

SAMSON'S REVENGE

--JUDGES 15:1-20--

INTRODUCTION:

We have been looking at the history of the judge named Samson. Two weeks ago, we left him in his father's house in Zorah after leaving his wedding feast because his betrothed wife had betrayed him by giving the solution to his riddle to the sons of her people. This caused Samson to lose the wager he had made with them for 30 changes of clothes. Having left in anger he did not consummate his marriage on that final night of the feast. Because of the way he left his father-in-law gave his daughter to one of the Philistine men who had been provided to Samson as companions. This morning we will see what happens when Samson finds out that he has been betrayed again.

I. SAMSON REFUSED (Judges 15:1-3)

- a. As we come into verse one of this new chapter, we are given for the first time the _____ of the events that are about to take place.
- b. In this first verse we learn that Samson is returning to Timnah to visit his _____.
- c. Samson arrives at his father-in-law's house but is stopped by the woman's _____ from entering her room.
- d. In verse three we receive Samson's _____ to the man who should have been his father-in-law.

II. SAMSON'S RETALIATION (Judges 15:4-8)

- a. It is what happens next that makes it clear why in verse one we were told it was the time of the wheat _____.
- b. Once Samson had caught them all he ties them together in pairs and attaches a _____ between each pair.
- c. Here is a man whose _____ are guerrilla tactics.
- d. Samson did not simply _____ against the man who wronged him.
- e. Samson's response to the death of his wife is to retaliate again, just as their action surprised us, it also surprised _____.

- f. The author describes Samson's _____ over the death of his wife in a very cryptic way.

III. SAMSON REJECTED (Judges 15:9-13)

- a. Samson may be hiding from the Philistines, but they are determined to _____ him.
- b. The Philistines' answer is short and to the point, they have come to _____ Samson so they can do to him, what he has done to them. (Matthew 7:12)
- c. Upon receiving this response, the men of Judah go into action and gather an army of _____ men.
- d. Samson's response shows that he is more like the Philistines than like God's chosen _____ for His people Israel.
- e. Samson's flight to Judah has escalated his personal feud with the Philistines into an international crisis, which is precisely what God _____.
- f. Samson is worried that the men of Judah are willing to turn him over to the Philistines _____ or alive, which ever would be easier.

IV. SAMSON'S REPRISAL (Judges 15:14-20)

- a. As the men of Judah lead Samson to the camp of the Philistines in Lehi, we read that the Philistines came out to meet him with a great _____.
- b. Being self-centered and egotistical Samson immortalizes his extraordinary _____ over the enemy in two different ways.
- c. Second, Samson memorializes his achievement by _____ the place where his victory took place.
- d. Then we are told that Samson became _____.
- e. Did Samson _____ God's help?
- f. Verse 20 seems to bring the life of Samson to a _____, but in reality, it just brings the Timnah affair to a close.

CONCLUSION:

What can we take away from this chapter? The author has continued to paint for us a picture of the man Samson. A man who is

energetic and creative in his acts of revenge, but there is absolutely nothing attractive in his personality. He is egotistical and selfish and is ruthless when he feels that he has been wronged or has not gotten his way. He believes that he controls his own destiny and can turn off the violence when it suits him. Nevertheless, God continues to work. This man may be crude and imperfect, but God will deliver His people. As we have already witnessed in this book many times, contrary to our expectations God does not always operate on the basis of traditional orthodoxy, which teaches that obedience brings blessing, and disobedience, a curse. On the contrary, like the nation of Israel herself, Samson deserves no consideration from God. Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, watches and delivers time and time again. Within the pages of this book that is difficult at times to read, we see God's deep, deep love for His people, His yearning for them to turn to Him and be true to Him, and His use of grace over and over again in an attempt to woo them back to Himself. His agenda for His people cannot fail, despite the people's seeming determination to commit national suicide. These are God's chosen people, through them God's Messiah, the Perfect Savior and Judge, will come, until that time He will preserve them by His mercy and grace. Praise God that He uses imperfect people like Samson which means He can use imperfect people like us.