

Samson

Who killed a lion and took honey from bees (Judges 14:5-6)? Who killed 300 Philistines warriors (Judges 14:19)? Who broke being in chains and killed 1,000 soldiers with the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 14:14-15)? Who picked up the gates of a city and carried it to the top of a mountain (Judges 16:1-3)? Who put his hands between two pillars and collapsed an entire arena that housed 3,000 Philistines (Judges 16:28-31)?

Samson did these things. Although he is one of the more well-known Bible characters, many vital aspects of his story are often overlooked.

Overlooked facts about Samson:

- He was born during a dark time. He was born during a time of the judges (Judges 21:25). Because of sin, God allowed His people to be oppressed by the Philistines (Judges 13:1).
- His birth was a gift from God. He was born to deliver Israel from their enemies. His purpose was to offer hope to Israel during a time of oppression.
- He was under the Nazirite vow (Numbers 6; Judges 13:2-5). His life was to have a special purpose!
- He was NOT a superhero. He probably looked like an ordinary man. His strength came from God (Judges 13:25; 14:5-6, 19; 15:12-15).
- He had a weakness. It was Philistine women (Judges 14:1-4; 16:1). One, in particular, led to his downfall (Judges 16:4-17). Due to the breaking of his vow, God allowed him to be humbled by his enemies (Judges 16:18-20).

How do we avoid ending up like Samson?

- We need to avoid directing our steps (Jeremiah 10:23; Matthew 7:24-27).
- We need to avoid pride (Proverbs 16:18; Luke 14:11).
- We need to avoid surrendering to our weaknesses.
- We need to avoid fitting in with the crowd (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Conclusion:

Thankfully, Samson repented and turned back to God. Do you need to do the same?

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