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*Bible Doctrine Presented in Q&A Format*

# SAMSON: THE MAN OF INCREDIBLE STRENGTH

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# INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

1) This material is designed for one session or six sessions.

2) The SET OF COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS is designed for one session.

3) You can stretch the lesson into six sessions with the other sets of questions.

4) It is recommended that the teacher is well prepared before class.

5) It is recommended that the students come to class with their answers written out.

6) Answers can be written on the back of the questions page.

7) The teacher can choose a select number of questions or all of them.

# Set of Comprehensive Questions (Judges 13-16)

1. Why was it necessary for a messenger to be sent to Samson's parents? (13:3-5)	21. Should Samson have had counsel at some point in the story?
2. According to the angel of God, what was the main purpose to raise up Samson? (13:5)	22. Why was Samson a one-man show? Could Samson as judge have mobilized an army?
3. Was Samson set apart from the other judges of Israel?	23. Did Samson ever brag about his strength?
4. Had they seen God as Manoah had suspected? (13:21-22)	24. Did Samson lose his first wife due to cross-cultural concerns or mismanagement?
5. Was this a theophany, a christophany and meeting with an angel?	25. Was it recorded where Samson and John the Baptist received counsel?
6. Which characters in the Bible got an announcement? <sup>A1</sup>	26. What is the tendency of man after a great victory?
7. Did God plan to use Samson despite his sin or because of it?	27. After his victory, how did his intense thirst remind him he needed God? (15:18-19)
8. What is better, to witness God turn sin into good or to witness God bless obedience?	28. Were Samson's strengths as great as his weaknesses?
9. Should Samson's parents' have had reservations about his Philistine girlfriend? (14:3)	29. Could Samson have worked on his weaknesses? Did he work on his weaknesses?
10. Were the Philistines one of the nations in Deut 7:1 with whom Israel could not marry?	30. Was Samson allowed to go to see a prostitute? (See Judges 16:1 and Leviticus 19:29.)
11. What are the key verses for Jews when marrying a Gentile? <sup>A2</sup>	31. Was Samson supposed to hook up with Delilah? What specifically was the mistake?
12. Did God give Samson an eye for Philistine women? What was the purpose? (14:4)	32. How should Samson have handled his answers? What were Samson's lies?
13. Does an outpouring of the Holy Spirit indicate maturity or godliness?	33. Was Samson responsible to win his Philistine women over to Judaism?
14. Did Samson's strength also involve intelligence?	34. Did Samson break his Nazarite vow by telling Delilah about the source of his strength?
15. Why do you think Samson did not say where the honey came from? (Num 6:6)	35. Can an ungodly relationship ruin your outlook on life or your value system?
16. Did Samson ever complain for having to be a Nazarite his entire life?	36. Why was Samson spiritually weak? Was the issue at surface or at the root level?
17. How should a believer manage an intelligent mind?	37. Can preparing an answer in a sticky situation help you from lying?
18. Had Samson not broken his Nazarite vow, would he have lost his new bride? <sup>A3</sup>	38. Did God approve of his final feat?
19. What is the meaning that referred to the plowing with Samson's heifer? (14:18)	39. Was Samson's death a suicide, murder-suicide or a sacrifice?
20. Did and should Samson have acted out of personal vengeance? <sup>A4</sup>	40. Which three names of God were employed in his final feat? (16:28)

<sup>A1</sup>The characters were Jesus, Isaac, John the Baptist and Samson. See Gen 17:19, Luke 1:31, Luke 1:13, and Judges 13:3. <sup>A4</sup>See Judges 15:3, 16:28 and Romans 12:19.

<sup>A2</sup>See Deut 7:1, Ruth 1:4, 13,16, and Ruth 4:22.

<sup>A3</sup>See Numbers 6:6, Judges 14:8-9 and Judges 14:14, 20.

