



Bible Teaching Resources

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What You Need to Know About GIDEON AND SAMSON

“The Dangers of Losing the Final Lap”

STUDY NUMBER ONE - JUDGES 6:11-24

NOTES

v.11 Then the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress in order to save it from the Midianites.

v.12 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.”

v.13 Then Gideon said to him, “Oh my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

v.14 And the Lord looked at him and said, “Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?”

v.15 And he said to him, “O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s house.”

v.16 But the Lord said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man.”

v.17 So Gideon said to Him, “If now I have found favor in Thy sight, then show me a sign that it is Thou who speakest with me.

v.18 “Please do not depart from here, until I come back to Thee, and bring out my offering and lay it before Thee.” And He said, “I will remain until you return.”

v.19 Then Gideon went in and prepared a kid and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour; he put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, and brought them out to him under the oak, and presented them.

v.20 And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And he did so.

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v.21 Then the angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight.

v.22 When Gideon saw that He was the angel of the Lord, he said, "Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face."

v.23 And the Lord said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die."

v.24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 6:11-24 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Who do you think the angel of the Lord is in verse 11?

3. How does the Lord address Gideon in verse 12?

4. What are the questions that Gideon asks in verse 13?

5. From Gideon's statement in verse 15, who is going to be doing the delivering?

6. What does Gideon ask for in verse 17?

7. What is Gideon's response to the action of the angel of the Lord in verse 22?

8. How does the Lord respond in verse 23?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is the Lord's desire that we are obedient to His command.

LESSON #2: When we fail to drive out the enemy, there will be negative results.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Having therefore, these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

LESSON #3: Like the prodigal son, the results are serious when we respond negatively or incompletely to the commands of the Lord.

LESSON #4: The Lord always looks upon us as though we were completed, rather than as we are now. He sees future potential and not present failure.

LESSON #5: Our question are often why these things happen, where is the Lord and how am I going to do it? When the Lord's response is, "Go, and surely I will be with you."

LESSON #6: How patient the Lord is with the process involved in getting us to really believe that He is the Lord God, and he is capable to meet every need or demand that He places upon us.

LESSON #7: The Lord always meets us with promises of peace when we are the most fearful.

LESSON #8: The right response by Gideon is our response, too. And that is one of worship and praise of the Lord who is peace.

LESSON #9: The Lord always has promised His presence. He has not abandoned us.

LESSON #10: Peace is the result of relationship and fellowship.

Lesson #11: You're as close to the Lord right now as you want to be, but not as close as He wants you to be.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWO - JUDGES 6:25-40

NOTES

v.25 Now the same night it came about that the Lord said to him, "Take your father's bull and a second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal which belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it;

v.26 and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of this stronghold in an orderly manner, and take a second bull and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you shall cut down."

v.27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had spoken to him; and it came about, because he was too afraid of his father's household and the men of the city to do it by day, that he did it by night.

v.28 When the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was torn down, and the Asherah which was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was offered on the altar which had been built.

v.29 And they said to one another, "Who did this thing?" And when they searched about and inquired, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash did this thing."

v.30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has torn down the altar of Baal, and indeed, he has cut down the Asherah which was beside it."

v.31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you contend for Baal, or will you deliver him? Whoever will plead for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because someone has torn down his altar."

v.32 Therefore on that day he named him Jerubbaal, that is to say, "Let Baal contend against him," because he has torn down his altar.

v.33 Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the sons of the east assembled themselves; and they crossed over and camped in the valley of Jezreel.

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v.34 So the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezerites were called together to follow him.

v.35 And he sent messengers throughout Manasseh, and they also were called together to follow him; and he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they came up to meet them.

v.36 Then Gideon said to God, "If Thou wilt deliver Israel through me, as Thou hast spoken,

v.37 behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that Thou wilt deliver Israel through me, as Thou hast spoken."

v.38 And it was so. When he arose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece, he drained the dew from the fleece, a bowl full of water.

v.39 Then Gideon said to God, "Do not let Thine anger burn against me that I may speak once more; please let me make a test once more with the fleece, let it now be dry only on the fleece, and let there be dew on all the ground."

v.40 And God did so that night; for it was dry only on the fleece, and dew was on all the ground.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 6:25-40 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does the Lord ask Gideon to do in verses 25 & 26?

