

## **“Samson – betrayal and reinstatement”**

In years gone by, there was a couple – husband and wife – and she happened to be barren - had no children of their own.

One day, out of the blue, an angel of the Lord appeared to her and told her that she would become pregnant and have her own son.

But, said the angel, from now on, you are not allowed to have any wine or beer or eat anything that comes from the grapevine – and when your son is born, you should see to it that he follows the same principle – and furthermore, he is to also not shave his hair or his beard – he will be a Nazirite. ( **Dedicated to the Lord** ) ( **Numbers 6** )

**He will begin the work of rescuing Israel from the Philistines.**

You can read about it in Judges 13, 14, 15 & 16.

The woman gave birth to a son and called him Samson. ( **“the sun”, or, “boy of the sun”** )

- \*- First thing to notice – God called his mother ( parents ), and through them, He called Samson. Judges 13 : 1 to 16

- Often parents pray for a son, or a daughter – and when their prayers get answered, they forget that he or she is “God’s gift to them.” And they start abusing that “gift”.
- Express things like “I wish you had never been born”, “I hate you”, “I’ll kill you,” “you, worth for nothing”, “useless brat !”
- And you proclaim that over “The special gift that God, in His grace, had given you”?
- \*- Listen – God will hold you personally responsible for every negative proclamation you have made towards, or had expressed over your child - or even your grandchild.
- \*- God lent him or her to you, in order for you to love and to raise him/her in the fear of the Lord !
- Why not rather pronounce a blessing – like Psalm 1 : 1 “My son, I want to bless you in the Name of the Lord – I believe you will be like a tree which grows beside a stream of water, you will bear sweet fruit at the right time and your leaves will never wither. I declare

over you, that everything you will be setting your hand to do, will be a success.”

- E.g. My Dad :- “Lord, let him be like John the Baptist !”
- Why is it so much easier to be negative, than to have a positive outlook on life – easier to pronounce a curse, than to pronounce a blessing ?
- And when eventually the child turns out to be that which you have declared over him – then you want to cry your heart out !
- You are the one who brought it upon your child – and upon yourself of course ! Don’t blame God for it !
- Where were you, 10, 15, 20 years back when you heard the same, or a similar message, and you conveniently brushed it aside ? “It will never happen to me.”
- You need to Repent, and turn from your wicked ways !

- Like the “Prodical Son” - “I have sinned against Heaven and against you.”
  
- \*- Change the “give me” to a “make me to be like one of your servants.”

### **But what about the responsibility of the child ?**

- Let’s see what happened to Samson?
  - In spite of God’s call on his life,
  - And the obedient actions by his parents
  - And even himself seemingly applying the principles of his calling
  - in his heart he just loved women
  - and surprisingly enough, in the end, God used this “flaw” in his life, to overcome and defeat the Philistines !
  
- The girl from Timnah ( Judges 14 & 15 ) - another “wild woman” from Gaza ( Judges 16 : 1 – 3 ) and then finally, he met Delilah, a Philistine girl from the Sorek Valley. ( Judges 16 : 4 - 31 )

- Five Philistine kings – “trick Samson into telling you where his power comes from” - 5, 500 pieces of silver.

- \*- The way down is nothing but a slippery slope’

- \*- Sin brings forth sin

○ Tie me with seven new bow-strings

▪ “Samson, the Philistines are coming !”

○ “Love is blind”, but really, that blind ?

▪ Making a fool of me by not telling me the truth

○ Tie me with new ropes

▪ Still making a fool of me

○ Weave my seven locks of hair into a loom

▪ “How can you say that you love me ...”

○ If you cut my hair - the outward sign of being a Nazirite.

○ ( Judges 16 : 20 ) “he woke up and thought, I’ll go free ...”

○ “But he did not know that the Lord had left him.”

- Captured him

- gouged out his eyes

- tied him with bronze chains

- Grinding the mill in the prison

- \*- Dejected - without hope, and totally lost !
- \*- Cast aside by man – and God.
- \*- Like the “Prodigal Son” before “the pin dropped” !
- \*- E.g. Murray - Grace – “to have the courage to look up !”
- \*- ”How much more did I have in my Father’s house!”

( v 22 ) “But his hair started growing back.”

- \*- God always makes a way for a repentive sinner.

The moment of repentance ( Judges 16 : 28 )

- “Sovereign Lord, please remember me; please God, give me my strength, just this one time more, so with this one blow, I can get even with the Philistines for putting out my eyes.”