# 1. Introduction and Birth of Samson (Judges 13:1-23)

1. Why were the Philistines ruling over the Israelites? (13:1) Do we know what they did?	21. How can you discern whether an angel is of God? (Luke 1:18-20; I John 4:1)
2. What was Samson's father's name and tribe? (13:2) Which tribe is not in Rev 7:5-8?	22. Why do you think that Gabriel met with Zachariah rather than with Elizabeth?
3. What is the significance of Samson's mother being barren? <sup>B1</sup>	23. What births in the Bible were announced? <sup>B2</sup>
4. Why was it necessary for a messenger to be sent to Samson's parents? (13:3-5)	24. What is the significance of an announcement of a birth in the Bible?
5. According to the angel of God, what was the main purpose to raise up Samson? (13:5)	25. Which characters in the Bible got an announcement? <sup>B3</sup> Were there unique aspects?
6. Did the angel say that Samson would fully deliver Israel from the Philistines? (13:5)	26. Of the four cases presented, which one did not include the element of barrenness?
7. What was the significance of Samson as a Nazirite to be a judge of Israel?	27. What is the significance of Mary not being barren?
8. Was Samson set apart from the other judges of Israel?	28. Is an announcement of a birth always given by an angel?
9. What were the main guidelines of a Nazirite? (See Numbers 6:3, 5, 6.)	29. Does the text clearly state that the angel dictated Samson's name?
10. Why did the angel speak to the wife rather than to Manoah? (Luke 1:13-17, 26-31.)	30. How do David and Samson contrast one another?
11. Could the angel have met up with the woman when Manoah was with her?	31. Was Samson's strength natural or supernatural?
12. Why did Manoah want to talk with the angel again? (13:8)	32. Did God plan to use Samson despite his sin or because of it?
13. Should we be obsessed with angels?	33. Had Samson not be so morally weak, would God have used him more or longer?
14. Do angels visit earth today as they did in the days of the Old Testament?	34. What is the call of man? (Ecc 12:13-14; Rev 14:12) What calls did Samson have? 13:5
15. Was it forbidden for angels to eat man-made food? (See Gen 18:1-2, 8 & Psa 78:25.)	35. Did Samson fail with regards to his two calls in life? (13:5)
16. Between the two (Samson's parents), who appeared to be wiser? (13:21-23)	36. Was the angel as clear with Manoah as he was with Manoah's wife? (13:5, 13:14)
17. Had they seen God as Manoah had suspected? (13:21-22)	37. During round two, with whom did the angel meet? (13:9) Why?
18. Was this a theophany, a christophany and meeting with an angel?	38. Can God cause the evil of men to praise him? (Psalm 76:10)
19. How could Manoah and his wife know that the angel was of God? (13:3, 16, 23)	39. What is better, to witness God turn sin into good or to witness God bless obedience?
20. How did Manoah's wife reason through Manoah's doubts? (13:23)	40. What was one difference between Samson's call to deliver Israel and the other judges?

<sup>B1</sup>See Gen 11:30, Gen 25:21, Gen 29:31, and Gen 30:22. <sup>B3</sup>The characters were Jesus, Isaac, John the Baptist and Samson. See Gen 17:19, Luke 1:31, Luke 1:13, and Judges 13:3.

<sup>B2</sup>See Gen 18:10, Luke 1:11-20 and Luke 1:30-31.

