

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES FROM THE LIFE OF SAMSON

1. The Kingdom Principle Of Sowing And Reaping

The nation of Israel continued to sin before the Lord, therefore they were delivered into the hand of the Philistines for 40 years; Judges 13:1. When God's people fall into a state of apostasy and idolatry, He sends invading armies and afflictions into their midst as agents of His chastening; see Deut. 28:49-52; Judges 6:1-5; 2 Kings 25:1-21; Ezekiel 14:13:21; Lamentations, chapters 1 and 2.

A. When every man does that which is "right in his own eyes", when "King Jesus" does not rule in the life of an individual or nation, apostasy is the result; Judges 17:6; 21:25.

B. Sowing and reaping is a spiritual law; God will not be mocked; Galatians 6:7. Samson reaped the consequences of his disobedience; his life reveals a pattern: the gradual departure of a believer from a union with Christ into apostasy:

1. There is a departure from adherence to sound biblical doctrine.
2. There is a departure from morality, in which a person (or nation) becomes enslaved again to sin and immorality.
3. The believer fails to take the truths, warnings and teachings from God's Word seriously.
4. Worldly desires become greater than the realities of God's heavenly Kingdom.
5. The believer ceases drawing near to God, due to the deceitfulness of sin.
6. The believer becomes increasingly tolerant of sin in himself and others.
7. The believer no longer loves righteousness and hates iniquity.
8. The believer's heart becomes hardened, as he ignores the repeated voice and rebuke of the Holy Spirit.
9. The Holy Spirit is grieved and quenched because His "temple" has been violated.
10. The Holy Spirit eventually departs from the former believer: the principle of "Ichabod"; 1 Samuel 4:21-22; Psalm 51:11; John 15:6; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Hebrews 3:14.

2. The Kingdom Principle Of God's Mercy

A man named Manoah, and his barren wife, were visited by the Angel of the Lord, whose name was "wonderful" (a Christophany); Judges 13:18; Isaiah 9:6. He told them that they would conceive a child and bear a son. GOD, IN HIS MERCY, SENDS DELIVERERS who "begin to deliver" His people out of the hand of their enemies; Judges 13:5. Samson had great favor; he was dedicated to God before his birth, and his parents raised him with the knowledge of spiritual things.

A. Scripture tells us that angels appear when a promised "son / deliverer" (ministry) is about to be revealed. Examples are Isaac: Genesis 18:1-14; Moses: Exodus 3:2-10; Gideon: Judges 6:11-21; Samson: Judges 13:2-18; John the Baptist: Luke 1:11-19; Jesus: Luke 1:26-38; 2:9-15.

B. God desires to show mercy, but He must punish willful rebellion and disobedience. His righteous judgments are acts of His mercy, designed to turn men unto Himself.

C. God's mercies are new every morning; Lamentations 3:22-23

D. God's mercy is obtained in prayer; Hebrews 4:16.

E. Jesus reveals God's mercy to sinners and the blind; Matthew 9:13, 27-29

F. Jesus taught: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"; Matthew 5:7.

G. We are told to look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life; Jude 21

3. The Kingdom Principle Of Consecration

Samson was to be a Nazarite unto God from the womb; Judges 13:5. The Nazarite vow was taken by those who became deliverers to their generation. These included Samson, Samuel, John the Baptist, Joseph, Paul. “And I raised up some of your sons for PROPHETS, and of your young men for NAZARITES. Is not this true, O you children of Israel? Says the Lord”; Amos 2:11. A Nazarite is a “dedicated one”, which speaks of a consecrated, spiritual lifestyle unto God. They were set apart for sacred purposes; see Numbers 6:1-8.

A. This is a voluntary VOW; God does not force this upon any person.

B. It involved abstaining from wine and certain foods (meaning: this person would not come under the influence of the intoxicating, natural pleasures of this life); see Proverbs 20:1; Daniel 1:8

C. No razor could come upon the head (locks of the hair untouched). Hair is symbolic of dedication, consecration unto God. It is the “covering” (devoted crown) of the head.

