. The dreadful consequences of sin:

- 33 1. Sin Blinds
34 2. Sin Binds
35 3. Sin Grinds
36

37 SIN BLINDS

38
39 Of course, it does! If a prospective victim of sin could see into the future, could
40 visualize what awful things were going to happen, he or she would veer as far away from

1 the transgression as possible! The only thing Samson saw was the lovely form and face
2 of Delilah; he did not see the coming chains, the piercing pain of his eyes gouged out, the
3 mocking jeers of the crowd in the arena. That's the cleverness of sin. Even scripture
4 warns about THE PLEASURES OF SIN - but here's the kicker: FOR A SEASON.
5 Temporary pleasure. Future victims living "in the now" of their joyful pleasures. Like
6 someone careening at high speed in a gorgeous convertible down a mountain side, not
7 knowing that just around the corner the bridge is out! Too late, too late, the realization
8 comes as the car spins out into space and death.

10 SIN BINDS

11 The word "addiction" has become a much-used expression in our lifetime. **Addiction**
12 **means being abnormally tolerant to and dependent on something that is**
13 **psychologically and physically habit forming (especially alcohol and narcotic drugs).**
14 **An abnormally strong craving.**

17 The great missionary Jackie Pullinger coined a phrase: "You begin chasing the dragon
but then it jumps on your back and begins chasing you."

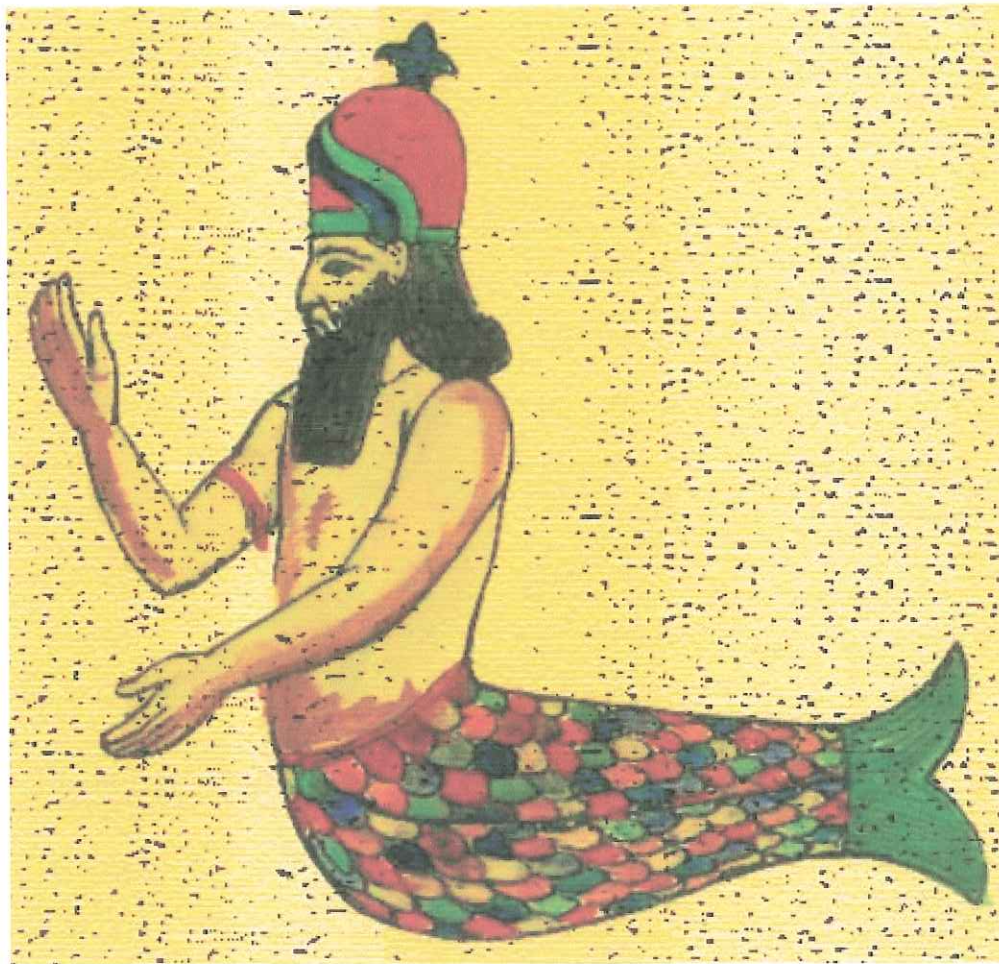
18 Addiction doesn't just happen. There is a progression towards chemical dependency or
19 any other addiction.

