

The story of Samson *Judges 13-16*

His early life.

His mother had been barren but the place of ‘deadness’ is often a starting place for God. Samson’s name meant ‘ray of light in the darkness’. He was a Nazirite – separated to God as a prince. His strength came from the Spirit of God – first he slays a lion (14v6), then 30 men (14v19), then 1000 men (15v15).

In God, in spite of difficulty, we progress, going from glory to glory. The best is still to come both personally and corporately.

His fall.

The name Delilah means to dry up or empty. Her mission was to discover the secret of his strength (16v5). His strength came from his separation, separation from sin. There is no one to be pitied more than a Christian with a foot in both camps with a lukewarm heart neither hot nor cold. We should be separated to God in our hearts not full of compromise.

Samson knew Delilah’s agenda and yet still went along with her. We too can ‘try out’ things we know will destroy us because our strength can tempt us to complacency. Persistent goading can lead to collapse.

His restoration.

All seems to be defeated (16v21). But a young man leads Samson out of prison to the central pillars of Dagon’s temple, the mainstay of evil. Our God is a God of restoration from failure and wrongdoing. Samson was willing to die to bring down evil and was most effective at the end of his life. The church is getting ready for Jesus’ return. God’s grand finale will be glorious. The best is still to come.