

OT-OV

Lesson 76

1. Last week we continued our study of the Book of Judges.
2. When time expired I was about to teach the life of Samson.
3. Let's review some of that learned and then we will pick up with new material on page two.

3.1 The Book of Judges was written somewhere around 1100 B.C. by an unknown, most of the events recorded in the book occurred between 1400-1100 B.C. It is a story of states/tribal rights under a Theocracy and the success of the system even amidst terrible personal failures on the part of the individual Judges.

3.2 In historical sequence it covers the period of Israel's history between Joshua and Samuel.

3.3 Once more the mighty acts of God were displayed as a number of judges responded to the call of God to lead the Israelites in military exploits to rout the oppressing nations.

3.4 The Book describes a series of religious and political cycles of sin, sorrow and supplications. Some of the Judges were contemporaries serving in different parts of the country. God raised up "Judges" to deliver Israel at various times. Though each judge ruled in his tribe, God in periods of exigency used certain heroes to deliver the nation, sometimes regionally and other times nationally.

4. We began our study of the Book of Judges in outline fashion.

I. Israel's failure to dispossess the Canaanites under Joshua. Jdg 1:1-36

II. The Angel of The Lord rebukes Israel for their failure to annihilate the Canaanites. Jdg 2:1-5

III. Joshua is eulogized and his death recorded in Jdg 2:7-9

IV. Summary of Israel's Disobedience and Defeat - Jdg 2:10-3:6

V. Oppressing Nations and Israelite Judges

A. Mesopotamia-Othniel, Jdg 3:7-11

B. Moab-Ehud, Jdg 3:12-30

C. Philistia-Shamgar, Jdg 3:31

D. Canaan (Hazor)-Deborah and Barak, Jdg 4:1-24

E. Midian-Gideon, Jdg 6:1-7:25

F. Abimelech's tyrannical career, Jdg 9:1-57

G. Tola and Jair, Jdg 10:1-5

H. Jephthah and the Ammonites, Jdg 10:6-12:7

I. Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon, Jdg 12:8-15

J. Philistia-Samson, Jdg 13:1-16:31

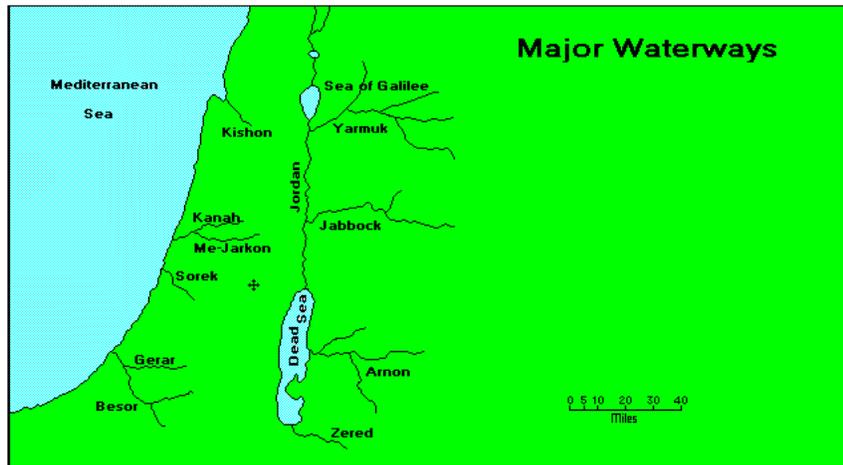


1. Samson was a hero from the tribe of Dan, the son of Manoah; one of the last of the judges before Samuel. He lived in the southern section of the land given to Dan.

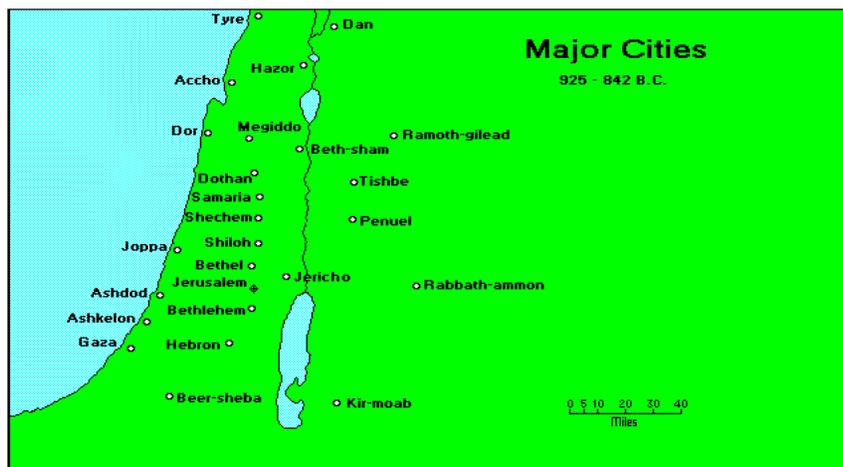
2. Samson was born in c. 1090 B.C. at the beginning of the Philistine oppression in Zorah.

Jdg 13:1 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

3. Sorek lay across the valley of Sorek from Beth-shemesh, very near the Israelite-Philistine border in those days.



4. Beth-shemesh was then in Israelite hands but archaeological remains reveal the city was once under strong Philistine influence.



4.1 Samson's superhuman power has in the minds of some relegated the "Samson stories" to Hebrew myth or folklore.

4.2 The overwhelming authenticity of the Bible by textual validation and archaeological substantiation makes unbelief impossible for the objective student.

4.3 In spite of his Godly upbringing and charismatic empowering Samson was careless about honoring God as a Nazarite.

5. The nation of Israel, and particularly the tribe of Judah and Simeon in the south, took no steps toward repentance or prayer for deliverance from the Philistines during Samson's 20-year ministry.



