



“Samson: What A Mess!”
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Judges 13:1-5; 24-25 (NLT)

Again the Israelites did evil in the LORD’s sight, so the LORD handed them over to the Philistines, who oppressed them for forty years. In those days a man named Manoah from the tribe of Dan lived in the town of Zorah. His wife was unable to become pregnant, and they had no children. The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah’s wife and said, “Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son. So be careful; you must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines.”

When her son was born, she named him Samson. And the LORD blessed him as he grew up. And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him while he lived in Mahaneh-dan, which is located between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol.

I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING SAMSON’S BIRTH

- 1. Israel forgot God and was now at war with the Philistines (v. 1)
- 2. Manoah and his wife were unable to conceive (v. 2)
- 3. An angel appears announcing the pregnancy (v. 3)
- 4. The angel states the conditions of the birth (v. 4)

The laws concerning Nazarite vows are found in Numbers 6:2-21

- The vow was usually for a specified period of time
- During that time, the person was wholly dedicated to God
- Must avoid contact with grapes and the drinking of wine
- May not cut his hair
- Must not contact a dead body of any kind

SAMSON’S SLIDE INTO SIN: SEVEN STUPID MISTAKES – JUDGES 14

- 1. He went where he _____.
One day when Samson was in Timnah... (v. 1)

- 2. He was _____.
...one of the Philistine women caught his eye. When he returned home, he told his father and mother, “A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me.” (vv. 1b-2)

3. He _____ **Godly Counsel.**

His father and mother objected. "Isn't there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?" they asked. "Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?" But Samson told his father, "Get her for me! She looks good to me."

(v. 3)

4. He continued to _____ **the relationship.**

When Samson arrived in Timnah, he talked with the woman and was very pleased with her.

(v. 7)

5. He _____ **his commitment.**

As Samson and his parents were going down to Timnah, a young lion suddenly attacked Samson near the vineyards of Timnah. At that moment the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands. He did it as easily as if it were a young goat. But he didn't tell his father or mother about it... Later, when he returned to Timnah for the wedding, he turned off the path to look at the carcass of the lion. And he found that a swarm of bees had made some honey in the carcass. He scooped some of the honey into his hands and ate it along the way.

(vv. 5,6,8,9)

6. He ignored his _____.

When the bride's parents saw him, they selected thirty young men from the town to be his companions. Samson said to them, "Let me tell you a riddle. If you solve my riddle during these seven days of the celebration, I will give you thirty fine linen robes and thirty sets of festive clothing. But if you can't solve it, then you must give me thirty fine linen robes and thirty sets of festive clothing." "All right," they agreed, "let's hear your riddle." So he said:

*"Out of the one who eats came something to eat;
out of the strong came something sweet."*

On the fourth day they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband to explain the riddle for us, or we will burn down your father's house with you in it."

(vv. 11-15)

7. He took _____ **rather than** _____.

Then the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him. He went down to the town of Ashkelon, killed thirty men, took their belongings, and gave their clothing to the men who had solved his riddle. But Samson was furious about what had happened, and he went back home to live with his father and mother. So his wife was given in marriage to the man who had been Samson's best man at the wedding.

(vv. 19-20)

THE REVENGE OF A HOTHEAD – JUDGES 15

- Samson wants his wife back, but her father won't let him see her because she is now married to someone else.
- Samson said, *"This time I cannot be blamed for everything I am going to do to you Philistines."* (v. 3)
- He catches some foxes and ties burning torches to their tails and lets them loose in the fields of the Philistines. The fire destroys their wheats, vineyards, and olive groves.
- The Philistines take revenge on his former wife and her family.

- *“Because you did this,” Samson vowed, “I won’t rest until I take revenge on you!”* (v. 7)
- Samson seeks revenge on the Philistines. The Philistines seek revenge on Samson, but Samson is so strong that he is able to kill 1000 Philistine men with the jawbone of a donkey.
- *Samson was now very thirsty, and he cried out to the Lord, “You have accomplished this great victory by the strength of your servant. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of these pagans?”* (v. 18)
- *Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines* (v. 20)

HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN! – JUDGES 16

One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. (v. 1)

He got up, took hold of the doors of the town gate, including the two posts, and lifted them up, bar and all. He put them on his shoulders and carried them all the way to the top of the hill across from Hebron. (v. 3)

SAMSON MEETS DELILAH – FOUR BIG MISTAKES

1. **He gets involved in ANOTHER _____.**
Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. (v. 4)
2. **He flirted with _____.**
The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, “Entice Samson to tell you what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely. Then each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver.” (v. 5)
3. **He reveals the secret of his _____.**
Then Delilah pouted, “How can you tell me, ‘I love you,’ when you don’t share your secrets with me? You’ve made fun of me three times now, and you still haven’t told me what makes you so strong!” She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it. (vv. 15-16)
4. **When he realized what he had done, _____.**
...his strength left him. (v. 19)
But he didn’t realize the Lord had left him. (v. 20)

ANSWER KEY:

SAMSON'S SLIDE INTO SIN: SEVEN STUPID MISTAKES – JUDGES 14

1. He went where he **SHOULD NOT HAVE GONE.**
2. He was **LOOKING FOR THE WRONG THING.**
3. He **REJECTED** Godly Counsel.
4. He continued to **PURSUE** the relationship.
5. He **COMPROMISED** his commitment.
6. He ignored his **WEAKNESSES.**
7. He took **REVENGE** rather than **REPENT.**

SAMSON MEETS DELILAH – FOUR BIG MISTAKES

1. He gets involved in ANOTHER **BAD RELATIONSHIP.**
2. He flirted with **TEMPTATION.**
3. He reveals the secret of his **STRENGTH.**
4. When he realized what he had done, **IT WAS TOO LATE.**