21 The four stages of addiction:

- 24 • The experimental stage. The victim says, "I will just try it. I don't have to use it
25 again."
- 26 • The recreational stage. Now the user may succumb on weekends with friends.
27 Just "unwinding." Looking for relief from tension. Tolerance increases and
28 more substances needed to get the same kick. The user is now starting to plan for
29 use.
- 30 • The early dependency stage. The regular user is now an abuser. The addiction
31 is now beginning to play havoc with normal life.
- 32 • The full dependency stage. Now there is a self-destructive and compulsive desire
33 to escape to oblivion - or escape from reality.

35 SIN GRINDS

36 As bad as Samson's condition was when captured, it would only grow worse. While it
37 is certainly true that "sin kills," the death does not always come quickly. It often comes
38



DAGON, THE PHILISTINE FISH GOD BEFORE WHOM SAMSON SUFFERED

slowly, grinding out its painful procedures physically, spiritually, mentally and socially. It is a gradual ordeal, which Samson now experienced.

Judges 16:22-23

Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. [23] Then 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.

Dagon was the principle deity of the Philistines whose ancestors had migrated to Palestinian shores from Crete. He was the alleged god of fertility and crops. Dagon also figured prominently in the Philistine concepts of death and the afterlife.

Dagon was believed to have been the father of the false god Baal. The Philistines imported this creature from ancient Babylon.

He was the foremost deity in ancient Azotus, Gaza and Ashkelon. His “religion” continued into the second century BC when the Macabeas destroyed at least for a time all

1 foreign religions.

2
3 In the meantime, Samson becomes an ox, a donkey, an animal, tied to a grist mill,
4 grinding out meal. What a picture, broken, blind, bound. The great warrior was now
5 nothing more than a beast of burden. But....all was not lost. His hair had begun to
6 grow again, which I believe signified his repentant heart toward God.

7
8 Judges 16:25-27

9 **And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for**
10 **Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison**
11 **house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. [26] And**
12 **Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the**
13 **pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them. [27] Now the**
14 **house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there;**
15 **and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld**
16 **while Samson made sport.**

17
18 Three thousand spectators! That was a large building! We can seat 2,000 in this
19 sanctuary. Add for another thousand plus the floor of the arena where the sport took
20 place. It was probably a facility twice as large as this.

21
22 Two massive pillars held the thing up. Somehow Samson knew this - either by
23 revelation or earlier experience. Now we hear Samson's final prayer:

24
25 Judges 16:28-31

26 **And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray**
27 **thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once**
28 **avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. [29] And Samson took hold of the two**
29 **middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one**
30 **with his right hand, and of the other with his left. [30] And Samson said, Let me die**
31 **with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell**
32 **upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew**
33 **at his death were more than they which he slew in his life. [31] Then his brethren**
34 **and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and**
35 **buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father.**
36 **And he judged Israel twenty years.**

37
38 Was this a great victory? Probably not in comparison to what Samson could have
39 accomplished had he remained true to his God and his call.

1 The only One I know who truly accomplished all that God set out for Him was Christ
2 Himself. All the rest of us have sinned and what? come short of the glory of God.

3
4 I have often wondered if, at the Judgment Seat of Christ (I Cor 3), God might show me a
5 video of an incredible life, lived back on this earth. I stand amazed as I watch it. Upon
6 its conclusion I ask the Lord, "Who was that remarkable person?" To which God
7 replies, "Dan, that would have been you had you been faithful at every turn of the road."

8
9 What could Samson have been had he never met Delilah? Had he never had the
10 preoccupation with women? We will never know. All we know is that this man, born
11 to such great potential, only BEGAN to deliver Israel. He never finished his God-
12 appointed task.

13
14 Next week: More in the time of the Judges.
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