

Title: Samson, a Type of Christ
Text: Judges 14: 12-14
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Judges 14: 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.

We, who believe, have come this morning, as always, to be put in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we will do so especially at our Lord's Table, as we partake of the bread and wine which symbolize his broken body and shed blood.

Sometimes, it helps believers to behold Christ in an Old Testament picture. So today I would like for us to try to catch a glimpse of our Savior in Samson.

Proposal: As we take an overview of Samson's life that Sampson is a picture of Christ.

I. FIRST, WE BEHOLD CHRIST IN SEVERAL DETAILS OF SAMSON'S BIRTH.

The Time

Judges 13: 1: 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.

Israel was in bondage under the Philistines when Samson was born. Likewise, Christ came forth, when Israel was in bondage under the Romans. In fact, God's true spiritual Israel—all over the world—did evil in the sight of God and was in bondage to sin and Satan. The Gentile world was in idolatry and ignorance of God. The Jews were engaged in mere formality.

The Angel of the LORD

Judges 13: 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.

We see an analogy of Christ in Samson's mother and how the angel of the LORD foretold of his birth. In like manner, Mary, the mother of our Lord, was a virgin. The angel of the LORD told the mother of our Savior, "behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." (Lu 1: 31)

Samuel's Consecration

Judges 13: 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:

We see Christ in Samson's separation and consecration unto the LORD. Samson was a Nazarite—meaning he was separated by the LORD, holy, consecrated for God's service all his life.

Likewise, Christ Jesus is that “holy thing”, that “holy one” conceived of the Holy Ghost. Raised in Nazareth, “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.” (Mt 2: 23) or a “Nazarite.” So Christ always did those things which pleased the Father.

A Nazarite was required by law to never cut his hair. Why? Long hair was a thing despised of men in the scriptures. It was a symbol of consecration to God. Consecration to God, required that Sampson willingly appear before men in a way that other people would despise. Be sure to get this: Sampson's long hair was only a symbol—a symbol of his complete surrender to God and separation from this world. Like our Savior in his Manhood, it was Sampson's consecration to God that was his strength, not his hair itself.

So it is with you and I who believe. We have been chosen, separated and made holy by God. Therefore, we appear before this world in a way which makes this world despise us, which separates us from the rest of this world—that way is Christ Jesus himself. Our strength is, not in anything about us physically, but our strength is Christ to whom we are separated and consecrated in spirit and in truth.

Phillippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Samson's Mission

Judges 13: 4...and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

Then we see a type of Christ in Samson's mission. Samson would deliver his people, Israel, from the hand of the enemy. Likewise, of Christ, it was foretold,

Matthew 1:21: And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Christ Jesus was given this people of God before the foundation of the world. As Sampson was sent of God to deliver Israel from the Philistines so Christ was sent of God to deliver his people from all our enemies. He has, he is and he shall—“he shall save his people from their sins.” And so we read of Samson.

Judges 13: 24: And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

Likewise of Christ we read:

Luke 2:52: And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

So Samson—whose name means sunlight—was born and shined upon that dark day. A type of Christ's birth—the sun of righteousness who arose in this dark world with healing in his wings. (Mal 4: 2)

II. SECONDLY, WE BEHOLD CHRIST IN TYPE IN THE ACTS OF SAMSON'S LIFE

His Marriage

First, we see a picture of Christ in Samson's marriage to a Philistine woman.

Judges 14: 1: Samson went down to Timnah...

Timnah means a place assigned unto. Christ came down to this place assigned unto him by the Father before the foundation of the world

Judges 14: 1:...and [Sampson] saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.

“Woman” means adultress. Further, this woman was of the daughters of Sampson’s enemies, further she was an uncircumcised Gentile woman. In fact, in Judges 16: 1...Sampson went in unto a harlot. Then later, he “loved a woman named Deliah”—a well-known harlot. (Judges 16: 4)

Note: As for Samson, this was great sin. To marry a Gentile, an adultress, or to go in unto harlots was all against the law of God. No excuse on Samson’s part. But scripture says, his taking this Philistine woman, was of the Lord—**Judges 14: 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.**

What a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ! It is of God the Father that Christ’s bride, chosen of God the Father, the bride Christ loves, is made up of sinners: adultresses, harlots, publicans, enemies in our minds by wicked works as was Samson’s wife. Christ did not come to call the self-righteous religious folks who call themselves God’s people. They are represented in those Samsons parents wanted Samson to consider but that Samson passed by. They said, **Judges 14: 3: 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.** No, Christ’s people are sinners,

Mark 2: 16: And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? 17: When Jesus heard *it*, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Sinner, do you see you are sick? You are not whole! You need the physician. Do you see it! Here is the good news: Christ came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance!

