

Falling from Faithfulness: The Book of Judges

Samson and the Philistines

Judges 15 ESV

Characterization of Samson: 15:1-8

Several characteristics exposed:

Naïve

Impulsive

Self-centered

- Block: "Samson's actions are all guerrilla tactics. All his achievements are personal, all provoked by his own [mis]behavior. Unlike the other deliverers, he never seeks to rid Israel of foreign oppressors, and he never calls out the Israelite troops. Samson is a man with a higher calling than any other deliverer in the book, but he spends his whole life "doing his own thing."
- **Deuteronomy 32:34-36 ESV**
- **Romans 12:19 ESV**

Our Self-centeredness

- **Philippians 2:3-4 ESV**
- **James 3:13-18 ESV**

Characterization of Israel: 15:9-13

Apathy

- v11: Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?
- Early in Judges: **Judges 1:1-8 ESV**

Fear

- v12: We have come down to bind you, that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines.
- **Joshua 1:1-9 ESV**

Our Fear and Apathy

- Cultural "Crisis": same-sex marriage, religious freedom, gender issues, euthanasia, abortion

Fear's Response: Alarmism

- Our mission: **Matthew 28:19 ESV** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ...

Apathy's Response: Disengage

- Dever: "For the sake of love and justice, we should make use of our democratic stewardship."

Characterization of Yahweh: 15:14-20

- v14-15: Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men.
- v19: And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived.

Unmerited Favour

Main Idea: God graciously uses undeserving people to help him graciously save undeserving people. Therefore, we should ...

Don't Call It A Comeback

- **Romans 10:1, 12-15 ESV**

Continuity of the New Covenant to the Old Covenant

- Basis is the same (the grace of God)
- Purpose is the same (cf. 1 Pet. 2: 9– 10)
- Initiated by blood (Heb. 9: 6– 10: 18)
- Character of divine instruction is the same (Rom. 13: 8; Gal. 5: 14)

Discontinuity of the New Covenant to the Old Covenant

- Better mediator (without sin) (Heb. 8: 6; 9: 15; 12: 24)
- Better sacrifice (Heb. 9: 6– 10: 18; Isa. 42: 6; 52: 13– 53: 12)
- Better provision (the Spirit of God; Ezek. 36: 24– 28)
- Better promise (impartation of a new heart) (Ezek. 36: 24– 28)

(Gentry, Peter J.; Wellum, Stephen J.. *God's Kingdom through God's Covenants: A Concise Biblical Theology*)