

Last week we looked at Jdg13:1-25 and studied the FAITH events leading up to the BIRTH OF SAMSON.

Today I want to look at Jdg14+15 as we look at the EARLY LIFE OF SAMSON.

Judges 14:1-15:20 v1 Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. v2 When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife." v3 His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me." v4 (His parents did not know that this was from the LORD, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.) v5 Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. v6 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. v7 Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her. v8 Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey, v9 which he scooped out with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass. v10 Now his father went down to see the woman. And Samson made a feast there, as was customary for bridegrooms. v11 When he appeared, he was given thirty companions. v12 "Let me tell you a riddle," Samson said to them. "If you can give me the answer within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. v13 If you can't tell me the answer, you must give me thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes." "Tell us your riddle," they said. "Let's hear it." v14 He replied, "Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet." For three days they could not give the answer. v15 On the fourth day, they said to Samson's wife, "Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us, or we will burn you and your father's household to death. Did you invite us here to rob us?" v16 Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really love me. You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer." "I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?" v17 She cried the whole seven days of the feast. So on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people. v18 Before sunset on the seventh day the men of the town said to him, "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?" Samson said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle." v19 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he went up to his father's house. v20 And Samson's wife was given to the friend who had attended him at his wedding.

Chp 15 v1 Later on, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat and went to visit his wife. He said, "I'm going to my wife's room." But her father would not let him go in. v2 "I was so sure you thoroughly hated her," he said, "that I gave her to your friend. Isn't her younger sister more attractive? Take her instead." v3 Samson said to them, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them."

v4 So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, v5 lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves. v6 When the Philistines asked, "Who did this?" they were told, "Samson, the Timnite's son-in-law, because his wife was given to his friend." So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father to death. v7 Samson said to them, "Since you've acted like this, I won't stop until I get my revenge on you." v8 He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them. Then he went down and stayed in a cave in the rock of Etam. v9 The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, spreading out near Lehi. v10 The men of Judah asked, "Why have you come to fight us?" "We have come to take Samson prisoner," they answered, "to do to him as he did to us." v11 Then three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, "Don't you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?" He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me." v12 They said to him, "We've come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines." Samson said, "Swear to me that you won't kill me yourselves." v13 "Agreed," they answered. "We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and led him up from the rock. v14 As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. v15 Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men. v16 Then Samson said, "With a donkey's jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men." v17 When he finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was called Ramath Lehi. v18 Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the LORD, "You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" v19 Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, and it is still there in Lehi. v20 Samson judged Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

Introduction

We are living at a time of a great Spiritual Battle for the hearts and minds of humankind. Since the time of the Enlightenment, and the growth of Humanism, and the subsequent rejection of the BIBLE as a God given handbook for life, people have turned more and more toward their own belief system to set a moral standard for their lives.

The influence and effect of Covid on people has also turned people away from God and the Church. Many people got so self-dependent and self-centred that God has been forgotten.

However, this is nothing new!

The history of God's dealing with the world has been a series of rejection, repentance and recommitment moments. The Book of Judges was such a time. The nation of Israel repeated the cycle over and over again through this period. What can we learn as we study the passage today.

The WAY of the WORLD

VS

The WAY of the WORD

FIRSTLY, The WAY of the WORLD

As we consider The WAY of the WORLD notice:

1. THE WORLD IS DRIVEN BY SEXUAL PERVESSION.

v1 Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. v2 When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife."

Samsons desire of the girl was based on LUST!!!

The pornography industry was estimated to be worth \$98 Billion last year.

98 000 000 000 = 1764 000 000 000

MUSIC Industry \$56 Billion

SA Economy = \$345 Billion

***Romans 1:21-24** For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. v22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools v23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. v24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.*

As we consider The WAY of the WORLD notice:

2. AUTHORITY STRUCTURES ARE CHALLENGED.

NOTICE how this rejection happens:

1. v3 points to outright rejection.

v3 His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me."

2. v6-7 shows that he went behind their back -

*v6 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. **But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.** v7 Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her.*

The growing disregard for law and order is a sign of rejecting GOD.

