

Wednesday Night

H O U S E
O F P R A Y E R



Retaliation, Ruin and Revival

Judges 15

Women's Study 9:30 Sat

Young Ladies Unwavering Women Study: Sunday after church

Men's Study through Romans, Tuesday here at 6:30

March 1: Men's BBQ after church

Announcements

March 15: Annual Chili Cook-off, after church

March 29: Baptism... sign up on-line

Go to tbcalvary.com for more information

Announcements

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. He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.

Judges 15:14-15

This chapter is about God's sovereignty working through a deeply flawed man.

God does not wait for perfect people to accomplish His purposes.

Introduction

V1: “Samson visited his wife with a young goat.”

His approach appears tactful, but he is still pursuing a compromised union
(cf. Judges 14).

“A mixed marriage rooted in disobedience bears bitter fruit.” (Meyer)

Judges 15:1-8

V1: “time of the wheat harvest...”

The moment we think everything is steady may be the moment God starts shaking it.

Jas 4:13-14

Sin creates impossible situations.

Judges 15:1-8

*“Sin will take you farther than you want to go,
keep you longer than you want to stay,
and cost you more than you want to pay.”*

Judges 15:1-8

Samson's actions in Judges 15 are clearly driven by personal anger and wounded pride. He is reacting out of fleshly vengeance.

-yet-

God is advancing deliverance.

Judges 15:1-8

Ps 76:10 vs. James 1:20

Ps 76:10 = God's Sovereignty

James 1:20 = human responsibility.

Even human rebellion, rage, and opposition cannot derail Him. He can overrule it, redirect it, and weave it into His larger redemptive purposes. The weakness of the vessel highlights the strength of the treasure.

Judges 15:1-8

“Treachery intended for protection brings destruction” (Meyer).

“...resentment becomes a habit that shapes the soul – it doesn’t end with one act; it becomes a posture.” (Lewis)

Rom 12:19

Revenge belongs to God because humans don’t regulate it, only escalate it.

Judges 15:1-8

"Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?"

Judah accepts oppression as normal.

Precept Austin emphasis: Worse than defeat is forfeiting honor.

Judges 15:9-13

Vv12-13

Samson refuses to fight his own people

“Flash of faith.” (Guzik)

For all his flaws, he still sees himself as fighting for Israel, not against her.

Judges 15:9-13

Vv12-13

Tactical element: “to attack would mean civil war”

“Samson would not fight his brethren – but he would not bow to their oppressors.”

A faint whisper forward: “A greater than Samson will one day also allow Himself to be bound and handed over...”

Judges 15:9-13

Judges 15:14 “The Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him...”

In Judges, the Spirit comes on people for moments of power – not as a permanent, inside presence like in the New Testament.

Othniel (Judg 3:10). Gideon (Judg 6:34)

Jephthah (Judg 11:29). Samson (Judg 14:6; 15:14)

Judges 15:14-17

New Testament Contrast

“He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Jhn 14:17

“Do you not know that you are the temple of the Holy Spirit...?”

1Cor 6:19

Judges 15:14-17

We can...

- ...grieve Him.
- ... quench His work.
- ... hinder His influence.

Ramifications

- Loss of joy (Psalm 51)
- Diminished intimacy
- Spiritual dullness
- Loss of usefulness
- Natural consequences of sin
- Loving correction through circumstances

*“In Judges, the Spirit comes upon people for moments of power.
In the New Covenant, the Spirit comes within believers
for a lifetime of transformation.”*

“heap upon heaps” - baḥāmôr ḥāmôrātayim...

“With a donkey — donkey-heaps!”

-or-

“With the jawbone of an ass, I’ve piled them in a mass.”

“Ramath Lehi” (“Jawbone Hill”)

Judges 15:14-17

“Very thirsty...”

...to thirst intensely, to suffer severe dehydration

Supernatural Spiritual Strength one moment – Human Frailty the Next

Victory does not eliminate dependence; empowerment does not remove weakness.

“Great victories are often followed by small crises.” (Spurgeon)

Judges 15:18-20

V19: “God split the hollow place...”

- Moses at Horeb – Exo 17
- Moses at Kadesh – Num 20
- Samson at Lehi – Jdg 15:18–19

They drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.” 1Co 10:4

Judges 15:18-20

En Hakkore (“Spring of the Caller”).

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” (Jhn 7:37)

“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Rom 10:13)

In Christ, you don't just drink. You overflow; the Spirit doesn't merely visit. He wells up.”

Judges 15:18-20

God accomplishes His purposes through people who are morally imperfect, emotionally inconsistent, and spiritually uneven – without endorsing their flaws.

Abraham – who lied about his wife.

Moses – who struck the rock in anger.

David – who committed adultery and murder.

Peter – who denied Christ.

Paul – who persecuted the church.

reflection

Why does God work this way?

“God does not wait for perfection; He works through repentance.”

“Flawed people don’t limit God – they highlight Him.”

Every flawed instrument in the Old Testament points forward to the one flawless Deliverer.

reflection

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