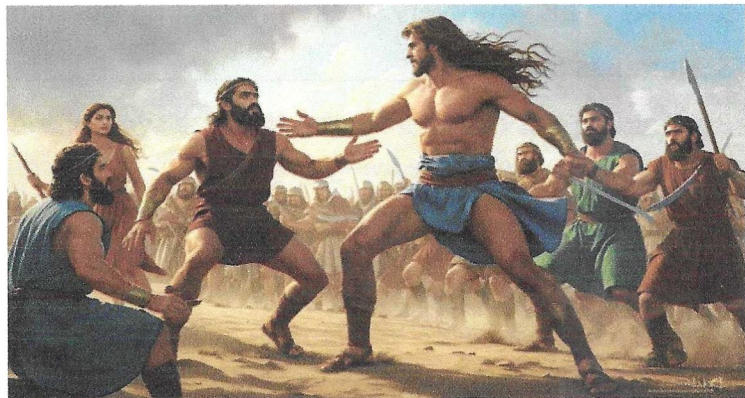


Hebrews 11:32 - continued

KJV	International Children's Bible	English Standard Version
³² And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:	³² Do I need to give more examples? I do not have time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets.	³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—

And of Samson – The writers of Marvel Comics stole from the Bible in Spiderman. Spiderman's father figure, Uncle Ben, tells him, "With great power comes great responsibility." Paraphrase Luke 12:48 _____



What are your thoughts about Satan leading Christians not to study the Bible because of the facts in Luke 12:48? _____

In the picture above, which man represents Samson according to the Biblical text of Judges 13:24-25 - 1) red tunic or 2) loin cloth. Circle your answer.

According to Judges 16:5, 16-17 what/who was the source of Samson's strength? _____
 Samson is a person who didn't grasp this until the very end.

Samson reflects God's people during this time - —a picture of great strengths and deep weaknesses. However, we learn of him before his conception and birth. Let's begin with Judges 13:1-5. It is important that we realize that Israel caused its subjection under the Philistines. Verse 5 is prophetic in the life of Samson, he will "begin" or "take the lead" in delivering Israel from the Philistines. Keep it in mind as we go through his life.

Who does the Angel of the Lord, Jesus, (13:22) come to first? _____

Why was Manoah's wife restricted from consuming wine, strong drink and eating anything unclean according to verse Judges 13:5? _____

From birth Samson was to be dedicated to God from the womb and his entire life. The requirements of a Nazarite vow according to Numbers are:

1. Numbers 6:3-4 _____

By refusing this, the Nazarite declared that God was his source of satisfaction and gladness, not earthly pleasures that were fleeting and lead to acting out of character.

2. Numbers 6:5 _____

This requirement meant the Nazarite couldn't hide his commitment. The appearance testified to his vow every single day, inviting questions and making his devotion public.

3. Numbers 6:6-7 _____

By avoiding this completely, the Nazarite symbolized his commitment to life, holiness, and the presence of the living God.

From these requirements, what other men in the Bible could have been Nazarites?

Back to Judges 13:8-22, we find the faith of Samson's parents, especially his mother. Manoah's wife shows remarkable faith and wisdom when she reassures her terrified husband that God's acceptance of their offering and blessing upon them is proof that He means them good, not harm.

Let's see how well Samson followed his Nazarite vow showing his dedication or consecration to God. The vow specifics are:

1. Don't eat grape products
2. Don't touch dead animals or people
3. Don't cut your hair

Again, I don't like the chapter break before Chapter 14. After reading chapters 13, 14, 15, and 16, it is appropriate to note when the Spirit or God aids Samson. Just look where the God's Spirit is mentioned.

- With the last verse of Chapter 13 ends with verse 24 which tells us the Holy Spirit is stirred in Samson. The very next verse is Judges 14:1-3 tells us how much Samson was being led by the Holy Spirit.
 - Deuteronomy 7:3-4 provides God's opinion of Samson's choice of bride. We choose to live like Christ. The Holy Spirit is not going to force us.
 - Now read verse 4-5 for an explanation. Samson stubbornly refused to obey God's command, and his parents comply to Samson's demand. Yet even though Samson is marrying outside his people and God, God is going to use Samson's

arrogance, foolishness and rebellion for His purpose – to “begin” the end of the Philistines. God knows the deliverance of the Israelites will not end with Samson.