3. Why did Gideon fulfill his mission at night, according to verse 27?

4. How does Joash respond in verse 31?

5. What is Gideon's concern in verses 36 & 37?

6. What does Gideon ask of the Lord in verse 37?

7. What does Gideon ask again in verse 39?

8. What do you think about putting a fleece before the Lord in discerning His will?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Before the Lord can use us, there must be the tearing out of all rivals to His cause.

LESSON #2: Let us examine the boundaries of our own hearts for idols that can stand in the way of his blessing, those things which are more important than our relationship to the Lord.

LESSON #3: Gideon's first mission was successful because the Lord had called him to do it.

LESSON #4: The Lord had promised protection for his servants when they are fulfilling His will.

LESSON #5: The Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Gideon only after the cleansing had taken place.

LESSON #6: God's word to Gideon should have been enough. But he displayed human frailty in seeking further signs of affirmation.

LESSON #7: Let us learn never to question His authority and also to believe when only we have His word.

LESSON #8: Lord, make known Your will.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER THREE - JUDGES 7:1-22

NOTES

v. 1 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him, rose early and camped beside the spring of Harod; and the camp of Midian was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

v. 2 And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, lest Israel become boastful, saying, 'My own power has delivered me.'

v. 3 "Now therefore come, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is afraid and trembling, let him return and depart from Mount Gilead.'" So 22,000 people returned, but 10,000 remained.

v. 4 Then the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water and I will test them for you there. Therefore it shall be that he of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go with you; but everyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

v. 5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, "You shall separate everyone who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, as well as everyone who kneels to drink."

v. 6 Now the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was 300 men; but all the rest of the people kneeled to drink water.

v. 7 And the Lord said to Gideon, "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and will give the Midianites into your hands; so let all the other people go, each man to his home."

v. 8 So the 300 men took the people's provisions and their trumpets into their hands. And Gideon sent all the other men of Israel, each to his tent, but retained the 300 men; and the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

v. 9 Now the same night it came about that the Lord said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hands.

v.10 "But if you are afraid to go down, go with Purah your servant down to the camp,

v.11 and you will hear what they say; and afterward your hands will be strengthened that you may go down against the camp." So he went with Purah his servant down to the outposts of the army that was in the camp.

NOTES

v.12 Now the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the sons of the east were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as numerous as the sand on the seashore.

v.13 When Gideon came, behold, a man was relating a dream to his friend. And he said, "Behold, I had a dream; a loaf of barley bread was tumbling into the camp of Midian, and it came to the tent and struck it so that it fell, and turned it upside down so that the tent lay flat."

v.14 And his friend answered and said, "This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given Midian and all the camp into his hand."

v.15 And it came about when Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, that he bowed in worship. He returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for the Lord has given the camp of Midian into your hands."

v.16 And he divided the 300 men into three companies, and he put trumpets and empty pitchers into the hands of all of them, with torches inside the pitchers.

v.17 And he said to them, "Look at me, and do likewise. And behold, when I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do.

v.18 "When I and all who are with me blow the trumpet, then you also blow the trumpets all around the camp, and say, 'For the Lord and for Gideon.'"

v.19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and smashed the pitchers that were in their hands.

v.20 When the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers, they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing, and cried, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"

v.21 And each stood in his place around the camp; and all the army ran, crying out as they fled.

v.22 And when they blew 300 trumpets, the Lord set the sword of one against another even throughout the whole army; and the army fled as far as Bethshittah toward Zererah, as far as the edge of Abelmeholah, by Tabbath.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 7:1-22 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does the Lord say to Gideon in verse 2?

3. What is the test given in verse 3?

4. How many were left as a result of the second test, according to verse 7?

5. What does Gideon overhear in verses 13 & 14?

6. How does Gideon respond to the dream and its interpretation, according to verse 15?

7. Describe Gideon's preparations for battle.

8. What is the result of the warfare?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: "Faithful is he who calls you and who also will bring it to pass." (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

LESSON #2: The Lord wants to get the glory for giving the victory so He trims down Gideon's forces substantially from 32,000 to 300.

LESSON #3: The Lord meets Gideon's fear with a promise: "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and will give the Midianites into your hands, so let all the other people go, each man to his own home."

