

A DELIVERER IS DESTROYED

JUDGES 13 - 16

Text: Judges 16:31

(Judg 16:31 KJV) "Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years."

Introduction:

One may experience the power of God in his life at times, but this does not exempt him from temptations. Samson is an example of one who served the Lord, then fell under the temptation and sin. Though a judge of Israel, he became a servant of sin for a season.

1. THE PURPOSE OF GOD (JUDGES 13:1-25)

A. Revealed by an angel (13:1-5)

(Judg 13:1-5 KJV) "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. {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 bare not. {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. {4} Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: {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."

B. Verified by the return of the angel (13:6-23)

(Judg 13:6-23 KJV) "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: {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. {8} Then Manoah entreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. {9} And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her. {10} And the woman made haste, and ran, and showed her husband, and said unto him,

Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day. {11} And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am. {12} And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him? {13} And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. {14} She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe. {15} And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee. {16} And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD. {17} And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour? {18} And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret? {19} So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wonderously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. {20} For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.

{21} But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. {22} And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God. {23} But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have showed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these."

C. Fulfilled in the birth of Samson (13:24-25)

(Judg 13:24-25 KJV) "And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. {25} And the spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol."

2. THE POWER OF SAMSON (JUDGES 14:1-16:3)

A. An encounter with a lion. (14:1-7)

(Judg 14:1-7 KJV) "And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. {2} And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. {3} Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the

daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well. {4} But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel. {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. {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. {7} And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well."

B. A riddle and thirty slain men (14:8-20)

(Judg 14:8-20 KJV) "And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion. {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 carcase of the lion. {10} So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do. {11} And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him. {12} And Samson

said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments: {13} But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it. {14} And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle. {15} And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? is it not so? {16} And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people, and hast not told it me. And he said unto her, Behold, I have not told it my father nor my mother, and shall I tell it thee? {17} And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people. {18} And the men of the city said unto 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 unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle. {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. {20} But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had used as his friend."

C. Three hundred foxes and firebrands (15:1-13)

(Judg 15:1-13 KJV) "But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in. {2} And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: is not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her. {3} And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure. {4} And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. {5} And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives. {6} Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire. {7} And Samson said unto them, Though ye have

done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. {8} And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam. {9} Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. {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. {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. {12} And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves. {13} And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock."

D. A thousand Philistines slain. (15:14-20)

(Judg 15:14-20 KJV) "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. {15} And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand,

and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. {16} And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men. {17} And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi. {18} And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? {19} But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day. {20} And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years."

E. The Gaza gates were taken away. (16:1-3)

(Judg 16:1-3 KJV) "Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. {2} And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. {3} And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put

them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron."

3. THE PATHWAY OF SIN (JUDGES 16:4-21)

A. He loved a woman of the Philistines (16:4-5)

(Judg 16:4-5 KJV) "And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. {5} And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver."

B. He listened to the voice of the enemy.
(16:6-19)

(Judg 16:6-29 KJV) "And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. {7} And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. {8} Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. {9} Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a

thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. {10} And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. {11} And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. {12} Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. {13} And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web. {14} And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web. {15} And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. {16} And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; {17} That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man. {18} And when Delilah saw that

he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath showed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. {19} And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. {20} And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. {21} But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house. {22} Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. {23} Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. {24} And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us. {25} And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. {26} And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the

house standeth, that I may lean upon them. {27} Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. {28} And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. {29} And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left."

C. He lost his power. (16:20)

(Judg 16:20 KJV) "And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him."

1. How many time do we try to do things and not even consider that the Lord is not among us.

2. The surest way to fail is not to miss the presence of the Lord.

D. He labored in the prison house of sin. (16:21)

(Judg 16:21 KJV) "But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house."

1. Much of our life is sometimes walking in circles bound up with sins fetters.
2. Nothing is ever accomplished at this place.
3. How much more and how many more people could be reached if we could just get away from the grind.

4. THE PERIL OF THE PHILISTINES (16:22-31)

A. Mocking the Lord God of Israel (16:22-24)

(Judg 16:22-24 KJV) "Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. {23} Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. {24} And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us."

B. Making sport of Samson. (16:25-27)

(Judg 16:25-27 KJV) "And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. {26} And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them. {27} Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport."

C. Failed to recognize the God still answers prayer. (16:28-31)

(Judg 16:28-30 KJV) "And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. {29} And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. {30} And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead

which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life."

1. What a shame it would be to do more at our death than we did our whole life.

Close:

Perhaps sin cut short the time of faithful service for Samson. How sad it is "A deliverer destroyed."

We must see the urgency of the hour, and follow fully God's will and plan for our life, or we too may accomplish more at our death, than in our life time.