Defeat of the Lion

Then we see Christ in Sampsons defeat of the strong lion.

Judges 14: 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.

Samson was going to get this woman for his bride when this lion came roaring against him. The lion pictures the devil—

1 Peter 5:8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary **the devil, as a roaring lion**, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

When Christ came down to get his bride, Satan roared against him: in the wilderness, throughout his life, in the Garden of Gethsemane, on the cross. The Spirit of the LORD was upon Christ mightily as it was Samson.

Judges 14: 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.

Christ rent Satan as if Satan had no power at all. Christ had nothing in his hand—the word of God—thus saith the LORD. In the midst of Satan’s temptations, Christ, as a Man, as the righteous servant of Jehovah, as

the righteousness of his people, trusted his care to the word of the LORD who was able to save him from death.

Sinner, the only way you and I can defeat Satan is by casting all our care upon Christ.

1 Peter 5: 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

III. THIRDLY, WE SEE CHRIST IN SAMSONS DEATH—

We see Christ in how Samson was rejected, bound of of his own brethren, so that he won the victory over his enemies all alone.

Judges 15: 10: [when the enemy came] **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 [the men of Judah] said unto [Sampson], 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.**

Christ's own nation came against him: betrayed him, bound him, beat him, turned him over to the enemy. They were both sold for money under pretence of love. (Deliah betrayed Samson for money; Judas betrayed Christ). Both were apprehended by their enemies, both were led away bound, blinded, (Christ was blindfolded), fastened to a post and scorned.

Isaiah 63:3: I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

Voluntary Death

Sampson and Christ's death were both voluntary. While Samson's enemies celebrated, praising their vain God, Samson destroyed them by pulling down the pillars of their house upon them and upon himself.

Judges 16: 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. 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 Christ, said, “No man taketh my life from me, but I lay it down of myself.” (Jn 10: 18) While his enemies praised their vain God, thinking surely they had defeated Christ, Christ pulled their whole house down on them by his death.

Victorious Death

Both Samson and Christ were victorious in their deaths.

Judges 16: 30:...So the dead which he slew at his death were more than *they* which he slew in his life.

So Christ, by his death, gave the most deadly blow to Satan's Kingdom

Colossian 2:15: And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Our Redeemer was victorious. He defeated Satan. By himself Christ purged our sins. He obtained eternal redemption for us. Christ fulfilled the law for us making us the righteousness of God in him. He declared God just and the justifier. The last enemy to be destroyed is death and of that victory we read,

“Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory by our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor 15: 57)

V. LASTLY, WE SEE IN SAMPSON WHAT CHRIST IS NOW DOING THAT SATAN IS DEFEATED AND HIS CROSS WORK IS ACCOMPLISHED.

Calling the Bride

Judges 14: 7: And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

After Samson defeated the lion, he went after his bride. Christ has bound the strong man that he might “**spoil his goods.**” Christ has bound Satan so that through the preaching of the gospel, Christ “might deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Now he sends forth his gospel—wooing his bride—each individual redeemed child. Christ’s bride pleases Christ well—because she is redeemed by his blood. She must be called out

The Gospel

Notice this strange thing that happened after Samson destroyed the lion.

Judges 14: 8: 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.

Out of the devils destruction, with justice satisfied for his elect, comes the sweet tidings of the gospel, sweet as honey. And by Christ’s effectual work in our hearts, it brings forth his elect out of death, like swarms of bees.

The Riddle

But Sampson spoke this in a riddle, so that some never understood the meaning.

Judges 14: 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.

So Christ speaks the gospel in riddles—parables—to those who are blind, self-righteous Pharisees.

Matthew 13: 10: And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11: He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

But Christ reveals the gospel riddle to his bride.

Judges 14: 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:

He robes us in fine linen of his righteousness through faith

The Burning Gospel

Judges 15: 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.

Also, after defeating the lion, when the Philistines stood in the way of him having his bride, Samson burned up their fields. By this gospel, Christ is destroying his enemies, burning up the fruit of all his enemies.

The Foolishness of the Gospel

Judges 15: 14..the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him,...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.

Samson slew his enemies with a strange and foolish means. So Christ, by the “foolishness of preaching,” through the power of his Spirit, subdues and overcomes men unto himself, and slays the enmity.

Gates of Hell

Judges 16:3: 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.

As Samson did, Christ carries away the gates of our enemies, bars and all. He promised his church,

Matthew 16:18...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Amen!