

Typology

A Jewish Midrashic method of interpretation.

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SAMSON THE NAZIRITE—JUDGES CH 13—16

In this lesson, we look at the typology that can be drawn from the Old Testament record of believers. The story of Samson is a fascinating one. Interestingly, the New Testament doesn't list Samson's failures, nor his incredible acts of strength. Hebrews 11:32 names him in the "Hall of Faith" among those who "through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised ... whose weakness was turned to strength." This indicated that God sometimes uses people of faith, despite their imperfections. How amazing that God is able to use us in our frail humanity!

HIS CALLING: (Read Judges 13:1-5)

What is a Nazarite?

More properly, Naz'irite. (one separated).

One who was bound by a vow of a peculiar kind, to be set apart from others for the service of God. The obligation was either for life or for a defined time.

The Nazarite, during the term of his consecration, was bound to abstain from wine grapes, with every production of the vine and from every kind of intoxicating drink. He was forbidden to cut the hair of his head, or to approach any dead body, even that of his nearest relation. More info can be found in **Num 6:1-21**.

SAMPSON'S LIFE	BELIEVERS LIFE.
Born of a promise to a barren woman.	We are born of a promise to the Gentiles. Eph 3:6
A Nazirite to God – from the womb	A Christian to Christ – from spiritual birth
Separated from unclean things – hair as an external sign of this.	Separated from the world – conduct as an external sign to the world. Read 2 Cor 6:14-18.
Called as a deliverer to his people.	Called as a witness to our generation.
The enemy, the Philistines.	The enemy, sin, Satan and death.

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HIS COMPROMISE

SAMPSON'S LIFE	BELIEVERS LIFE.
God allowed Samson to go to the Philistines to ultimately bring God's judgment upon them.	We are in the world to witness about God's judgment of sin and provision of salvation.
Samson went to Philistines to make alliances with them. It has been stated of Samson that : <i>"Sin took him further than he wanted to go, Sin kept him longer than he wanted to stay, And sin cost him more than he wanted to pay".</i>	The alliances the church is making today with the Emerging Church and others are leading the way to a compromised, worldly, end time 'religion' which holds vague concepts of 'God' without the power of Christ's victory on the cross. 'Tolerance' is in, 'truth' is out. We are not to make friendship with this world. James 4:4, Eph 5:11.
Samson's ungodly alliance with Delilah was the trap sprung by the enemy to strip Samson of his strength. Alliances with Philistines wore Samson down.	The 'Delilah' the enemy uses today to strip the church of its strength, is the alliance with worldliness and false religion. Compromise with sin wears us down.
Samson blames his companions and tells them 'if you had not ploughed with <i>my heifer</i> , you would not have found out my riddle" The real truth here is if only he had reversed it; "If I had not ploughed with <i>your heifer...</i> ". Samson was now paying the consequences for being in an alliance with the enemy that should never have been formed!	So often we blame others, circumstances and even God when our lives fall to pieces, but if we are honest, we will see that many of our trials are consequences of our own sinful choices and alliances with the world around us. Rev 3:15-20.
Samson declares ' I am a Nazarite , separated unto God. That is the source of my strength. The outward sign of my devotion to God is my long hair. If you cut that, you cut my separation unto God and there goes my strength. Without God I am as weak as any other man.'	Have you found that to be true in your life? Have you seen that God Himself is the source of your strength and without Him you are as weak as any other man?
With the strength of the Lord gone due to his ungodly alliances, Samson is left at the mercy of his enemies. So a blind enslaved Samson has been reduced to something of a circus freak entertainment show for the Philistines.	The church today has departed from the centrality of the Lord Jesus, is also said to have lost her eyesight. She has lost her ability to see and discern things spiritually! Has the church not become an entertainment show for the Enemy? Rev 3:17.

The Nazirite Vow

- 1. In Numbers 6, we have a description of a special vow governed by the Law of Moses. It is the Nazirite vow.**
- 2. Conditions of the Nazirite Vow**
 - The person could not take of the fruit of the vine. (6:1-4)
 - The person could not cut the hair of their head. (6:5)
 - ✓ This seems to be an outward indication of the separation that they had committed to.
 - ✓ Samson is the most famous Nazirite, at least as associated with the hair. (Judges 16:16-17)
 - The person had to avoid contact with a dead body. (6:6-8)
- 3. The duration of the Nazirite vow ranged probably from about 30 days to a lifetime.**
- 4. Having completed the period of the vow, the Nazirite was commanded to appear before the Lord and provide offerings. (6:13-20)**

HIS CHALLENGE

SAMPSON'S LIFE	BELIEVERS LIFE.
Judges 14:5-9. The lion is no match for a Samson supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit!	The Apostle Peter tells us that Satan goes around like a roaring lion, looking for those He could devour. But we too, like Samson, gain victory over the enemy through our faith in the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit's empowering.
The lion was to devour him, but through the strength God gave him, he conquered the lion and ate of the sweetness that came out of it.	Satan and death come to devour us, but through the work of Christ on the Cross, we now eat of the sweet victory over death for Christ has abolished death. 2 Tim 1:10.
Samson certainly didn't know it would come to this, but it is, nevertheless, the inevitable result of worldly compromise. So is there hope? Of course there is. Samson's hair is starting to grow again... but it will involve him getting back to first principles.	Now no one ever starts out with the intention of losing their strength and sight spiritually. The centrality of the Lord Jesus is not just an optional extra... He is an imperative! He is our life as the Bible declares - our 'all in all'. We must get back to Him and His Word alone.

HIS CONQUEST

SAMPSON'S LIFE	BELIEVERS LIFE.
Death to Self brings disaster for the Philistines!	Paul said we are to RECKON that we (self) has died with Christ! (Gal 2:20-21, Rom 6:6,11)
Samson realised his utter dependence on God and turns to God again in prayer.	It is never too late for us to turn back to God and totally depend on Him.
Samson stretched one hand out to the left pillar, and the other hand to the right pillar. Through this sign like that of the cross, Samson would once again be victorious, even through death!	1Cor. 1:18: <i>"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God".</i>
And God says, "so the dead that he slew at his death were more than he slew in his life".	When we die to ourselves, we become more effective in reaching the lost. Against these things, the Apostle Paul exhorts us to run the race with endurance, fixing our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us remain true to His word, even if others turn away, and upon His return hear those words 'well done good and faithful servant.' It is the King of Kings that you serve. Phil 1:21.

Consider this:

Many interesting characters are found in the Old Testament records.

Read **Judges Ch 6 – 9** and draw up your own table of Gideon's life and the typology of the believer's life.





Highlights From GIDEON's Reign

Judges 6–8

Judge Gideon: looking for a sign



Angel of the Lord appears to him and calls him to deliver Israel from Midian 6:11–14

Asks for a sign, which he is given when fire consumes his offering 6:17–22

Destroys his father's altar to Baal and Asherah pole and replaces them with an altar to the Lord; Gideon is called Jerub-Baal 6:25–32

Asks for another sign involving a wool fleece, which God gives him 6:36–40

God reduces his army from 32,000 to 10,000 to 300 men 7:1–8

Defeats Midianites with 300 men 7:9–25

Refuses to rule over Israel 8:22–23

Requests plunder from Israel; gold rings total 1,700 shekels 8:24–26

Uses the gold to make an ephod and places it in his hometown in Ophrah 8:27

Israel worships the ephod, and it becomes a snare to Gideon and his family 8:27

Has many wives and 70 sons, including a son named Abimelek from his concubine in Shechem 8:30–31

Dies of old age 8:32