LESSON #4: The Lord provides assurances for Gideon through the interpretation of the dream.

LESSON #5: Victory came as the 300 men plus Gideon stood and watched after they were obedient to break the pitcher and to blow the trumpet and to shout, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon."

LESSON #6: The pitchers must be broken so the light can shine out.

LESSON #7: "For the Lord and Gideon" is the right order.

LESSON #8: Faith is expressed the first time by Gideon when he says, "Arise, for the Lord has given the camp of Midian into your hands." (ref. Judges 7:15)

LESSON #9: Watch the Lord work. He is the One who is responsible for spiritual growth in answer to your faith!

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOUR - JUDGES 8:1-32

NOTES

v. 1 Then the men of Ephraim said to him, "What is this thing you have done to us, not calling us when you went to fight against Midian?" And they contended with him vigorously.

v. 2 But he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleanings of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?"

v. 3 "God has given the leaders of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb into your hands; and what was I able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.

v. 4 Then Gideon and the 300 men who were with him came to the Jordan and crossed over, weary yet pursuing.

v. 5 And he said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who are following me, for they are weary, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian."

NOTES

v. 6 And the leaders of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hands, that we should give bread to your army?"

v. 7 And Gideon said, "All right, when the Lord has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will thrash your bodies with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers."

v. 8 And he went up from there to Penuel, and spoke similarly to them; and the men of Penuel answered him just as the men of Succoth had answered.

v. 9 So he spoke also to the men of Penuel, saying, "When I return safely, I will tear down this tower."

v.10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their armies with them, about 15,000 men, all who were left of the entire army of the sons of the east; for the fallen were 120,000 swordsmen.

v.11 And Gideon went up by the way of those who lived in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and attacked the camp, when the camp was unsuspecting.

v.12 When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them and captured the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army.

v.13 Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from the battle by the ascent of Heres.

v.14 And he captured a youth from Succoth and questioned him. Then the youth wrote down for him the princes of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven men.

v.15 And he came to the men of Succoth and said, "Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, concerning whom you taunted me, saying, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand, that we should give bread to your men who are weary?'"

v.16 And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and he disciplined the men of Succoth with them.

v.17 And he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.

v.18 Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?" And they said, "They were like you, each one resembling the son of a king."

v.19 And he said, "They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the Lord lives, if only you had let them live, I would not kill you."

v.20 So he said to Jether his first-born, "Rise, kill them." But the youth did not draw his sword, for he was afraid, because he was still a youth.

v.21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Rise up yourself, and fall on us; for as the man, so is his strength." So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments which were on their camels' necks.

v.22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, also your son's son, for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian."

v.23 But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you."

v.24 Yet Gideon said to them, "I would request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his spoil." (For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)

v.25 And they said, "We will surely give them." So they spread out a garment, and every one of them threw an earring there from his spoil.

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v.26 And the weight of the gold earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and besides the neck bands that were on their camels' necks.

v.27 And Gideon made it into an ephod, and placed it in his city, Ophrah, and all Israel played the harlot with it there, so that it became a snare to Gideon and his household.

v.28 So Midian was subdued before the sons of Israel, and they did not lift up their heads any more. And the land was undisturbed for forty years in the days of Gideon.

v.29 Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house.

v.30 Now Gideon had seventy sons who were his direct descendants, for he had many wives.

v.31 And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech.

v.32 And Gideon the son of Joash died at a ripe old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 8:1-32 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Why do the men of Ephraim get upset, according to verse 1?

3. How does Gideon handle the situation in the next verses?

4. What is Gideon's request of the men of Succoth, and what is their response?

5. What do the men of Israel ask of Gideon, according to verse 22?

6. What is Gideon's request in verses 24-26?

7. What does Gideon do with the gold that he receives?

8. Describe what happens in verse 27.

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Sometimes contention can be relieved by a compliment.

LESSON #2: Let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Isaiah 40:31

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

LESSON #3: How much we need the support of one another in the securing of the victory.

LESSON #4: Gideon expressed his faith in knowing in advance that the Lord was going to give him the victory.

LESSON #5: The chastening of Succoth and Penuel is a picture of the chastening hand of God upon us as His children.

LESSON #6: Gideon was successful in rejecting the leadership which belonged to the Lord over his people, but he was not successful in the religious realm.