D. It involved separation from “dead bodies”; see 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Matthew 8:22.

E. Our Father is a covenant-keeping God Who takes vows seriously; He warns us not to be careless with our words and actions. We must fulfill the covenant, vow or pledge that we make before God; see Ecclesiastes 5:4-6; Ps. 50:14; Ps. 66:13-14; Acts 5:1-5.

4. The Kingdom Principle Of Exploits Done In His Name

The anointing upon a man of God will cause him to do “exploits”; Daniel 11:32; Acts 1:8. Samson was a mighty man of great strength; he could perform powerful, supernatural works, but he lacked godly character and behavior:

A. Samson tore apart a lion that roared against him; Judges 14:5-6; 1 Peter 5:8.

B. He slew 30 men, took their spoil and garments and gave them to those who explained his “riddle”; Judges 14:19

C. The “bands and cords” that were tied upon him were melted like wax burnt with fire and broken like thread; Judges 15:14;16:7-12

D. He slew 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass; Judges 15:15-16. God can speak through the “jawbone” of an ass; Numb. 22:28. (the “spoken word” will slay the enemy)

E. He caught 300 foxes, tied their tails together with torches, and set fire to the cornfields and vineyards of the Philistines, causing damage to their crops, eliminating their food source; Judges 15:4-5; Song of Sol. 2:15; Luke 13:32

F. He carried the doors of the gate of the city upon his shoulders, up to the top of a hill; Judges 16:3.

5. The Kingdom Principle Of Stewardship

Every child of God is an heir, who must be trained; Galatians 4:1-3. Samson was called to be a judge over God’s people, but he failed in the area of responsible “stewardship”. He was endowed with supernatural strength, but he treated the secret of his power as a frivolous, trivial thing; 2 Timothy 1:14.

A. Samson was not a good steward of God’s gift; HE DID NOT GUARD OR PROTECT THE ANOINTING ENTRUSTED TO HIM by God. He “trifled with” the secret of his power; he failed to realize that with great power comes great responsibility.

B. Samson's life reveals careless living in compromise with the world; he was a lover of pleasure and sensuality. Instead of submitting fully to the Spirit Who moved upon him, he yielded to the impulses of his flesh.

C. Samson broke God's law and violated his Nazarite vow. He desired intimacy with that which was uncircumcised and unclean; Judges 14:1; 16:1,4. He attempted to do God's work after God had withdrawn Himself.

D. SAMSON NEGLECTED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD to the point that he didn't even know that the Lord had departed from him; Judges 16:20.

6. The Kingdom Principle Of Discipline

God knew what it would take to bring Samson to the end of himself; pain and humiliation served a purpose. Our Father knows how to open the ears of His people to discipline:

“And if they be bound in fetters, and be holden in cords of affliction, then he showeth them their work, and their transgressions that they have exceeded. He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity”; Job 36:8-10

A. Our Father knows how to correct His children: “Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee...”; Jeremiah 2:19

B. God's people are told “despise not the chastening of the Lord, neither be weary of his correction; Proverbs 3:11

C. The Lord chastens, disciplines and corrects every son whom He receives; see Hebrews 12:5-11

D. As a man chastens his son, so does the Lord your God chasten you; Deuteronomy 8:5

E. He who spares the rod of discipline hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently; Proverbs 13:24

F. Even Jesus learned obedience through the things which he suffered; Hebrews 5:8

7. The Kingdom Principle Of Restoration

When the Father sees true repentance in an individual or a nation, then the restoration process can begin. Samson was a mighty man who had “gone down” to the slaughter; Jeremiah 48:14-17, but he cried out to the Lord “Remember me”; Judges 16:28.

A. “Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice; have mercy also upon me, and answer me” Psalm 27:7

B. Even though God's people have experienced injuries, wounds and punishments because of sin, He can restore them to health; Jeremiah 30:12-17.

C. “And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten...and ye shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else...” Joel 2:25-27

D. “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free Spirit”; Psalm 51:10-12

E. Jesus was anointed to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; Luke 4:18-19