# 2. Samson's Youth (Judges 13:24-14:10)

1. Should Samson's parents' have had reservations about his Philistine girlfriend? (14:3)	21. Did Samson's strength also involve intelligence?
2. Was this love at first sight? Is love at first sight ever approved of by God?	22. Since Samson did not brag about killing the lion, is this a victory for him?
3. Were the Philistines one of the nations in Deut 7:1 with whom Israel could not marry?	23. Why did Samson not tell his parents that he killed the lion? (14:6)
4. Was the Philistine supposed to take on Judaism before the marriage? (Ruth 1:4, 16)	24. How come Samson did not employ his bragging rights after slaying the lion?
5. What are the key verses for Jews when marrying a Gentile? <sup>C1</sup>	25. What is the significance of honey and a carcass? Do bees like carcasses?
6. Did or how did the Lord approve of Samson pursuing a Philistine woman? <sup>C2</sup>	26. Was it lawful for Israelites to eat things that had died of itself?
7. Did God give Samson an eye for Philistine women? What was the purpose? (14:4)	27. Had the lion turned into a skeleton, or was it still a carcass?
8. Did the Numbers 36:6 verse pertain to Israelites marrying into Israel? Yes.	28. Did Samson break his Nazarite vow by eating honey from the lion? (See Num 6:6-7.)
9. Which nations was Israel expressly commanded not to marry into? (See Deut 7:1-3.)	29. Why do you think Samson did not say where the honey came from? (Num 6:6)
10. Did Bathsheba sin in marrying a Hittite? (Deut 7:2; 2 Sam 11:3)	30. What was the main character trait for Nazarites, leadership or a vow of consecration?
11. In the days of the Old Testament, could you put all Gentiles in the same corner?	31. How do we know that Samson was a real figure in Israel's history? (Heb 11:32)
12. What Gentile-Jewish marriages did God allegedly approve of? <sup>C3</sup>	32. Did Samson ever complain for having to be a Nazarite his entire life?
13. How can you teach Numbers 31:18 in the context of Judges 14:4? <sup>C4</sup>	33. At what point, do you think, was Samson made aware of his strength?
14. Could Jews marry girls from the nations in Deut 7 who were taken captive from war? <sup>C5</sup>	34. Can a Christian marry a non-Christian in hopes of the person coming to Christ?
15. When did the sign of Samson's strength begin to manifest itself? (14:6)	35. Can a believer marry an unbeliever on the basis of past success stories in this regard?
16. Does an outpouring of the Holy Spirit indicate maturity or godliness?	36. What should a believer do if they fall in love with an unbeliever?
17. What does an outpouring of the Holy Spirit enable?	37. Is God opposed to cross-cultural marriages? (Deut 7:1-4, Ruth 1:16; 4:13.)
18. When slaying the lion, did Samson act on impulse or for another reason? (14:6)	38. Can a Christian date or marry a non-Christian? (See 2 Co 6:14.)
19. Was Samson was toying with sin when he was near the vineyards of Timnah? <sup>C6</sup>	39. What are some practical reasons to not marry an unbeliever?
20. Did Samson's strength reflect sheer muscle power or was there more to it? (14:6)	40. Did Jesus ever say anything about Samson's life and work?

<sup>C1-2</sup>See Deut 7:1, Ruth 1:4, 13,16, and Ruth 4:22.

<sup>C4</sup>See Numbers 31:2 and Deuteronomy 7:1. <sup>C5</sup>See Numbers 31:2, 18 and Deut 7:2-4. <sup>C6</sup>See Judges 14:5 and Num 6:3-4.

<sup>C3</sup>Moses and the Cushite (Num 12:1), Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 4:13), and David and Maacah daughter of Talmi king of Geshur (2 Sam 3:3).