LESSON #7: In this last act of building an ephod, he undid everything he did in the first act of destroying the altars of Baal and tearing down the Asherah.

LESSON #8: Gideon's immoral personal life is a revelation of his empty religious life.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FIVE - JUDGES 13:1-25

NOTES

v. 1 Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.

v. 2 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no children.

v. 3 Then the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her, "Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son.

v. 4 "Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.

v. 5 "For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

v. 6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.

v. 7 "But he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and now you shall not drink wine or strong drink nor eat any unclean thing, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'"

v. 8 Then Manoah entreated the Lord and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God whom Thou hast sent come to us again that he may teach us what to do for the boy who is to be born."

v. 9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again to the woman as she was sitting in the field, but Manoah her husband was not with her.

v.10 So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, "Behold, the man who came the other day has appeared to me."

NOTES

v.11 Then Manoah arose and followed his wife, and when he came to the man he said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to the woman?" And he said, "I am."

v.12 And Manoah said, "Now when your words come to pass, what shall be the boy's mode of life and his vocation?"

v.13 So the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "Let the woman pay attention to all that I said."

v.14 "She should not eat anything that comes from the vine nor drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; let her observe all that I commanded."

v.15 Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a kid for you."

v.16 And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the Lord." For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the Lord.

v.17 And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?"

v.18 But the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

v.19 So Manoah took the kid with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the Lord, and He performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on.

v.20 For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground.

v.21 Now the angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah or his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord.

v.22 So Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, for we have seen God."

v.23 But his wife said to him, "If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have showed us all these things, nor would He have let us hear things like this at this time."

v.24 Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the Lord blessed him.

v.25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 13:1-25 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe the message of the Lord in verses 3-5 and define a Nazirite.

3. How does the woman respond, according to verse 6?

4. What is Manoah's request, according to verse 8?

5. What is Manoah's question in verse 17, and the angel of the Lord's question in verse 18?

6. What happens in verses 19 & 20?

7. How do Manoah and his wife respond to this revelation in verses 22 & 23?

8. What transpires in verse 24?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Sin for the seventh time leads the nation Israel into bondage to a foreign power.

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God.' For God cannot be tempted by evil and He Himself does not tempt anyone, but each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

LESSON #2: We see again in this account that what the Lord promises He is faithful to fulfill.

LESSON #3: Obedience leads to blessing, prosperity and usefulness by God the Father.

LESSON #4: The Lord knows the end of our lives as well as the beginning, for He says that when Samson is born, He shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.

LESSON #5: The failure of Samson is not a surprise to the Lord.

LESSON #6: The wife makes a wrong assumption when she reports to her husband that Samson is going to be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

LESSON #7: Manoah expresses his faith in the promise from the very beginning.

LESSON #8: How quick the Lord is to answer the believing prayer of Manoah in coming a second time to instruct them on their conduct in relation to the promise.

LESSON #9: As the angel of the Lord spoke to Manoah, may his words be embellished upon our hearts.

LESSON #10: His name is "wonderful." This is the experience of everyone who has come to know Jesus Christ by personal experience.

LESSON #11: The wife properly relates to the circumstances of the flame at the altar and the disappearance of the angel of the Lord by recalling the promises He has already given.

LESSON #12: The Lord blessed Samson as he was obedient and faithful to fulfill the responsibilities that had been given to him in the Nazarite vow.

LESSON #13: Samson only began but never finished.

LESSON #14: "You are" – "You shall be."

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIX - JUDGES 14:1-20**NOTES**

v. 1 Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines.

v. 2 So he came back and told his father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."

v. 3 Then his father and his mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she looks good to me."

v. 4 However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.

v. 5 Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion came roaring toward him.

v. 6 And the spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a kid though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

v. 7 So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson.

v. 8 When he returned later to take her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion.

v. 9 So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them and they ate it; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion.

v.10 Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this.

v.11 And it came about when they saw him that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

v.12 Then Samson said to them, "Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.

v.13 But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes." And they said to him, "Propound your riddle, that we may hear it."

v.14 So he said to them, "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet." But they could not tell the riddle in three days.

v.15 Then it came about on the fourth day that they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband, that he may tell us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us to impoverish us? Is this not so?"

v.16 And Samson's wife wept before him and said, "You only hate me, and you do not love me; you have propounded a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told it to me." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not told it to my father or mother; so should I tell you?"

v.17 However she wept before him seven days while their feast lasted. And it came about on the seventh day that he told her because she pressed him so hard. She then told the riddle to the sons of her people.

