

THE HALL OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:32-34

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets,
33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,
34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.(NIV)

What a wonderful study we have in front of us for the next four weeks. We are going to study one of the best known judges in all of scripture: Samson.

It is funny that in our generation the story of Samson is almost forgotten, along with many of the other judges. When I was a little girl, even though I did not grow up in the church, I had heard about this hero and remember even seeing movies about him. This part of scripture came up a few years ago in Vacation Bible School and I was surprised to find so many children had never heard of this mighty, yet fragile, man of God.

This is an incredible account of a strong man who had been given awesome gifts by the LORD from birth. We will see his human frailty as well as his shining moment.

As always with the Shadows series of studies, we will be going back and forth from the Old Testament to the New Testament and tie them together. We will see how 2nd Timothy applies:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

**16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
(NIV)**

You may be asking, "What is a judge?" and how is that different from a king. The Hebrew word for judge is "shaphat" and it means to judge or someone who sentences either for or against, or to govern.

The Hebrew word for king is "melek". A melek is different from a shaphat. A melek is royalty, he ascends to a throne and he rules.

A judge pronounces sentences, governs, judges, defends and he or she litigates. Yes, there was a woman judge, Deborah.

A king rules. There were no women kings in the Bible. When Jesus returns HE will take up HIS throne in Jerusalem and HE will rule and HE will judge, so HE sits in both positions.

Revelation 6:10

10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, **Sovereign Lord**, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" (NIV)

Revelation 17:14

14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is **Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.**" NIV)

Samson was born in an interesting time in Israel's history. The nation was in a continual cycle of sin. Before we start our study we need to start in Judges chapter 2 to see why the LORD would allow Israel, His people, to suffer defeat and captivity at the hands of their enemies.

Judges 2:16-23

16 Then **the LORD raised up judges**, who saved them out of **the hands of these raiders**.

17 Yet **they would not listen to their judges** but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. Unlike their fathers, **they quickly turned from the way** in which their fathers had walked, **the way of obedience to the LORD's commands**.

18 Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for **the LORD had compassion on them** as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them.

19 But **when the judge died, the people returned** to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, **following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.**

- 20 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant that I laid down for their forefathers and has not listened to me,
- 21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died.
- 22 **I will use them to test Israel** and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their forefathers did."
- 23 **The LORD had allowed those nations to remain;** he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua. (NIV)

Did you notice that at no point does the LORD say they are not HIS people? HE simply does not protect them in their lifetimes, by their choice not HIS. Israel suffered years of defeat simply because they would not follow the LORD and HIS ways. Look at verse 22 and remind me how the LORD was viewing what HE allowed to happen to Israel? A test! I wonder how many defeats come in our lives for the same reason? Always be mindful of the words "if", "but", and "because". The scripture says something interesting about the LORD that we all know but sometimes we have a tendency to forget.

Hebrews 13:7-8

- 7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
- 8 **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.** (NIV)

Once again we are confronted with the fact that the LORD of the Old Testament is Jesus in the flesh in the New Testament. Now that we have a little background and have a feel for what was going on it is time to start our journey.

Judges 13:1-25

- 1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so **the LORD delivered them** into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. (NIV)

It is important to see that they were doing evil in the eyes of the LORD, not in their own eyes. They probably thought things were going okay because they did not have the spiritual eyes to see with. Not having a "plumb line" is what gets man off track and leads him astray. The LORD holds the plumb line according to the prophet Amos...

We hope you have enjoyed the sample on week 1 of our Samson study. Please feel free to contact us if you are interested in pursuing this amazing study that has blessed the hearts of men, women and children alike! We will find the Study page for week 1 attached. All of these questions alone can be answered in the week 1 study!

15. Fill in the blanks: Hebrews 13:8 Jesus is the same _____ and _____ and _____.
16. According to Judges 13:1 how long had the LORD delivered Israel into the hands of the Philistines?
20 years 30 years 40 years 100 years
17. Who holds the "plumb line" of what is right or wrong in his hand? Amos The LORD Samson The Israelites
18. According to Jude 1:24, who is able to keep us from falling and to present us without fault? _____
19. What tribe was Samson from? _____
20. Gen. 49:16 says that "Dan will provide _____ for his people"
21. What was wrong with Manoah's wife? Judges 13:3
Depression Childless Acne Hateful
22. For what purpose was Samson brought into the world by the LORD? Judges 13:5 _____
23. Who determined the work Samson would do? _____
24. Fill in blanks: Psalm 139:16 "All the days _____ for me were _____ in your _____ before one of them came to be."
25. Samson and his mother were placed under what vow?

26. Nazirites could not: Numbers 6 _____ their hair or drink or eat anything from the grapevine. Go _____ anything dead. Do anything _____ until their time of separation was over. Drink anything that was _____
27. Who did Manoah prepare a sacrifice for? _____
28. Who figures out that the LORD is not going to kill them and why? Judges 13:23 Manoah Mrs. Manoah
29. What is Samson's name in Hebrew and what does it mean?
