

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

RLJ-1682

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DECEMBER 16, 2018

PART 16: A HUMAN TRAGEDY

THE THREE JUDGES

The Lord raised up three judges from different tribes after the death of Jephthah and they ruled for 25 years.

1. Ibzan of Bethlehem was of the tribe of Judah. He had a total of 60 children, which indicates he must have had several wives. The Bible does not provide much information except for the number of children he fathered. Ibzan judged Israel for seven years. **Judges 12:8-10**
2. Elon was from the tribe of Zebulun in northern Israel. There is no personal information about this judge who ruled Israel for 10 years. **verses 11-12**
3. Abdon of Pirathon was from the tribe of Ephraim in the area north of Judah. He was the father of 40 sons, which too indicates that he had more than one wife. Abdon's sons and nephews had mounted mobility and it is likely he used them to gather information in the land and deliver his judgments to different cities and places in Israel. He judged Israel for 8 years. **verses 13-15**

NO SPIRITUAL LEADER

God did not raise up another judge for the next 40 years and the people returned to a frenzy of pagan worship. As a result, God once again removed His protection and the people of Israel were oppressed by the Philistines. **Judges 13:1**

A NAZARITE JUDGE

An angel was sent to the wife of a man named Manoah, who was from the city of Zorah, located in the land allocated to the tribe of Dan in northern Israel. She was given specific instructions not to drink any alcohol or eat any unclean food during her pregnancy because her son would be a Nazarite from conception and would be used to deliver Israel from the Philistines. Being a Nazarite meant you were consecrated and could not drink alcohol, cut your hair, and had to be ritually clean by not touching any dead body. **verses 2-5**

Since this woman had been raised in a generation of paganism with little knowledge of God, she was perplexed and went to tell her husband what the angel had said. She did not know this messenger was an angel at this time and thought it was merely a man. **verses 6-7**

Manoah must have had some knowledge of God because he sought the Lord in prayer after hearing the angel's message. **verse 8**

God heard his prayer, and Jesus, who is also called the Angel of the Lord, came to talk and clarify things for Manoah and his wife. This was a divine meeting they never forgot



and they must have rehearsed it over and over again after Samson was born and began to grow up. **verses 9-25**

THE EARLY YEARS

Samson abstained from alcohol and did not defile himself in the sight of the Lord but his weakness for women would be his downfall and eventually lead to his death. God had clearly told the people of Israel not to intermarry with the heathens. Samson went to the city of Timnath and saw a young Philistine woman that he desired. He persisted in this foolish endeavor despite the fact that his mother and father tried to talk him out of it and entered into God's permissive will. **Judges 14:1-4; Deuteronomy 7:2-5**

Coming back to Timnath, he encountered a lion and killed it with his bare hands. **Judges 14:5-6**

Samson continued to pursue the Philistine woman and saw there was honey in the carcass of the dead lion. He violated his position as a Nazarite when he removed honey from the dead body and this opened the door for unclean spirits to afflict and begin to control Samson. **verses 8-9**

The wedding to the Philistine woman took place and Samson challenged 30 young men at the wedding feast with a riddle. Instead of having a good time during the seven days of festivity, the whole affair ended in sorrow when the family took away his new wife and gave her to another man while Samson was in the city of Ashkelon to kill and rob 30 men of their possessions because he lost the challenge. **verses 10-20**

BURNING THE CROPS

Samson was hindered in trying to get his wife back and took revenge when he burned the fields of the Philistines. **Judges 15:1-5**

The Philistines retaliated and went to his estranged wife's house and burned her and her father alive. **verses 6**

Samson responded and killed a large group of Philistines. **verses 7-8**

AVENGING HIMSELF

The men of Judah had submitted themselves to the Philistines and were not interested in rebelling against them. They even went so far as to volunteer to capture their own countryman. **verses 9-13**

The Philistines got a rude surprise when Samson killed a thousand of their soldiers. **verses 14-17**

Samson was extremely thirsty after the battle and God provided a miracle. "Fountain of the crier" is the name of the spring in Lehi which burst forth in answer to Samson's prayer. The spring was still there in Lehi at the time this account was written. **verses 18-20**

Samson judged Israel for 20 years. **verse 20**

SUCCUMBING TO TEMPTATION

Samson began to backslide due to his sexual appetite toward the end of his 20 years as a judge of Israel. There is no record if Samson ever married again, but he started to satisfy his sexual desires by frequenting whores. **Judges 16:1-3**

Satan was determined that Samson was going to be neutralized and the woman that was used for this project was Delilah from the valley of Sorek. **verse 4**

The Bible does not reveal if she was a Philistine woman, but the Philistine leadership were notified that Samson was visiting her and they offered Delilah a large amount of money if she could determine the source of his great strength. **verses 5**

Delilah accepted the offer and began working to uncover Samson's secret. **verses 6-9**

Delilah tried to shame Samson into revealing the secret. **verses 10-12**

She tried a third time, only to find out that Samson had lied to her. **verses 13-15**

Samson stayed with Delilah because of the sexual relations and she pestered him daily until he caved and finally revealed his secret. Delilah accused Samson of not loving her, when she in fact did not love Samson, but wanted the reward money that had been offered. **verses 16-17**

NEVER TRUST A WHORE

Once Delilah knew for sure he had told her the truth, she enticed him to fall asleep with his head upon her lap and had a man quietly and stealthily shave his head. **verse 19**

Then she urgently woke Samson and told him the Philistines were outside. He went to deal with them but found that his great strength was gone. He was quickly subdued and his eyes were gouged out. He was then led to a mill in the prison house where he walked like an ox and milled the wheat. **verse 21**

THE LAST ACT

None of the Philistines paid attention to the fact that his hair grew back, and when it came time for a festival to the pagan god Dagon, Samson was brought out to entertain the crowd. Samson prayed one last prayer for God to return his strength, and with his last breath, Samson killed more Philistines than he had done previously in taking down the large building that housed Dagon. **verses 22-30**

SUMMARY

Samson did not cherish the fact that Jesus had spoken to his father and mother about his life. He did not appreciate the fact that God had bestowed great strength upon him and made him a judge over Israel.

He threw away his life by visiting whores and satisfying his fleshly desires. The Bible does not say whether Samson was saved or not, but regardless if he is in heaven or hell, I am sure that he is ashamed for casting away such a great anointing for a few moments of sexual gratification.

There are millions of men and women who have wasted their lives on earth and only realized too late that they acted as fools. **Mark 8:36-37**

Samson got a hero's funeral but it meant nothing to him. He spent his life in vanity and went into eternity as a fool. **Judges 16:31**

What will people say at your funeral?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?

