

Judges 11 – Samson 2 – Judges 14-16

My senior year of college, and I had just upgraded from wind. 3.1 to windows 95 – for those who don't know, to get windows 95 you had to stand in line for hours when it first came out....

One of the things that made win 95 so great was that it was the first time that those of us who were casual users of the computer could connect on to the internet easily...

Let me explain for those of you under 40.....to connect to the internet you had to have a landline phone (explain)

Your computer would connect to your landline through a modem, and it would make this horrible screeching sound

We thought when we connected at 28.8 k we were fast....fwiw – it would take 240 hours to download a 3gig movie

But I remember getting win 95 and connecting to the internet....and we would surf the web....and then I would sit and work on my senior presentation on word perfect....

Ill never forget the fear that came over me when 2 days before my presentation was due all of the letters on my screen just fell off the screen into this little pile at the bottom of the screen. The screen was frozen, I kept trying to hit ctl alt del, but nothing worked.....b/c for the first time my computer had what became known as a virus

Some little tech nerd thought it would be funny to upload programs onto the internet that would infect your computer and cause it to crash.....i firmly believe there is a special place in hades for the guy that caused my computer to crash

This morning we are going to continue with one of my favorite OT people.....Samson.....and as awesome as Samson is...one of the things that come to mind when I think about Samson is that somehow he had a virus loaded into his software....

Samsons virus is not that he doesn't have the strength to save israel, his problem I that he is internally weak....his virus sabotages him....

Do you ever feel like that? You think.....if I could just control myself, if I would have just held my tongue, if I had just shut up, if I had just stayed home,

That is the amazing thing about all of these judges.....as great as they are, they are just like us....flawed....and I think that's why I like Samson so much.....because he is flawed just like us....but God still uses him....and God can still use u

As we look at Samson and the stories of his life....lets begin with the first one....found in Judges 14

-samson goes to his mom and dad and wants to marry the hot philistine chick he found in Timnah. Judges 14:1-3

Get her for me.....for she is right in my eyes.....first thing to know....this is samsons decision and its based on his personal desires.....

Lets look at what happens next....v.4 – it was from the Lord.....what does that mean? What it literally means is....Samson has a virus.....his virus is distorting his vision....instead of doing what was right in Gods eyes....he did what was right in his own....he wanted his way.....and God is going to use the virus inside Samson for Gods glory....

How is God going to do this.....as Samson makes his way to his wedding feast....he stumbles on a lion he had previously killed. and in the carcass of the lion is a bees nest full of honey....so Samson scoops out some honey and takes it with him to his wedding feast..

While there, he makes a bet with a riddle....and challenges the philistines to solve the riddle....v.14
The philistines cannot solve the riddle....so they go to his wife....and have her get the answer....v.18

Read **v. 19** – why is v. 19 important.....because of **v.4**.....God uses samsons virus to accomplish what was being spoken of in v.4

One of the great mysteries of mankind is how God can use our sinfulness to bring about his glory....you don't have to be perfect for God to use you, if God has chosen you he chose you and that's all you have to know....

After this Samsons goes back to his wife....who at this point has been given to his best man.....and when he finds this out he is enraged....

His rage turns to the philistines, he captures 300 foxes (how the heck?). and ties them tail to ail with a torch...the foxes burn all of the grain of the philistines....

And now we have the makings of a bad hip hop movie....read **v.9-17** mic drop

Samsons virus continues to show up in his life time and again.....much like ours....

Never is samsons virus more on display than in his relationship with Delilah in **Judges 16**...we all know the story right....samson falls in love with Delilah....the philistines try to figure out how Samson is so strong....and they use Delilah to do their business...

3 different times Delilah tries to seduce Samson and learn the secret to his strength....then, on the 4thhis virus comes to life.....he tells Delila that the secret to his strength is in his hair....

v.18-20..... I want you to pay special attention to **v. 20**....

When we think about Samson and we ask, what was the source of his strength....we often think it is because of his hair.....but its not...

The source of samsons strength is the same as ours.....our strength comes from the Lord....and in v.20 we see....that the Lord left Samson....

This doesn't mean he lost salvation, he lost God....this is simply another point that shows how utterly dependent upon God we must remain....Samsons enemies capture him.....he loses his strength....and before long his eyes will be gouged out, and he will be put on display by the philistines in one last attempt to humiliate him....

In that time, something begins to happen.....see if you see whats going on....at the lowest point of his life, everything is lost, the man who previously was the strongest man on earth, who captured 300 foxes, killed hundreds of men with just a jawbone of a donkey, killed a lion with his bare hands..... has a virus that has left him being little more than a freak show entertainer

At his lowest point....look what the book of Judges points us to....v.22. which leads us to v.28-30

So what do we do with Samson....lets look at 4 things that we need to remember and apply to our own life...

1. There is not one molecule in the universe that God cannot use for his glory (**Isaiah 43:6-7**)¹
 - a. The story of Samson is a story of God using Samson in spite of himself....

¹ I wil say to the North, give up and to the south do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

- b. God can, will, and does use every situation in the universe to bring us back to him....
- 2. The world needed a better Samson (Luke 4:18)²
 - a. Jesus would become everything that the Jewish people needed in Messiah....
 - b. The greatest enemy the Israelites ever faced prior to Jesus was the Philistines....in the same way Samson defeated the philistines....Jesus will defeat our greatest enemy....sin.
- 3. Don't be like Samson (may be obvious but....here are some things that may not be so obvious about the life of Samson, and each of us probably have a few of these that we need to be careful with....
 - a. He was careless and impulsive – he literally broke every part of his nazirite vow (lion carcass, wedding party drinking, none of those caused him to lose strength....it was only when he forsook every part of the vow that the Lord left him to find repentance....
 - b. He was a loner – there are zero traces of Samson having friends....even his best man took his wife....some of our greatest failures come from trying to do life alone....as believers we need each other
 - c. He was unteachable- he continually fell and never learned from failure....his own mother and father warned him about marrying a philistine
 - d. He was proud – there is no evidence of him ever giving credit/praise to God for victory after victory....he believed he was the source of his victory, and eventually he believed he was the source of his own strength

MUSICIANS

- 4. It is never too late for repentance – I love that the writer of Judges made sure to mention that his hair began to grow back, followed by showing Samson's understanding of God it's a sign that his heart understood what was going on....

Each of contain the same virus Samson had... in us.....maybe our virus looks different.....but we are all pretty messed up.....i want to promise you today that God will take you right where you are and make you new again, there is no distance you can be from God that he can't restore you

² The spirit of the lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind to set at liberty those who are oppressed