

**I. An Encouraging Beginning For Samson's Life (13:24-25)**

- A. Prophetic destiny was attached to Samson (24a) – “And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson.”
- B. The touch of God began to characterize Samson (24b) – “And the young man grew, and the Lord blessed him.”
- C. The power from God began to arise in Samson (25) – “And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.”

*These earliest descriptions of Samson's life give us no indications of just how much he would struggle in his flesh. His prophetic destiny was noted. God's blessing on Samson's life was evident at a young age. He was privileged to be stirred by the Holy Spirit. By these words, we would believe that Samson might become the greatest of all Israel's judges. He began life very well. Yet the next few verses begin to reveal that Samson has some problems.*

**II. An Immediate Concern For Samson's Heart (14:1-4)**

- A. We see danger for Samson (1) – “Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw one of the daughters of the Philistines.”

*The bible paints the picture of Samson becoming a man of fleshly appetites. He encountered much trouble in his life due to his unbridled pursuit of women he was attracted to.*

- B. We witness rebellion in Samson (2-3) – “Then he came up and told his father and mother, “I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines at Timnah. Now get her for me as my wife.”<sup>3</sup> But his father and mother said to him, “Is there not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you must 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.”

*So strong was his desire for this woman that Samson would dishonor his parents by refusing their counsel. He demanded that his parents obey him, thus reversing the design which God has for the family. His parents offered sound counsel but Samson was driven by the lust of his eyes toward this woman.*

- C. We acknowledge sovereignty over Samson (4) – “His father and mother did not know that it was from the Lord, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines. At that time the Philistines ruled over Israel.”

*What an amazing statement we have here. God used Samson's own carnality to fulfil His plans. As Samson's story continues, we will discover that God was going to judge the Philistines through Samson. God was going to allow Samson's sinful desire for the woman to be the very means by which Samson presents himself into the national life of the Philistines.*

### **III. A Noteworthy Lesson From Samson's Life (5-6)**

- A. Trouble finds Samson (5) – “Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah, and they came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring.”
- B. God remains faithful to Samson (6a) – “Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat.”

*God did not abandon Samson, even while he was living in compromise. He gave Samson power that was supernatural. God had decreed to use Samson to begin to defeat the Philistines. That plan would not be undone, in spite of Samson's carnal wavering.*

- C. Inner conflict enters Samson (6b) - “But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.”

*Touching the dead carcass may have violated the Nazirite calling upon Samson's life. In fear, guilt or shame, Samson felt he should hide his deeds. Had Samson honored his parents and not given into his impulse for a woman, he never would have been in the position of encountering the lion and welcoming defilement of his calling into his life.*

### **IV. A Disturbing Pattern In Samson's Life (7-9)**

- A. Lust & self-will (7-8a) – “Then he went down and talked with the woman, and she was right in Samson's eyes. 8a After some days he returned to take her.”

*His eyes betrayed his soul as Samson fully committed to take the forbidden woman as his wife. He was living by fleshly impulse, taking whatever pleased his senses.*

- B. Pride & self-will (8b-9a) – “And he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and behold, there was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey. <sup>9</sup> He scraped it out into his hands and went on, eating as he went.

And he came to his father and mother and gave some to them, and they ate..."

- C. Shame & self-will (9b) – "But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey from the carcass of the lion."

*Was Samson feeling proud about his exploit of killing the lion? He shared the spoils of his victory (the honey) with his parents, yet he knew that he could not tell them how he got it. To touch the dead carcass of the lion violated his Nazirite calling. Once again, his desire to please his senses were more important than the divine destiny attached to his life. Samson had fully entered into a life of compromise. Because of this, the future chapters of his life would bring chaos.*