

LEARNING HOW TO TRUST GOD

Part 13 – Live With Purpose
Hebrews 11:32; Judges 13:24-25

Pastor Mark Hartman
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There are 7 key periods of the Old Testament from Abraham to Malachi:

1. Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (between 2100-1800 BC)
2. 400 years of Egyptian bondage (1800-1400 BC)
3. Moses and Joshua – Promise Land (1400-1300 BC)
4. Dark ages of the **Judges** (1300-1050 BC)

I. THE **POTENTIAL** OF SAMSON'S LIFE.

A. The name Samson means "**sunshine**".

*Judges 13:25 "The **Spirit** of the Lord was upon him..."*

B. The symbol of Samson's commitment to God was a **Nazirite** vow.

1. *Judges 13:4-5 "So be careful; you must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. ⁵ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut for or he will be dedicated to God as a **Nazirite** from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines." (NLT)*

2. The Nazirite vow included three outward symbols:

- a. First, a renunciation of **wine** and all products of wine, including eating grapes, raisins, or anything associated with it.
- b. Second, he was to never touch a **dead body** of anything, even an animal.
- c. Third, he was never to allow a razor to touch his **hair**.

C. *Judges 13:5* “You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines.” (NLT)

II. SAMSON FORGOT **WHO** HE WAS.

A. *2 Corinthians 6:14* “Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?” (NLT)

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Don't become **partners** with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark?” (MSG)

B. *Judges 14:8-9* “Sometime later, when Samson went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey,⁹ which he scooped out with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass.” (NIV)

III. SAMSON **OVER** - ESTIMATED HIMSELF AND **UNDER** - ESTIMATED SATAN.

A. *Judges 16:4* “Sometime later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.” (NIV)

B. *Judges 16:20:* “And she said, The Philistines are upon you, Samson! And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, “I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself free. And he did not know that the LORD had **left him**.”

C. *1 Peter 5:8* “Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walks around, seeking whom he may **devour**.”

D. *Judges 16:21:* “But the Philistines took Samson, and cut out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of bronze; and he did grind in the prison house.”

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