5.1 Samson showed little interest in delivering the nation; he seemed more interested in self-gratification.

Jdg 15:4 Because his Philistine wife had been given away to a friend, 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,

Jdg 15:5 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.

Jdg 15:6 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.

Jdg 15:7 Samson said to them, "Since you've acted like this, I won't stop until I get my revenge on you."

Jdg 15:8 He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them. Then he went down and stayed in a cave in the rock of Etam.

5.1 Judah in response to Samson's actions against the Philistines took Philistia's side against Samson.

Jdg 15:9 Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi.

Jdg 15:10 And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.

Jdg 15:11 Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them.

6. Samson's parents dedicated him to be a life-long Nazarite (see our earlier description of a Nazarite) even before his conception.

Jdg 13:3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

Jdg 13:4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:

Jdg 13:5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

Jdg 13:6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name:

Jdg 13:7 But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

7. When he was grown, the Spirit of the Lord repeatedly came upon him to enable him to perform amazing feats of physical strength (Jdg 13:25; 14:6, 19; and Jdg 15:14).

Jdg 13:25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Jdg 14:6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent the lion as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Jdg 14:19 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

Jdg 15:14 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

Jdg 15:15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

8. In spite of his Godly upbringing and charismatic empowering Samson was careless about honoring God as a Nazarite.

8.1 As a young man he secretly disobeyed the prohibition against approaching a dead body (Jdg 14:8-9), publicly provided wine for a feast or drinking bout (Hebrew Mishteh, Jdg 14:10) and enjoyed the pleasures of several women.

Jdg 14:5 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him.

Jdg 14:6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Jdg 14:7 And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

Jdg 14:8 And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion.

Jdg 14:9 And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

Jdg 14:10 So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a drunken feast; for so used the young men to do.

8.1.1 Strong has the following to say about the Hebrew word Mishteh:

"Definition: drink; the act of drinking; also a banquet or a feast ... Wycliffe says ... the act of feasting on intoxicating beverage ..."

9. He violated the Nazarite principle of living separated unto Jehovah by his immoral relations with the Gaza harlot and with Delilah (Jdg 16:1-20).

Jdg 16:1 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her...

Jdg 16:4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

10. His spiritual indifference was climaxed by the cutting of his long hair, the characteristic sign of Nazarite consecration (Num 6:5 ; Num 18-19 and Jdg 16:4-21).

Num 6:5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow...

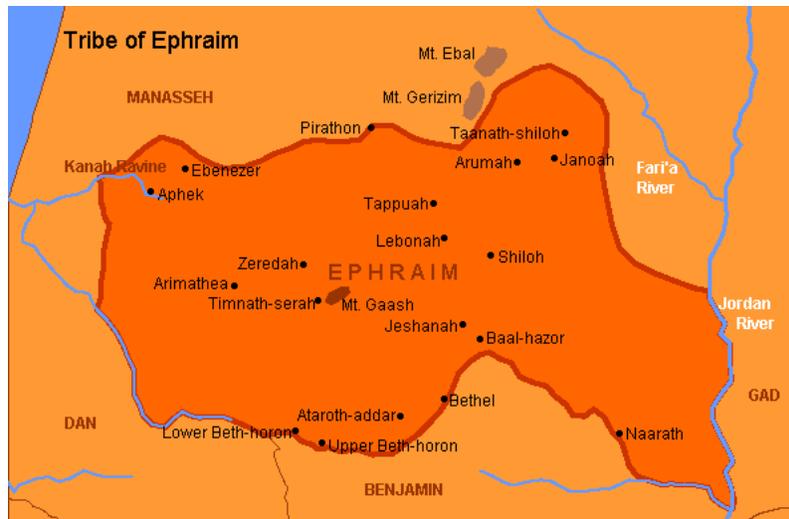
Jdg 16:4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

Jdg 16:19 Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.

Jdg 16:20 Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

Jdg 16:21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison.

11. Samson probably became involved with the Philistines soon after the disastrous battle near Aphek c. 1070 B.C. when the Israelites lost the ark and thousands of their men (1Sa 4:1-11).



1Sa 4:1 And Samuel's word came to all Israel. Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek.

1Sa 4:2 The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield.

1Sa 4:3 When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the LORD bring defeat upon us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the LORD'S covenant from Shiloh, so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."

1Sa 4:4 So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark ... And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

1Sa 4:5 When the ark of the LORD'S covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook.

1Sa 4:6 Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, "What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?" When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp,

1Sa 4:7 the Philistines were afraid. "A god has come into the camp," they said. "We're in trouble! Nothing like this has happened before.

1Sa 4:8 Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the desert.

1Sa 4:9 Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!"

1Sa 4:10 So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers.

1Sa 4:11 The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

11.1 His victory in which he sacrificed his own life at the Gaza temple decimated the ranks of Philistine leaders and probably contributed to the Israelite victory in the battle of Ebenezer soon afterward (1Sa 7:7-14).

11.1.1 But because of his lack of self-control his ministry was largely ineffective, and accordingly he wrought no permanent deliverance for Israel.

1Sa 7:7 When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. And when the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines.

1Sa 7:8 They said to Samuel, "Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines."

1Sa 7:9 Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it up as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel's behalf, and the LORD answered him.

1Sa 7:10 While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.

1Sa 7:11 The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Car.

1Sa 7:12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us."

1Sa 7:13 So the Philistines were subdued and did not invade Israelite territory again. Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines.

1Sa 7:14 The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to her, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the power of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

End Lesson Taught