# 3. Samson's Riddle (Judges 14:11-20)

1. Does this section of Samson's story exhibit that his gift also included intelligence?	21. After she complained about not knowing the answer, what should have been done?
2. How should a believer manage an intelligent mind?	22. Should he have known she would give the answer to the riddle to the Philistines?
3. What do you think was Samson's motive in giving a riddle to the Philistines?	23. What or who was Samson angry at? (14:19)
4. Had Samson not broken his Nazarite vow, would he have lost his new bride? <sup>D1</sup>	24. Can you say Samson was gifted at managing relationships and people?
5. Had Samson not broken his Nazarite vow, would he have come up with another riddle?	25. Why was Samson a one-man show? Could Samson as judge have mobilized an army?
6. What do Exo 34:11, 16 and Deut 7:1-3 mean in light of Samson's choice of a wife? <sup>D2</sup>	26. Is it worth it in the long-run to manipulate a relationship to get what you?
7. What weakness in Samson's life was manifested when he gave the riddle? (14:17, 19)	27. Can an ungodly relationship ruin your outlook on life or your value system?
8. What is the meaning that referred to the plowing with Samson's heifer? (14:18)	28. Did Samson's father in law respond appropriately by giving his bride to another?
9. Was Samson righteous in killing thirty Philistine men for thirty sets of clothing? (14:19)	29. Did Samson's relationships get tangled up due to cross-cultural issues, in-laws or sin?
10. Did Samson steal the thirty sets of clothing? (14:19)	30. Were Samson's one-man show and lack of ability to manage relationships related?
11. Did Samson ever abuse his gift of strength?	31. What are the challenges in scripture that mostly employ the narrative genre?
12. Did and should Samson have acted out of personal vengeance? <sup>D3</sup>	32. Of the 20 verses, how many verses serve as an inspired commentary? (14:4, 6, 19)
13. Can and does God work through sin? (Matt 1:6)	33. Do any of these truths written thousands of years ago apply today?
14. Was God's purpose in raising up Samson to work through sin?	34. Are there any truths in this section that contradict other doctrines in the Bible?
15. Did he deliver both the thirty linen garments and changes of cloths as agreed upon? <sup>D4</sup>	35. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?
16. Should Samson have gone back to Israel without saying what he was thinking?	36. Can you discuss the plot of this section in light of causes and effects?
17. How should he have responded after the Philistines said the answer to the riddle?	37. What can we learn about the nature of man in this passage?
18. How did Samson's new bride link the riddle up to their marriage?	38. Do you think that his enormous strength blocked any counsel?
19. Which people was Samson's wife inclined to? Did she have any regard for the Jews?	39. What weaknesses on Samson's side surface as this passage developed? (14:16-17, 19)
20. Should Samson have had counsel at some point in the story?	40. What does God's past work indicate about his future work?

<sup>D1</sup>See Numbers 6:6, Judges 14:8-9 and Judges 14:14, 20.

<sup>D2</sup>See Judges 14:4 and Ruth 1:16.

<sup>D3</sup>See Judges 15:3, 16:28 and Romans 12:19.

<sup>D4</sup>See Judges 14:12-13 and Judges 14:19.

# 4. Samson Defeats the Philistines (Judges 15:1-20)

1. Did Samson lose his first wife due to cross-cultural concerns or mismanagement?	21. What kept the Holy Spirit upon Samson even when his actions were questionable?
2. In claiming innocency, how was Samson actually implicating himself? (14:19; 15:3)	22. Did Samson know he would break free from the new ropes?
3. How difficult would it be to catch 300 foxes or jackals and tie their tails together? <sup>E1</sup>	23. Is there a reason the jawbone of a donkey did not break? (15:15)
4. How did the Philistines punish Samson for his actions with the foxes? (15:6)	24. What do the names Ramath-lehi (15:17) and En-hakkore (15:19) mean?
5. Did and should Samson have acted out of personal vengeance? <sup>E2</sup>	25. Why do you think Samson did not keep the donkey's jawbone as a souvenir? (15:17)
6. Did Samson ever brag about his strength?	26. Why do you think Samson's strength remained with him, even when he was sinning?
7. What is the tendency of man after a great victory?	27. How did Samson's one-man show make it look like he was committing murder?
8. Can having 300 foxes burn someone's crops be construed as a mature response?	28. How do you break the cycle of sin, bondage, repentance, deliverance and blessing?
9. Could the in-laws have known there were going to be repercussions that effected them?	29. How long did Samson judge Israel? (15:20) Were there others feats that he did?
10. Could the 3000 men from Judah have killed Samson? (15:11-13)	30. Were Samson's strengths as great as his weaknesses?
11. Can the actions of the 3000 men from Judah be construed as betrayal? (15:11-13)	31. Could a bunch of Samson's makeup a stable, faithful society serving the Lord? Why?
12. Was it recorded where Samson and John the Baptist received counsel?	32. With regards to Samson's weaknesses, what can his life teach us?
13. Did Samson have any counselors in his adult life?	33. Could Samson have worked on his weaknesses? Did he work on his weaknesses?
14. Was it right for Samson to be without a formal accountability system?	34. Do any of these truths written thousands of years ago apply today?
15. Should Samson have set up an accountability system?	35. Are there any truths in this chapter that contradict other doctrines in the Bible?
16. What is the temptation when you have an incredible amount of strength?	36. What are the differences between inherent weaknesses and moral weaknesses?
17. Would killing the 1000 men be construed as murder? (15:15-16)	37. Could a man strength train to the extent that he had the strength of Samson?
18. Was there a purpose to allow Samson get incredibly thirsty? (15:18-19)	38. Do you think that Samson looked strong?
19. After his victory, how did his intense thirst remind him he needed God? (15:18-19)	39. How was Samson's strength dependent on God?
20. Did the Spirit of the Lord rush upon Samson only when strength was needed? (15:14)	40. Have you thought up any ways he could have handled the situations better?

