

Rebellion, Ruin and Rescue  
**JUDGES**



The  
 Samson Cycle  
 (Judges 13-16)

<sup>24</sup> Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the LORD blessed him.

<sup>25</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

(Judges 13:24-25)



The  
 Samson Cycle

13:1-25: Birth/Calling

14:1 -15:20: Wife at Timnah

16:1-31: Climax at Gaza

Samson (pt. 2): Unrecognizable Beginnings  
**Judges 14:1-20**

Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, *one* of the daughters of the Philistines.

<sup>2</sup> So he came back and told his father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, *one* of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."

<sup>3</sup> Then his father and his mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes."

<sup>4</sup> However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.

(Judges 14:1-4)

## Samson (pt. 2)

### A. Introduction

#### ➤ How NOT to read the Samson story

- a tragic tale of a man who, although called and prepared by God, because of his self-centered passion, abandoned God's calling and wasted and ruined his life
- the lesson – *don't be like Samson!*

## Samson (pt. 2)

### A. Introduction

#### ➤ "it was of Yahweh" (interpretive key)

- the actions of Samson were orchestrated by the Lord for the purpose of beginning Israel's deliverance from the Philistines
- Samson, through his self-centered, impulsive behavior, is the Lord's anointed deliverer... though mostly unaware

## Samson (pt. 2)

### B. The Wedding at Timnah

#### 1. The lion and the honey

- the Spirit of Yahweh infused Samson with superhuman strength
- the sweetness of honey enticed Samson to disregard his Nazirite vow

## Samson (pt. 2)

### B. The Wedding at Timnah

#### 2. The riddle and the wife

- Samson's seemingly innocent riddle becomes the occasion for hostility with the Philistines
- Samson's weakness before a woman is a precursor of things to come

## Samson (pt. 2)

### B. The Wedding at Timnah

#### 3. The rage and the Spirit

- while Samson is enraged, it is the Spirit of Yahweh who dictates the outcome
- this is the beginning of the Lord's deliverance of Israel from the Philistines

## Samson (pt. 2)

### Unrecognizable Beginnings...

- marvel at God's sovereign control in bringing to pass His purposes
- wonder at God's peculiar and unexpected means of providing deliverance
- do not despise the day of small beginnings