As we consider The WAY of the WORLD notice:

3. PRIDE IS NO LONGER SINFUL.

*v6 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. v7 Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her. v8 **Some time later, when he went***

back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey, v9 which he scooped out with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. **But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey** from the lion's carcass. v10 Now his father went down to see the woman. And Samson made a feast there, as was customary for bridegrooms. v11 **When he appeared, he was given thirty companions.** v12 **"Let me tell you a riddle," Samson said to them. .**

Samsons NEVER GIVES GOD THE GLORY!!!

Image, not character, has become the standard by which people are judged.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

As we consider The WAY of the WORLD notice:

4. REJECTING GOD'S WORD.

The RULES for a NAZIRITE are found in:

Numbers 6:1-8 v1 The LORD said to Moses, v2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'If a man or woman wants to make a special vow, a vow of separation to the LORD as a Nazirite, v3 he must abstain from wine and other fermented drink and must not drink vinegar made from wine or from other fermented drink. He must not drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins. v4 As long as he is a Nazirite, he must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins. v5 "'During the entire period of his vow of separation no razor may be used on his head. He must be holy until the period of his separation to the LORD is over; he must let the hair of his head grow long. v6 Throughout the period of his separation to the LORD he must not go near a dead body. v7 Even if his own father or mother or brother or sister dies, he must not make himself ceremonially unclean on account of them, because the symbol of his separation to God is on his head. v8 Throughout the period of his separation he is consecrated to the LORD.

SAMSON defied the vow he made in many ways

v8 Some time later, when he went back to marry her, **he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass.** In it was a swarm of bees and some honey, v9 which he scooped out with his hands

v10 Now his father went down to see the woman. **And Samson made a feast there,** as was customary for bridegrooms.

The world is no different

Romans 8:5-8 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. v6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; v7 **the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.** v8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

As we consider The WAY of the WORLD notice:

5. VIOLENCE BECOMES THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

The MEN threaten GBV(Gender Based Violence) v15 On the fourth day, they said to Samson's wife, "Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us, or we

will burn you and your father's household to death. Did you invite us here to rob us?"

SAMSON himself becomes more and more violent to achieve his goals

14:6 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat

14:19 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he went up to his father's house.

15:15 Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.

The world is too becoming more violent

As we consider The WAY of the WORLD notice:

6. THE USE OF EMOTIONAL BLACKMAIL.

v16 Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really love me. You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer." "I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?" v17 She cried the whole seven days of the feast. So on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people. "

The world is very good at manipulating words to achieve their goals. Many have been misled by false promises.

SECONDLY, The WAY of the WORD

As we consider The WAY of the WORD notice:

1. GODS WORD IS HIGHER THAN OUR THOUGHTS.

v4 (His parents did not know that this was from the LORD, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.)

Samsons parents could not understand why he chose a heathen woman to marry.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. v9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

As we consider The WAY of the WORD notice:

2. GODS WORD NEVER FAILS.

Last week we read in

*13:4 Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean, v5 because you will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth, **and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines.**"*

This week we read in

v9 The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, spreading out near Lehi. v10 The men of Judah asked, "Why have you come to fight us?" "We have come to take

Samson prisoner," they answered, "to do to him as he did to us." v11 Then three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, "Don't you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?" He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me." ... v14 As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. v15 Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men. v20 Samson judged Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

God had a plan to defeat the Philistines

As we consider The WAY of the WORD notice:

3. GODS WORD DEFEATS GODS ENEMY.

v5 Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. v6 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat.

We read in

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be self-controlled and alert. **Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** v9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

As we consider The WAY of the WORD notice:

4. GODS WORD BRINGS REFRESHMENT.

v18 Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the LORD, "You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" v19 Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called *En Hakkore*, and it is still there in Lehi. .

The name En Hakkore = the fountain of him who calls!!!

Jesus said.

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

John 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

CONCLUSION

**The WAY of the WORLD leads to destruction
The WAY of the WORD leads to LIFE.**