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v.18 So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?" And he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have found out my riddle."

v.19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil, and gave the changes of clothes to those who told the riddle. And his anger burned, and he went up to his father's house.

v.20 But Samson's wife was given to his companion who had been his friend.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 14:1-20 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Samson do in verses 1 & 2?

3. How do his parents respond in verses 3 & 4?

4. What happens in verses 5 & 6?

5. What is the riddle, according to verse 14?

6. How do the Philistines go about getting the answer to the riddle?

7. How does Samson respond, according to verse 19?

8. What is the end of the story in verse 20?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: How careful we must be with the lust of the eyes.

LESSON #2: In this passage we see the horrible consequences that result from failing to listen and respect the wishes of one's parents.

LESSON #3: Satan uses that which looks beautiful and enticing to eventually become something ugly and repulsive.

LESSON #4: The lion is seen to be in the path of disobedience.

LESSON #5: The progress toward eventually nullifying the Nazarite vow is seen in Samson's carelessness in several areas.

LESSON #6: The woman reveals her loyalties by persisting to have an interpretation of the riddle propounded by Samson.

LESSON #7: The Lord sees to it that the woman is given to someone else so that Samson will not have this temptation to return to this situation again.

LESSON #8: Samson needed to learn from this experience so he could be prepared for Delilah.

LESSON #9: Do not be unequally yoked.

LESSON #10: Children obey your parents

LESSON #11: When the Lord says no, He's obligated to a better plan.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN - JUDGES 15:1-20**NOTES**

v. 1 But after a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it came about that Samson visited his wife with a young goat; and said, "I will go in to my wife in her room." But her father did not let him enter.

v. 2 And her father said, "I really thought that you hated her intensely; so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please let her be yours instead."

v. 3 Samson then said to them, "This time I shall be blameless in regard to the Philistines when I do them harm."

v. 4 And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned them tail to tail, and put one torch in the middle between two tails.

v. 5 When he had set fire to the torches, he released the foxes into the standing grain of the Philistines, thus burning up both the shocks and the standing grain, along with the vineyards and groves.

v. 6 Then the Philistines said, "Who did this?" And they said, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he took his wife and gave her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.

v. 7 And Samson said to them, "Since you act like this, I will surely take revenge on you, but after that I will quit."

v. 8 And he struck them ruthlessly with a great slaughter; and he went down and lived in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

v. 9 Then the Philistines went up and camped in Judah, and spread out in Lehi.

v.10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" And they said, "We have come up to bind Samson in order to do to him as he did to us."

v.11 Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them."

v.12 And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you so that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines." And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not kill me."

v.13 So they said to him, "No, but we will bind you fast and give you into their hands; yet surely we will not kill you." Then they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

v.14 When he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily so that the ropes that were on his arms were as flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds dropped from his hands.

NOTES

v.15 And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out and took it and killed a thousand men with it.

v.16 Then Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey I have killed a thousand men."

v.17 And it came about when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand; and he named that place Ramath-lehi.

v.18 Then he became very thirsty, and he called to the Lord and said, "Thou hast given this great deliverance by the hand of Thy servant, and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"

v.19 But God split the hollow place that is in Lehi so that water came out of it. When he drank, his strength returned and he revived. Therefore, he named it En-hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

v.20 So he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 15:1-20 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What happens in verses 1-3?

3. What does Samson do in verses 4 & 5?

4. How do the Philistines retaliate, according to verse 6?

5. What do the men of Judah want to do with Samson, according to verse 12?

6. What happens in verses 14-16?

7. What is Samson's request, according to verse 18?

8. What provision does the Lord make in answer to his prayer, according to verse 19?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Time is often a great healer in personal relationships.

LESSON #2: You'll always find something standing in the way to stop you when you're getting ready to leave the will of God.

LESSON #3: Samson tries by himself to liberate the nation Israel from the Philistines, through the experiences of this chapter. He should have mustered an army and received instructions from the Lord as to how this liberation should take place.

