

“Historical Books Of The Bible”
Judges 12:1-13:7
Wednesday May 8, 2013

Judges 12:1-7

Judges 11 – The 9th Judge Of Israel Is Jephthah: He was a social outcast, being born of a common harlot. His own family drove him away to the eastern outreaches of the nation along the Syrian Desert.

Judges 12 – closes Jephthah’s story and mentions 3 additional judges.

1. Judges 12:1-7 – Confrontation With Ephraim

2. Judges 12:8-15 – Three Minor Judges

3. Judges 13:1 – The 7th Sinful Cycle

4. Judges 13:2-7 – Samson’s Birth Announcement

1. Judges 12:1-7 – Confrontation With Ephraim:

Judges 12:1

They did the same thing with Gideon in Judges 8:1-3 over the Midianites.
(After the battle, show up)

Small tribe that was sure of their rights but totally unwilling to accept their responsibilities! Always ready to fight with their brothers but never against the enemy!

Judges 12:2-6

“Thus there fell at that time 42,000 of Ephraim.” – 42,000 people of Ephraim died needlessly because they couldn’t hold their tongue.

James 3:5-8

Judges 12:7

2. Judges 12:8-15 – Three Minor Judges:

The 10th Judge Of Israel Is Ibzan: Judges 12:8-10

The 11th Judge Of Israel Is Elon: Judges 12:11-12

The 12th Judge Of Israel Is Abdon: Judges 12:13-15

3. Judges 13:1 – The 7th Sinful Cycle:

Judges 13:1

2 Chronicles 15:2

This is the last of the 7 cycles in Judges. "7" – completion – Israel had become completely apostate. No national repentance – no one was crying out to the Lord.

This was the longest period of bondage Israel faced during the time of Judges – 40 years, a whole generation.

There was apathy coupled with their apostasy: Apathy – a lack of interest, unconcern, indifference, "so what, who cares".

1 Timothy 2:1-2

2 Timothy 2:15

The Philistines – They were "sea people" who migrated from Greece and the Aegean Sea. Settled on the Mediterranean coast, SW of Jerusalem, which today is known as the Gaza strip. Appeared in Judges 3:31, but now Public Enemy Number #1.

The name "Palestine" comes from Philistine, as the Romans renamed the area as an insult to the Jewish people.

Their area centered around 5 cities: Ekron, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath & Gaza

The 13th Judge Of Israel Is Samson: Samson – his name means "of the sun, sunny, brightness"; 4 chapters are dedicated to Samson. Judges 13-16

Samson is unique in many ways:

1. His Birth – barren mother and announced by the Lord
2. His Lifestyle – dedicated and separated unto the Lord as a Nazarite
3. His Ministry – to begin the work of delivering the children of Israel.

No national repentance; Unlike the other judges, Samson fought alone – no armies rallied behind him.

The only thing predictable about Samson is his unpredictability.

James 1:8

The central theme to the story of Samson is: "Separation and Dedication to the Lord – being holy unto the Lord"

1 Peter 2:9-10

Leviticus 11:44-45

4. Judges 13:2-7 – Samson's Birth Announcement:

Judges 13:2

Manoah – "rest"

Genesis 25:21

Judges 13:3

"Then the angel of the LORD" – This is none other than a "Theophany, or Christophony", an appearance of the Son of God, Jesus Christ in the OT prior to Bethlehem.

Isaac-nation, Moses-deliverer, Samuel-revival, Samson-liberator, John the Baptist – the forerunner & the ultimate was Jesus – the Savior of the world.

Psalm 127:3-5

Isaac was the only other child announced by God Himself!

The Angel's instruction: Judges 13:4-5

Nazirite – Hebrew "Nazir" which means "to set apart or to separate"

Numbers 6:1-21 gives the specifics of the Nazirite vow – Basically there were 3 main conditions:

1. Vow was voluntary
2. It was purposeful – (separated to the Lord)
3. The vow was symbolic – 3 Things were part of the vow:
 1. He could not drink wine or intoxicating drink, nor eat anything from the vine.
 2. He was not to cut his hair.
 3. No contact with a dead body.

The key to this vow was separation unto God. It was not so much a vow of separation from but separation to.

Samson's Ministry – "and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines." He would begin to deliver Israel from their bondage. (Partial)

Judges 13:6

"Awesome" – "an inspired mixed feeling of reverence, fear, wonder and/or terror caused by something majestic or sacred."

Judges 13:7

Application:

1. Are We Separated Unto The Lord Or Do We Love The World?
 - God Gives Us His Son As Our Standard For Being Separate
 - God Gives Us His Spirit To Enable Us To Be Separate
 - God Gives Us His Word To Keep Us Separate
2. Samson Is A Total Example Of Separation And Lack Of Separation. Like Samson The Choice Is Ours.

God Can Use One Person Who Is Separated And Consecrated Unto Himself To Do Mighty And Wondrous Things.

Those Who Choose Not To Be Separate Become Nothing But Foolish, Blinded Weaklings Set Up For Display So The Whole World Can Mock.