

Delilah had done what a battalion of soldiers had failed to do and through sin a child of God loses his ~~best~~ blessing of the Lord.

— Satan knows where your besetting sin lies and where you are weak. He will strike there again and again.

16.2.1 Prison in Gaza in the bottom of the house of Dagon.

16.2.2 Mocked - Visitors Laugh - where is your strength.

SAMSON EXCHANGED:
The Stories of Being Judge -
" . . . Serving God
" . . . Being A Nazarite

16.2.6, 28, 30. Bright Spot in Samson's life:

Sam brought down - Did not talk in our day.
Called upon God - v. 28.
Repentance - Forgiveness - So may you!

A HOLY MAN RUINED BY A WOMAN

Judges 16:16

Introduction:

The Bible tells us of many good women such as Sarah, Rachel and Ruth also many wicked. Samson's wife, Delilah, Samson's

I. THE HOLY MAN

Samson merits the title "Holy Man" because he was enrolled in the book of Hebrews as a ~~hero~~ hero of faith. Heb. 11:32

13.3.5 Supernatural element is connected with the birth. An angel appears to Monna and gives in detail of how to live.

God wants a man and prepares that man through his parents. And for Christian parents to live according to his will.

Nazarite which meant separate unto the Lord, no strong drink, let the hair grow in seven locks, observe the laws concerning the defilment of the body. Not only Samson but his parents were to abstain from liquor.

Youth - possessed a mighty physical strength, an evidence of supernatural power.

Established as a judge, a great deliverer for 20 years over Israel.

The book of Judges - every man did that which was right in his own eyes. Sin among the tribe of Benjamin caused them to be wiped out with only 600 people left. The priest committed adultery with the women of the land.

Samson judged on the bases of God's law as the promise to Monna he was begin to deliver Israel, he tried to do what was right for his country in delivering them from the Phillistines.

14.6 Power - came from his obedience and his separation as he was taught this from a child. God enabled him to slay a lion to lift up the gates and to do many wonderful works. ALL of his wonderful works are not recorded for us.

— But vivid language tells about his fall. His weakness was

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women. Like Solomon he loved strange women. He first went with one of the daughters of Timmath. He saw this beautiful face and was lured by it and his parents reasoned with him. His second venture was with a woman of Gaza a common sinner of the street. Then his third was Delilah of the Phillistines. She probably had a beautiful little home with a garden where she entertained callers. Many broken homes are due to women such as this. What do men hope for when they change a wife and a home for such as this? And they look at Samson should be a sound warning

1. Lust of the eyes
2. Lust of the flesh
3. Lying
4. Abandoning Nazarite vow.

II. THE WOMAN

The woman who brought his downfall. ~~But~~ Delilah lived in a beautiful home, supported by sin. She was beautiful and the choice was Samson's love.

— She used her feminine appeal to a disgraceful extent.

S She was brilliant in entertaining. She dazzled Samson with her wit.

— You cannot mix Religion and unbelief and Samson should have known better however it is impossible to tell young people this today. The scripture plainly says be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. And the results are the same today as they were in Samson's day.

— Notice this woman's character:

1. Selfish

She was covetous of money and wealth and she used Samson only for material gain.

2. False — Her false use of love. She sold her lover for a price such as Judas who used his love for the wrong purpose. Samson's fall began on the first visit. There is a way that seemeth right unto man but the end thereof is death.

V.5 3. She was the instrument of the Phillistines lords. They offered her money. And so day after day she ask Samson, "Where is your great strength?" And we have a series of attempts to bind him as she pressed him day by day.

V.7 }
V.11 }
V.13 }
V.16-17 }

III. THE RUIN OF THIS HOLY MAN

16:19 At last he weakened and told her that his strength was found in the Nazarite vow. She caused him to sleep across her lap, cut off his hair and then cried the Phillistines be upon thee.

16:20 He wished not that the spirit of the Lord had departed from him. This is a sad verse.

Tragic state of being shelved in God's service.

Paul "I keep under my body to bring it into subjection lest I myself should be a cast away."

Did not want God to shelve him in his effective service. It is awful to have known the Spirit of the Lord and to have grieved him away.

Samson had been a strong man, the unconquerable the overcomer, had grieved the spirit and lost his victory.

— Samson's hair was not the source of his strength. The hair was a symbol of the covenant between him and God. And when he broke the covenant of God by sin God removed the spirit of victory.

— Spiritual giants of God stripped of the source of power. We hear people today boast of past deeds but who are absolutely doing nothing for the Lord today. Samson went out and shook himself and found his strength gone.

— Break the vow of the Nazarites — some of you have broken your vow to the Holy Spirit.