LESSON #4: The immorality and degradation of the men of Judah is seen in the statement: "Do you not know the Philistines are rulers over us?"

LESSON #5: The Spirit of the Lord is the One who provides the power for the victory.

LESSON #6: God used the fox prank but it wasn't His perfect will.

LESSON #7: The Lord not only provides strength for the battle, but water for the physical needs.

LESSON #8: Samson judges Israel for 20 years, but it is not in freedom; for it is in the days of the Philistines.

LESSON #9: The Lord still uses him even though three out of four parts of the vow are broken.

LESSON #10: To seek to escape suffering by sin is the surest way to bring it upon us.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT - JUDGES 16:1-31

NOTES

v. 1 Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.
v. 2 When it was told to the Gazites, saying, "Samson has come here," they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. And they kept silent all night, saying, "Let us wait until the morning light, then we will kill him."
v. 3 Now Samson lay until midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the city gate and the two posts and pulled them up along with the bars; then he put them on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of the mountain which is opposite Hebron.
v. 4 After this it came about that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.
v. 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up to her, and said to her, "Entice him, and see where his great strength lies and how we may overpower him that we may bind him to afflict him. Then we will each give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."
v. 6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength is and how you may be bound to afflict you."
v. 7 And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh cords that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man."
v. 8 Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh cords that had not been dried, and she bound him with them.
v. 9 Now she had men lying in wait in an inner room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he snapped the cords as a string of tow snaps when it touches fire. So his strength was not discovered.
v.10 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have deceived me and told me lies; now please tell me, how you may be bound."
v.11 And he said to her, "If they bind me tightly with new ropes which have not been used, then I shall become weak and be like any other man."
v.12 So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" For the men were lying in wait in the inner room. But he snapped the ropes from his arms like a thread.

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v.13 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Up to now you have deceived me and told me lies; tell me how you may be bound." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my hair with the web and fasten it with a pin, then I shall become weak and be like any other man."

v.14 So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his hair and wove them into the web. And she fastened it with the pin, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep and pulled out the pin of the loom and the web.

v.15 Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have deceived me these three times and have not told me where your great strength is."

v.16 And it came about when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, that his soul was annoyed to death.

v.17 So he told her all that was in his heart and said to her, "A razor has never come on my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will leave me and I shall become weak and be like any other man."

v.18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all that was in his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all that is in his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her, and brought the money in their hands.

v.19 And she made him sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his hair. Then she began to afflict him, and his strength left him.

v.20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.

v.21 Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison.

v.22 However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it was shaved off.

v.23 Now the lords of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice, for they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hands."

v.24 When the people saw him, they praised their god, for they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hands, even the destroyer of our country, who has slain many of us."

v.25 It so happened when they were in high spirits, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may amuse us." So they called for Samson from the prison, and he entertained them. And they made him stand between the pillars.

v.26 Then Samson said to the boy who was holding his hand, "Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them."

v.27 Now the house was full of men and women, and all the lords of the Philistines were there. And about 3,000 men and women were on the roof looking on while Samson was amusing them.

v.28 Then Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

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v.29 And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left.

v.30 And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life.

v.31 Then his brothers and all his father's household came down, took him, brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. Thus he had judged Israel twenty years.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 16:1-31 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Samson do in verse 3?

3. What do the Philistines ask of Delilah, according to verse 5?

4. What is Delilah's question in verse 15?

5. What tactic does Delilah use to get Samson to reveal his heart?

6. What transpired in verse 20?

7. What did the Philistines do to Samson, according to verse 21?

8. What is Samson's final prayer and act, according to verses 28-30?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Moral deterioration is a process of time. We see this in his relationship with the harlot at Gaza and his relationship with Delilah.

LESSON #2: Samson is defeated because he did not learn his lesson at Timnah.

LESSON #3: The only way to victory in moral temptation is to flee it.

LESSON #4: Sin blinds, sin binds, and sin grinds.

LESSON #5: How faithful the Lord is to answer his final prayer.

LESSON #6: A man walking out of fellowship with God becomes a laughing-stock to the world.

LESSON #7: Samson, like the Lord Jesus, destroyed the enemies in his death. For Samson it was the Philistines, and for the Lord Jesus, it was all the forces of evil and Satan's kingdom.

LESSON #8: Playing with temptation will destroy you.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
