

**BOOK OF JUDGES  
THE LIFE OF SAMSON  
PART 1—A WASTED LIFE  
JUDGES 13:1-25**

**Introduction**

As we read and study the book of **JUDGES**, we realize that the nation of **ISRAEL** was caught up in a horrible cycle which we have seen repeated over and over again as we have studied this Book!

In **JUDGES 13** we find that around 250 years have passed since **JOSHUA'S** death. **ISRAEL** once again had turned to doing evil and the **LORD** had delivered them into the hands of the **PHILISTINES** this time.

We find here that an **ANGEL OF THE LORD** appeared to the wife of a man by the name of **MANOAH**, who, up to this time, has been unable to bear **MANOAH** any children. The **ANGEL** told her that she would bear a special child and gave her instructions as to her conduct during her pregnancy and instructions regarding the child himself.

In answer to prayer, the **ANGEL OF THE LORD** appeared one more time to both **MANOAH** and his wife and reiterated the instructions. While the **ANGEL** was with them, they offered a **sacrifice to the LORD** and the **ANGEL** ascended in the flame that went up from off the altar.

Shortly thereafter, the woman conceived and gave birth to a son and named him **SAMSON**.

I think most folks are familiar with **SAMSON'S** life and its tragic end. We will deal with the details of that in later messages.

But let me ask you this: When you hear **SAMSON'S** name, what comes to mind? Some may think of his **long hair, of his strength, or of his heroics**. However, when I think of **SAMSON**, I think of **A WASTED LIFE!**

Unfortunately, I meet many folks who are 'modern day' **SAMSONS**.

Folks with so much potential of being used by **GOD**, but for one reason or another they **HAVE WASTED** or **ARE WASTING THEIR LIVES!**

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I want us to consider **SAMSON**, and look at what led up to his becoming short of what he could have been for **GOD!**

And I hope that in doing so that every one of us here would say, *"I don't want my life to turn out like Samson's."* *"I don't want words like "he wasted it" or "she wasted it" to be written over my life story!"* Of course, that is why the **LORD** gave us the story of **SAMSON**; that we might learn and avoid repeating the same mistakes.

This is not just a Bible story to be read before bedtime or illustrated in a children's class. This is a part of the powerful, life-changing, **WORD OF GOD!** In these chapters, the **LORD** has given us some clear, specific principles to help us avoid ending up like **SAMSON**.

**I. SAMSON WASTED HIS LIFE BECAUSE HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE TIMES!  
These were some serious times because of all that had happened from after the death of JOSHUA up to this time!**

1. **SAMSON** should have known that.
2. He should have considered what had taken place for the last 250 years of the history of the nation of **ISRAEL**.
3. It should have changed the way he lived his life.
4. Because of the seriousness of the times, **SAMSON** should not have wasted a minute of the time that **GOD** had given him.
5. And listen to me, neither should we!  
I'll come back to this in a little while!

*SAMSON WASTED HIS LIFE BECAUSE HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE TIMES.*

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**II. SAMSON WASTED HIS LIFE BECAUSE HE FAILED TO BENEFIT FROM THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE GOD PLACED AROUND HIM.**

It was SAMSON'S PARENTS who were the SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE GOD placed around him!

**A. His Parents Were Submissive To The Will Of GOD!**  
*(Vs 12)*

**B. His Parents Were People Of Prayer!** *(Vs 8)*

**C. His Parents Were Teachable!** *(Vs 8)*

**D. His Parents Were Respectful!** *(Vs 15-16)*  
MANOAH didn't realize this man was the ANGEL OF THE LORD, but he knew GOD had sent HIM!

He wanted to honor HIM and minister to HIS needs.  
Their behavior toward this stranger speaks of their character.

**E. His Parents Were People Of Faith!** *(Vs 19)*

**F. His Parents Were People Of Humility!** *(Vs 20)*

**G. Let me ask this: Who has GOD placed around you to be a benefit to you SPIRITUALLY? Think about it!**  
Are you paying attention and learning as you should ?  
Or are you wasting your opportunities?  
We'll expand on this thought in a minute!