<sup>E1</sup> שונעל is a fox or maybe a jackal. Jackals are far easier to catch than foxes (Guzik).

<sup>E2</sup>See Judges 15:3, 16:28 and Romans 12:19.

# 5. Samson and Delilah (Judges 16:1-22)

1. Was Samson allowed to go to see a prostitute? (See Judges 16:1 and Leviticus 19:29.)	21. Did Samson break his Nazarite vow by telling Delilah about the source of his strength?
2. Why did the Spirit of the Lord not leave Samson after he visited the brothel?	22. What was Samson thinking when he was lying to Delilah?
3. In the process of using his strength, did he glorify God or show off? (16:3; Deut 8:17)	23. Can an ungodly relationship ruin your outlook on life or your value system?
4. What was the distance between Gaza and Hebron? (16:3)	24. Did Samson sin by giving into Delilah?
5. Was Samson supposed to hook up with Delilah? What specifically was the mistake?	25. Should Samson have known that Delilah had evil intentions?
6. Does a Christian have the right to marry any other Christian?	26. Was there anything magic about long hair?
7. Are there some potential "Christians" partners that should actually be off limits?	27. After Delilah cut Samson's hair, why did Samson not know his strength had left him?
8. Did the Philistines have a right to "humble" him? (16:5) Did he need to be humbled?	28. Why do you think the Philistines lacked the wisdom to keep Samson's hair cut?
9. Did Delilah prove that she was actually trying to defeat Samson? (16:13-14)	29. Are there any truths in this chapter that contradict other doctrines in the Bible?
10. When do you think Samson knew where the source of his strength was? (16:17)	30. Is being constantly pestered an appropriate motive to lie?
11. Was this the first time the Spirit of the Lord left Samson? (14:6; 15:14; 16:20)	31. How did Samson's spiritual weakness cause physical weakness? (16:20)
12. What was Samson's motive to let out blatant lies? Was this allowed?	32. Why was Samson spiritually weak? Was the issue at surface or at the root level?
13. Was Samson to be blamed for capitulating and giving out his secret?	33. Even with Samson being spiritually weak, why did he have tremendous strength?
14. What should Samson have done in response to Delilah's constant pestering?	34. Was it God's will for Samson to lose his strength?
15. Besides giving in to Delilah's demands, what was Samson's core problem?	35. Did God use Delilah to take Samson's strength away? If so, for what purpose?
16. After his secret was out, why did he still think he had his original strength?	36. Was Samson's strength dependent on his obedience? (Numbers 6:5; Judges 16:17)
17. Should Samson have told Delilah the truth? Do you think God sent Delilah?	37. Can you say that Samson's spiritual blindness caused his physical blindness? (16:21)
18. How should Samson have handled his answers? What were Samson's lies?	38. After getting his eyes gouged out, do you think Samson lost the will to live?
19. How much of the issue was Samson's fault, and how much was it Delilah's fault?	39. Has a prior, poor decision in life ever put you in a place to lie? Who was at fault?
20. Was Samson responsible to win his Philistine women over to Judaism?	40. Can preparing an answer in a sticky situation help you from lying?



