



## HIS STORY – HIS PEOPLE “Samson: Man of Faith” Judges 13:1-16:31

No. 3070

Stuart Briscoe

### I. Introduction to the Book of Judges.

- A. Israel, adjusting to the Promised Land, was surrounded by enemies. 2:20f
- B. Called to be God’s special people, but prone to corruption. 2:10f; 13:1
- C. Theocracy included Judges—charismatic, military, judicial, governors. 2:16
- D. Samson, the last of the Judges, is listed as a hero of the faith. Hebrews 11:32

### II. The Formation of Samson—The Man of Faith.

- A. He was created by God. 13:2-3
- B. He was committed to God. 13:4-7
  - 1. The earnest concern of his parents. 13:4, 8
  - 2. The Nazirite vow. Numbers 6:1f
- C. He was commissioned by God—“to begin the deliverance of Israel.” 13:25
  - 1. The difficulties he faced, Philistine invincibility, Israelite indifference.
  - 2. The unique empowering he received, “the Spirit of the Lord.” 13:25
- D. He communed with God. 15:18; 16:28

### III. The Feats of Samson—The Man of Faith.

- A. The marriage in Timnah. 14:1-15:8
  - 1. Its controversial nature. 14:1-3
  - 2. Its underlying purpose. 14:4
  - 3. Its harmless challenge. 14:12f
  - 4. Its violent end. 15:1-8
- B. The jawbone of a donkey. 15:9-19
  - 1. Philistines retaliate.
  - 2. Israelites cooperate.
  - 3. Samson innovates.
- C. The gates of Gaza. 16:1-3 (Symbols of security shattered)
- D. The twenty silent years governing because he had begun to deliver Israel.
- E. The temple of Dagon. 16:21f
  - 1. Humiliation.
  - 2. Restoration.
  - 3. Vindication.

### IV. The Flaws of Samson—The Man of Faith.

- A. His strengths, physical and passionate, were the flip-side of his weaknesses.
- B. He confused divine vengeance with personal vindictiveness.
- C. He traded his spiritual commitment for a sensual experience. 16:17
- D. He allowed feelings of security to lead to acts of stupidity. 16:6f

**Points to Ponder:** There are similarities between the days of the Judges and ours. God is looking for men and women of faith, albeit flawed, to turn the tide.