

Judges 15:1-20 – Complications from Sin

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Handfuls, Gill, Geneva, Poole, JFB, Trapp, Clarke, Barnes, Henry, Delitzsch, Expositor?

Brothers and sisters: Those who abuse their bodies with strange piercings (穿刺) and tattoos (纹身) learn that sometimes it can lead to very serious complications (并发症). Some have been infected, others paralyzed, and some have died as a result of these complications. There is a 44% chance of getting complications if you use red ink! The picture is nice until the poison sets in!

The same thing can happen when you compromise with sin-particularly if you are in a position of leadership. Compromises can cause serious infestations (侵染) in your soul and the souls of those around you. Today you will see such a complication in Samson's life.

Our headings are:

Sin and Samson's Wife

Sin and Samson's Strife

Sin and Samson's Life

Our goals are: **That you will be warned of the dangers of lusts which can infiltrate (渗透) your soul, and that you will then endeavor, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, to live pure lives and so you can properly lead God's people.**

Sin And Samson's Wife

1 After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, "Let me go in to my wife, into her room." **But her father would not permit him** to go in. 2 Her father said, "I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead."

1. Samson thought he was smarter than his friends. In trying to show-off his knowledge concerning a riddle he made up, he ended up being embarrassed. He thought he would get 30 changes of clothing from his riddle, but his arrogance backfired. He became angry, killed 30 men and stole their clothes to pay off his debt. Because his wife collaborated to cause his embarrassment, he left her, and went back to his home. But after some time Samson went back to his wife. Maybe he calmed down from his resentment (怨气, 不满) toward her. He even took a present for her, much like a man might buy roses for his wife to apologize. He took a young goat.

2. But his wife's father stopped him from going in to her. Because had abandoned his wife, her father thought that he hated her and left her permanently, so he married her to someone else, one of the 30 men from his bachelor party. (Complications!) To pacify Samson, her father offered Samson his wife's younger sister as wife – saying she was better – more beautiful - and younger. He knew what was appealing to Samson – the lust of the eyes. But it was against God's law to marry a sister of a spouse if the spouse were alive. Leviticus 18. Doing that might have been acceptable to the world, but not to the true God.

3 And Samson said to them, "**This time I shall be blameless** regarding the Philistines if I harm them!" 4 Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches (火把), turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. 5 When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the **shocks and the standing grain**, as well as the **vineyards** and **olive groves** (橄榄园) .

3. Instead of admitting his fault-leaving his wife, Samson became angry-very angry-and unleashed his wrath against the Philistines. He tied torches to pairs of foxes to make them run among and burn growing and stored grains, vineyards, and olive groves. He probably got help to do this, or did it over some period of time. (What cruelty to animals!) He destroyed their wine, their oil, and their grain of many innocent people, but Samson self-righteously justified his wrath. Some argue that he was justified in doing this because he was judge, but "one man must not be put to death for the sins of others." Samson could not punish one man (the Philistines) for another man's (his father-in-law's) sins. And what his wife's father did may not have been a sin at all. And surely Samson was not judge of the Philistines. He was usurping their authority. He could have attacked the Philistines as judge of Israel, but he attacked them for personal revenge 复仇. But God was using his sin to accomplish his purposes!

6 Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they answered, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.

4. Then the Philistines, upon learning why Samson did what he did, did not go after Samson the destroyer, but went and killed Samson's wife and her father. And how savage they were! One of the worst ways to die is by fire! What complications came from Samson's sins!

7 Samson said to them, "Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease." 8 So he attacked them **hip and thigh** with a **great slaughter**; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

5. Then Samson was angry with the Philistines for what they did to his wife and father-in-law and he took revenge on them. Even though he was not judge of the Philistines, he struck them on their hips and thighs and literally paralysed (使瘫痪) them – probably by breaking their hips. What complications! God used even Samson's sin for his glory; God was destroying Israel's enemies.

6: Lessons:

a. Don't walk away from your responsibilities, like Samson, when things get tough – even when others sin against you – in your home, church, or work. God will hold you responsible if you walk away.

b. Not everything great men did in the Bible – even men of faith - is worthy of imitation(效法). Look to prescriptive law(惯例法) first! If you are told something is wrong, it doesn't matter if many people did it, it is still wrong!

c. Don't justify the sins of Christian brothers, as some theologians try to do for Samson. It is easy to give people a pass when they are close to you, but you must judge them by prescription(法规).

d. Learn that if you play with a chainsaw (链锯) you will get blood on your clothes. Look what happened when Samson played with sin! Stay away from things that lead you to sin: Bad

friends, bad places, bad jobs, and bad politics! Sometimes the wounds can't be mended in this world. You will have to wait for heaven.

Sin and Samson's Strife

9 Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi. 10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" So they answered, "**We have come up to arrest Samson**, to do to him as he has done to us."

1. Then the Philistines gathered against Judah (in the South) and told them of their intention to arrest Samson for his crimes. This surely caused turmoil(混乱,骚乱) in Israel. Surely they did not want to turn over one of their own to certain execution! Their other option was to fight, but they didn't have the ability to fight. Fear was an option!