# 6. The Death of Samson (Judges 16:23-31)

1. Was Samson's salvation linked up with the length of his hair?	21. How did Samson enjoy being a macho man praise the Lord?
2. In Samson's final feat, did the Spirit rush upon him as in other cases? (16:3, 28-30)	22. How was Samson employing the main principles in place in Israel in that day? <sup>G3</sup>
3. If it was not the Spirit who rushed upon him, where did he get his strength?	23. Discuss the difference between Samson, the one-man show, and others like David?
4. Did God approve of his final feat?	24. Is Samson's story an example of God working in mysterious ways?
5. How did ascribing Samson's capture to Dagon touch on the big challenge in life? <sup>G1</sup>	25. Was Samson loyal? If so, to whom? To himself? To Israel? To his God?
6. Even though the Muslims cannot overcome Israel, why don't they acknowledge failure?	26. Can you say that Samson loved the Lord with all his heart, mind and strength?
7. Why do Muslims use violence rather than trusting in their god to destroy Israel?	27. Can you say that Samson kept the commandments? Did he die in a faithful state?
8. Why did they still believe in Dagon when they only had one victory against Samson? <sup>G2</sup>	28. Can you name some good decisions that Samson made? (14:6; 15:18; 16:17, 28)
9. After Samson's final feat, do you think there were Philistines who became Jews?	29. In the story of Samson, how did God work through sin to further his kingdom?
10. Were they asking for it when they asked for Samson to be brought out? (16:25)	30. In his final feat, how did Samson exhibit devotion to God? <sup>G4</sup>
11. Had Samson still had his eyes, do you think he would have died in that final feat?	31. Does the Bible hold Samson up as a hero? If so, in what manner? (Heb 11:32-34)
12. Was Samson's death a suicide, murder-suicide or a sacrifice?	32. Do you think losing the will to live played a role in Samson's death? (16:28-30)
13. In light of this story, what changes should you make in your life?	33. If Samson's death is a suicide, can it be construed as the same type as Saul's suicide?
14. What can we learn about the nature of man in this story?	34. Which three names of God were employed in his final feat? (16:28)
15. What are some similarities and differences between Samson and the other judges?	35. Did Samson execute any other feats not recorded in Judges? (16:31)
16. What are some unique aspects regarding Samson as a judge of Israel?	36. Did Samson accomplish his calling in beginning to free Israel from the Philistines? <sup>G5</sup>
17. Could the apostles have lived morally as Samson did and still established churches?	37. Should Samson be judged by the values in that day or by the principles in the NT?
18. Why do you think Samson's story is mostly narrative, lacking biblical commentary?	38. Are there any truths in this story that seem to contradict other doctrines in the Bible?
19. Do you think Samson's enormous strength negatively influenced his values in life?	39. How would a secular author tell Samson's story?
20. Can you name one decision Samson made as a good, law-abiding citizen?	40. How did the record of Samson's failures prove it was God who was telling the story?

<sup>G1</sup>See Proverbs 22:6. Dagon is not to be perceived as a real. The society you are raised in has a big influence on you. <sup>G4</sup>See Judges 16:28. <sup>G5</sup>See Judges 13:5 and 16:30.

<sup>G2</sup>See Judges 16:23-24, Proverbs 21:2 and Proverbs 22:6. <sup>G3</sup>See Judges 17:6 and Judges 21:25.

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