

The Birth of Samson And His Nazirite Vow

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

Jay Personius

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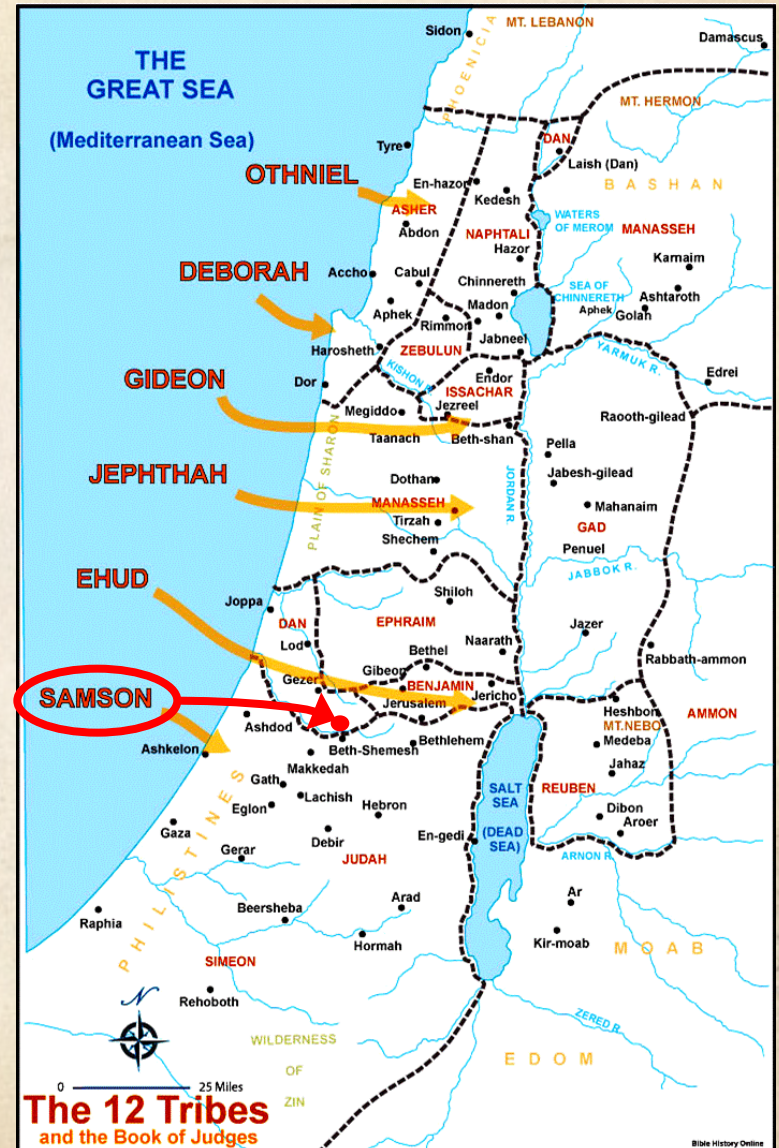
Samson's Birth

- The setting historically
 - Sin cycle hits “oppression” once again! (13:1)
 - Oppression by the Philistines for 40 years (13:1)
 - Samson was to “begin to deliver Israel” (13:5)
 - The defeat of the Philistines not until 1 Sam 7:3-11
 - Samson judged Israel for 20 years (15:20; 16:31)
 - Perhaps beginning shortly before the death of Eli (1 Sam 4:18)
 - The ark is returned (1 Sam 6:21)
 - The ark left in Kiriath-jearim for 20 years (1 Sam 7:2)
 - Likely overlaps Samuel's youth (K&D)



Samson's Birth

- The situation
 - Manoah, a man of Zorah, of the tribe of Dan
 - Manoah's wife was barren



Samson's Birth

- The summons to serve the Lord
 - The Messenger
 - “Man of God” appears to Manoah’s wife
 - “Angel of the Lord”
 - The Message
 - Birth announcement
 - Baby dedication – A Nazirite from birth*
 - The faith of Manoah and his wife
- The Samson child is born

Nazirite Vows (Num 6:2-21)

- One Purpose
 - Dedication (separation) to the Lord (man or woman)
- Two Practices
 - Temporary – by personal choice for special occasions
 - Permanent – by choice of parent or the Lord for life
- Three Prohibitions
 - Not consuming any strong drink (or fruit of the vine)
 - Not cutting one's hair
 - Not touching anything dead



Nazirite Vows (Num 6:2-21)

- Four Step Provision for Mishaps
 - 7 day cleansing
 - Complete head shaving
 - Present a sin offering
 - Present a guilt offering
- Lesson: Even accidental sins require a sacrifice

Life Long Vows

Were all three “Nazirite” in their vows?

	Samson	Samuel	John the Baptist
Nazirite Vow:	YES	~ ?	~ ?
Vowed by:	God	Mother Hannah	God via an angel
Duration:	“from the womb”	“all his days”	Life by default
Tribe:	Dan	Ephraim	Levi
Type of Service:	Judge	Priest	Prophet
No razor:	Num 6; Jdg 13:5	1 Sam 1:11	?
No strong drink:	Num 6	?	Lk 1:15
No contact w/ dead	Num 6	?	?

Samson's Practice of His Nazirite Vow

- Not touching anything dead
 - Violated in Chapter 14
- Not consuming strong drink or the fruit of the vine
 - Violated in Chapter 15
- Not cutting the hair
 - Violated in Chapter 16
- Vindication – Chapter 16

Applications

- Since believers are “washed in the blood of Christ and his righteousness” we don’t have the ceremonial restrictions of the past. However, we are commanded to always practice holiness and cleanliness of heart.
- As believers, we are not to take lightly the vow of the Lord to keep us by devaluing the impact of sin in our lives like Samson did. Sin is always a serious matter and we should live a wholly dedicated to the Lord forever, just as Samson’s vow was for life.
- Failure to avoid sin, can be restored by returning to the Lord in repentance and obedience. The redemptive sacrificial work of Christ continues to cover a believer’s sin.