11 Then **three thousand men of Judah** went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them." 12 But they said to him, "We have come down to arrest you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines." Then Samson said to them, "**Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves.**" 13 So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

2. Knowing the potential for trouble in Israel, the Jews went and asked Samson why he did what he did. His response: He wanted revenge because the Philistines had affronted(公开冒犯,侮辱) him and he wanted revenge. But the Jews weren't really interested in what Samson said. He was going to be their "sacrificial lamb" so they could maintain the **status quo(现状) and quietly pay their yearly tribute to the Philistines. So they decided to arrest Samson and turn him over to the Philistines.**

3. Samson then asked them not to kill him themselves after arresting him. They agreed. But to be on the safe side, they tied him with new – stronger - rope.

14 When he came to Lehi, the **Philistines came shouting against him.** Then the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. 15 He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.

4. When they came to Lehi the Philistines attacked Samson, but God's Holy Spirit moved in Samson and gave him extraordinary strength to break the ropes. He then took the jawbone of a donkey and killed 1000 men.

a. He used a fresh bone because it was not brittle(易碎的).

b. A donkey's jaw bone showed it was a simple thing...not a special weapon of war. This point was that if **God could destroy with his words**, he surely could destroy them with a jawbone.

16 Then Samson said: "**With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!**" 17 And so it was, when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi.

5. Then Samson wrote a song about his victory. He did not praise God for help, **but makes mention of the jawbone** and his abilities! He acted like the strength was in his arms rather than in the promise and presence of God. After the song, he then renamed the place **“Ramath Lehi,” “casting away of a jawbone.”** Great men always attributed their success to God directly. Abraham: **Jehovah Jireh–Jehovah is the Provider.** Moses: **Jehovah Nissi–Jehovah is our banner.** Samuel: **Ebenezer – Stone of Help.** But Samson: **Casting away of Jawbone.**

6 Lessons:

a. One man’s sins – especially a leader’s – can cause complications to the flock. One bad choice by a father can destroy a family. One sin of an elder can destroy a church. One foolish leader can destroy a country.

b. Samson pictured Jesus in the fact that:

Jesus was betrayed by the Jews and turned over to the Romans so the Jews could maintain the status quo. They did not want to rattle the Romans.

Jesus went willingly, as a lamb to the slaughter, and did not open his mouth. But he did this to secure spiritual freedom for the Jews.

Jesus had to break free, not from new rope, but from being tied by death to conquer man’s greatest enemy.

Acts 2:24 "whom God raised up, having **loosed the pains of death**, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. (神却将死的痛苦解释了,叫他复活,因为他原不能被死拘禁.)

c. Just as God used a jawbone of a donkey to destroy many, so God uses the weak things (the Gospel) to conquer the world. Don’t underestimate your weapon. Use it. Let the Holy Spirit strengthen you as you speak. This Gospel brings salvation and it also brings condemnation. Israel was delivered but the Philistines destroyed.

Sin and Samson’s life

18 Then he became very thirsty; so **he cried out to the LORD** and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

1. Samson became very thirsty and complained to Jehovah – his covenant God. He did not remember God in hailing the victory, but he remembered God when he needed something! Even his prayer was not of one who seemed truly humble. He seemed upset with God. A humble man would have said: Jehovah, please give me water, for I thirst!

19 So **God split the hollow place that is in Lehi**, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its **name En Hakkore**, which is in Lehi to this day. 20 And he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

2. God (Elohim) graciously provided water for him by a miracle, opening a fountain. The writer is suggesting God’s departure from Samson by using “Elohim” instead of “Jehovah.”

3. Then a refreshed Samson called the name of the place “the fountain of him that was calling,” or the “the crier.”

Some try to take this to mean that God was the one calling, and make it to mean that it was Samson’s confession of God provision, but it was Samson who called! He named the well after himself.

4. Samson judged Israel for 20 years, but the Philistines were never defeated. Samson had approached his job the wrong way and so enjoyed less success than he could have had. His sins complicated matters for Israel.

5. Lessons:

a. Jesus was thirsty too, but he endured severe thirst on the cross and rejected the drink they offered him.

John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

b. God gives his water of life through Jesus Christ. When you drink that water, you stop complaining, you start praising God, and you begin to share that water of life. And you give credit to the water giver.

John 4:14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Conclusion:

Samson lost his wife so he attacked the Philistines and destroyed their crops and their people. **This caused strife (纷争, 倾轧) for the Jews,** as the Philistines came to seek revenge on him or on his people if they did not turn him over. Samson then destroyed the Philistines, though for the wrong reason. Samson did not give God credit for his work. **When Samson almost died of thirst he complained against** God, but God graciously gave him water!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Lusts can pollute the church and hinder you and your brothers from properly fulfilling your tasks. Yes, sins can lead to serious complications. Too many lives, families, churches, and nations have been ruined, often by one lust!

2. So let God's Holy Spirit and his Word fill your life so that you will die to your own advantage and see the advantage of the Bride of Christ and the glory of Christ.

3. If you find that you are more concerned about your interest, ask God to show you the cross again.

Finally, to non-believers: Most people can handle physical death. Eternal death in hell is another thing. If you don't believe Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins, you are at the door of eternal death. Why not call to God for rescue(拯救)?