

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

"Samson Vindicated"

Judges 15:1-20

Introduction

1. Samson was raised up to "begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines" (13:5). There is continual evidence of this in the text. He was God's man at God's time for God's people.
2. Three women came into his life. Each one was an occasion employed by God to bring judgment upon the Philistines. God occasioned these incidents in Samson's life to effectively get at the enemy of the nation.
3. The Holy Spirit moved upon Samson four specific times to accomplish God's work through him (13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14). Samson's real strength was in the Lord (16:20).
4. It will be forever true that those who are faithful to the Lord will be vindicated by Him. Those who are not will be shown in that light. It is so in the life of Samson. This chapter is filled with events which give credence to this man as being true to the Lord and the Lord standing with him. Study it well for your own life:

1. Samson and FOXES vv. 1-5.

The events of this chapter relate to Samson returning to see his Philistine "bride" (14:1-20). Upon his arrival at her home, he learned that she had been given to his "best man" (14:20). He was offered her sister, but this was contrary to the law (Lev. 18:18). It was an occasion which God arranged so that He could clean up accounts with the Philistines. He had just indignation over what had been done to him. The miracle of the jackels (probable meaning here) demonstrates God's presence in the matter. They were probably sent in pairs into the fields. There was a general destruction of the enemy's food supply (v. 5).

2. Samson and a ROCK vv. 6-8.

There is a remarkable retaliation here for the father and his daughter who had played it foolishly with Samson (v. 6). But God is also in this picture and His vengeance is meted out upon the Philistines (vv. 7, 8). The phrase "hip and thigh" suggests a merciless slaughter. It was

done very severely. Some approximate at least 100 dead God brought vengeance (Rom. 12:19).

3. Samson and CORD vv. 9-13.

In view of the movement by Samson from the rock, the Philistines ordered a mobilization of 3000 troops. Samson seemed to have a life preserved by God. Think of it, however, that such a large number was commissioned to get one man (Lev. 26:8)! Sadly, Judah cooperated with the enemy. They even challenged Samson on the matter and confessed themselves to be slaves of the Philistines (v. 11). They would not resist the enemy, but Samson did! Hence, "new ropes" were employed to tie him to deliver him to the enemy (v. 13). His own people delivered him to the Philistines.

4. Samson and JAWBONE vv. 14-17.

It is the work of the Spirit of God in Samson's life which makes him capable of breaking the "new cords." It is the Lord Who provided the resistance! With loosened hands, Samson slew 1000 Philistines with a jawbone of an ass. The place where this victory was gained was called "Rammath-lehi" which means "jawbone height." Heaps of Philistine bodies gave testimony to the strength which God had provided. The enemy was again in defeat by him and of him who was assigned to do a work against them and to begin a deliverance for Israel!

5. Samson and WATER vv. 18, 19.

The time of the year, the events which had transpired, the victory which had been won--all made Samson now to confess that it was the Lord Who had brought the victory! This is a tremendous confession and should be ever on the lips of those who walk in the light. God does vindicate those who are true to Him! What Judah refused to enjoy, Samson alone enjoyed. Blessed be God. Then he sought refreshment and God provided this, too. The phrase relating to the source of the water probably refers to mortar cup holes. They were places where grain was ground and now they broke open with water provided by the Lord. The name given the place is "spring of him that called." It is a fitting end to the glorious manner in which this man made himself available to God. He had called and the Lord had answered!

Conclusion A testimony is given to Samson. He judged Israel during those days of the Philistines (v. 20). God bore witness to him "unto this day" (v. 19 cf. Heb. 11:32).