*SAMSON WASTED HIS LIFE...BECAUSE HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE TIMES...BECAUSE HE FAILED TO BENEFIT FROM THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE GOD PLACED AROUND HIM.*

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**III. SAMSON WASTED HIS LIFE BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LET THE HOLY SPIRIT ACCOMPLISH HIS DIVINE WORK!**

**A. The ministry of the HOLY SPIRIT in the OLD TESTAMENT was somewhat different than HIS MINISTRY to BELIEVERS after the DEATH, BURIAL, and RESURRECTION of CHRIST.**

1. In the OLD TESTAMENT, the HOLY SPIRIT came upon people to empower them for specific tasks.
2. SAMSON'S unusual GIFTS and ABILITIES were a direct result of the BLESSING of the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD in his life.
3. And SAMSON knew that! (At least intellectually.)
  - a. He knew the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD had set him apart for a DIVINE work. (He was separated from the point of conception under a NAZARITE VOW.)
  - b. He knew the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD had a work for him to do, both in the nation of ISRAEL and in the surrounding pagan nations.
  - c. But instead of CO-OPERATING with the SPIRIT OF GOD, SAMSON GRIEVED the SPIRIT OF GOD!
  - d. Instead of accomplishing GOD'S PURPOSES with GOD'S GIFTS, SAMSON tried to accomplish his own PURPOSES with GOD'S GIFTS!

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4. In the final scene of SAMSON’S life, we find him blinded, bound, and brought before the PHILISTINES as they are having a drunken feast, offering a great sacrifice unto their god, DAGON, saying, "Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand."
5. We look at him and we can’t help but think, "What a TERRIBLE WASTE of the GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD."

**B. But let me ask this? Are we guilty of hindering the work of the HOLY SPIRIT in our lives?**

I’ll come back to this in a minute.

**Conclusion**

So, let’s summarize: We’ve seen how that. . . SAMSON Wasted His Life Because He Didn't Recognize The Seriousness of the Times!

**How about us? Are we recognizing the seriousness of the times we live in?**

*Romans 13:11-14—“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”*

We’ve also seen how that. . .SAMSON Wasted His Life Because He Didn't BENEFIT From The SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE That GOD Placed Around Him!

**How about us? Are we maximizing the BENEFIT from the SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE that GOD has placed around us?**

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Think about the SPIRITUAL INFLUENCES GOD has placed around us.

**It Might Be Our Parents.**

*Ephesians 6:1-3—“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”*

**It Might Be Fellow Believers.**

*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 —“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”*

**It Might Be Men of God We’ve Had The Opportunity To Be Under.**

*Ephesians 4:11-12—“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”*

*Hebrews 13:17—“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*

And lastly, we’ve seen how that. . .SAMSON Wasted His Life Because He Didn't Let The HOLY SPIRIT Accomplish HIS DIVINE Work In His Life.

**So, how about us? We who are SAVED are SEALED by the SPIRIT OF GOD, but we can still GRIEVE HIM!**

Are we letting the HOLY SPIRIT accomplish HIS DIVINE WORK in our lives or are we GRIEVING HIM?

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We are also **INDWELT** by the **SPIRIT OF GOD**, but we can **RESIST HIS DIRECTION** and **HIS MOVING** in our lives. Are we **WALKING** in the **FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT** or are we **RESISTING** what the **HOLY SPIRIT** wants to do in our lives because we'd rather do what we want?

What would **GOD** say about our **DAILY WALK**? Is it **IN THE SPIRIT** or in the flesh?

*Galatians 5:16—“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*

*Galatians 5:25—“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

We are also **GIFTED** by the **HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD**, but we can waste those **GIFTS** by not using them for **GOD'S GLORY**. Are we making the most out of what the **HOLY SPIRIT** has given us or are we **WASTING HIS GIFTS**?