- Check out where Samson is in verse 5. He is near a vineyard. He is getting close to the temptation of the grape. This reminds me of 1 Thessalonians 5:22. We should worry not about the perceptions of others but about the integrity of our own walk with Christ. Clearly, this was not on the mind of Samson.
- Judges 14:6-18 - On his way to court the Philistine woman, the Spirit comes powerfully upon Samson to kill a lion with his bare hands and tears it apart with superhuman strength. This is rather gory. He surely touches something dead.
 - He doesn't tell his parents that he has killed and dismembered the lion. He is ritually unclean as a Nazarite. What should Samson have done? _____

 - He eats honey from the body of the lion carcass and shares it with his unknowing parents verse 9. He made his parents unclean as well.
 - He has a drinking feast with 30 Philistine men which was the Philistine custom. I think it is no stretch to think there was drinking which probably influenced his foolish riddle. Write down Ephesians 5:18 _____

 - Judges 14:12-18 – Next, Samson initiates the riddle with each of the 30 Philistine groomsmen. He challenged them to solve the riddle within seven days, wagering 30 linen garments and 30 sets of clothes. Culturally, riddling was a common form of entertainment and a diplomatic sport, often used to test wit or reveal hidden truths. Samson's new Philistine wife manipulates Samson to divulge the riddle's answer because her Philistine people threaten her.
- Judges 14:19-20 – The Spirit of the Lord came again. He took revenge for the betrayal by killing thirty other Philistines, whose bloody valuable clothes he used to pay off his lost bet. Then, with no desire to go on with the marriage, he returned home. God uses Samson's killing to begin Israel's conflict with the Philistines.
 - 15:1-5 – Samson then decided he would return and take the woman as his wife after all. When he found that she had been given to another, he took revenge on the Philistines by burning their harvest. Again, God is using Samson's actions to antagonize more Philistines.
 - 15:6-8 – The Philistines replied by killing Samson's wife and father-in-law, since they were the cause of the trouble. Samson, in return, killed more Philistines – more touching of the dead. Word is spreading about the conflict with Samson and the Philistines.

- 15:9-13 – Samson moved to a hideout near one of the towns of Judah, bringing his Philistine fight to his people. But the Philistines attacked the town and demanded that the Israelites hand Samson over to them. The Israelites were willing to cooperate, because Samson had brought them enough trouble. God is using Samson's problem to be a problem for all Israelites. Reminding the Israelites and us not to become complacent with Sin. Read Proverbs 1:32, 2 Peter 1:5-8 and Revelation 3:15-16.
- Judges 15:14-17 - Again, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon Samson, and he slaughtered a thousand Philistines. With the jawbone of a donkey, another dead carcass.
 - Although Samson is called a judge, he was neither an administrator nor an army commander. His 'deliverances' consisted of one-man's encounters against the Philistines. Verse 20 says he led Israel twenty years. All we are told about is his moral weakness that did not change.
 - Judges 16:1-3 – His moral weakness concerning women continues and becomes well known. When Samson solicits a prostitute, his Philistine enemies take the opportunity for an ambush. Instead, he rips the city gates out of the ground with his bare hands and escapes.
 - Judges 16:4-14 – The Philistine leaders, on learning of this weakness, worked out a plan to use the woman Delilah to trap him. Delilah's early efforts were unsuccessful, but she did not give up.
 - Judges 16: 15-22 – Samson paid no attention to the self-discipline demanded by his Nazirite vow, except that he never allowed his hair to be cut. But when he told Delilah about his Nazirite vow making the cutting of his hair God's sign of his power, he removed the last symbol of his separation unto God, he was in fact separated from God. The Lord who had given him his strength now left him. His abnormal power was gone, and his enemies soon captured him. God again used Samson's deeds to initiate another victory for Him.
 - Judges 16: 23-27 – In the celebration feast that followed, the Philistines praised their god Dagon and humiliated Samson. Read Galatians 6:7-8. A feast starts the conflict and feast ends it.
- Judges 16:26-31 – But when Samson turned to God at last, God graciously responded. He allowed Samson a return of his former strength, so that he had a greater victory in his death than he ever had in his life. The sudden death of all the leading Philistine rulers was the turning point that gave Israel its first hope for victory with the killing of the 3,000.