

SAMSON (pt.2): Judges 14 by Brett Baggett on Sunday, March 22nd, 2020

- Judges chapter 14 is full of secrets! Do you like secrets? Mysteries? Mystery stories? Odds are you only like them when you are on the inside or in the know. It's not much fun when you are out of the loop. Well that's the case for most of the characters in Judges 14.
- Dale Ralph Davis, in his wonderfully practical commentary on Judges, points this out: "Some form of the verb higgid ("to tell") occurs fourteen times in the Hebrew text...The whole chapter then is about telling, or, I should say, not telling. It's all about what people don't know." Davis writes, "Happily, we have the reader's edge. We are in on all these secrets floating around chapter 14. We know all four secrets."
- Fortunately for us, we have the vantage point of the Scriptures—God gives us a sovereign, birds eye view of this story.

I. THE LORD TELLS THE SECRET OF HIS SECRET WILL (v. 1-4)

- The LORD secretly works all things according to the counsel of His will.
- In Chapter 3 of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith, it says this: 1. From all eternity God decreed everything that occurs, without reference to anything outside himself.¹ He did this by the perfectly wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably. Yet God did this in such a way that he is neither the author of sin nor has fellowship with any in their sin.² This decree does not violate the will of the creature or take away the free working or contingency of second causes. On the contrary, these are established by God's decree.³ In this decree God's wisdom is displayed in directing all things, and his power and faithfulness are demonstrated in accomplishing his decree.⁴ ¹Is. 46:10; Eph. 1:11; Heb. 6:17; Rom. 9:15, 18; ²Jms. 1:13; ³1Jhn. 1:5; ⁴Acts 4:27-28; Jhn 19:11; ⁵Num. 23:19; Eph. 1:3-5.
- NUMBERS 23:19 "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"
- ISAIAH 46:9-11 "9 I am God, & there is no other; I am God, & there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning & from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, & I will accomplish all my purpose,' 11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, & I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, & I will do it."
- EPHESIANS 1:11 "[He]...works all things according to the counsel of his will..."
- Q. Do you know this is who the LORD is and how the LORD works? Q. Do you the LORD has never slept, never dropped the ball, never made an error of judgement, never allowed one thing to happen that would not work for His people's good and His glory?
- If, when we see Him face to face, we were to ask Jesus about this whole Covid-19/Corona Virus pandemic in 2020, we would be shocked at His answer. The LORD is doing a billion things—all for His peoples good, all for His glory.
- The LORD secretly works all things according to the counsel of His will. Q. Do you stand righteous before Him?

II. THE LORD GIVES A SIGN OF HIS POWER (v. 5-7)

- The LORD physically strengthened Samson to tear a lion to pieces in order to spiritually prepare him to destroy the Philistines without fear!
- ILLUSTRATION: 1 SAMUEL 17:34-37 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"
- Q. And what sort of sign of his power has he given you, Christian? What sort of sign of his power would it take for you to have your anxieties quieted? What sort of sign of His power would it take for you to be bold for Jesus' glory?
- Q. What if the LORD sent His own Son to be physically and spiritually torn apart instead of you, for your sins? What if the LORD raised His own Son from the dead three days later, never to die again? What if the LORD brought you into His courtroom, removed the filthy rags stained with every defilement imaginable and replaced it with perfectly clean robe of His Son which shines like the full force of the sun at midday, then he declared you "Righteous"? What if the LORD wrote a HUGE book which clearly revealed what you should believe and what you should do, then He preserved it over 2 millennia, EVEN detailing in the last three chapters of the book how everyone's story ends?

III. THE LORD GIVES A METAPHOR FOR HIS SECRET WILL (v. 8-9)

- ILLUSTRATION: GENESIS 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

IV. THE LORD'S SERVANT HAS GREAT WEAKNESSES (v. 1-3, 10-18)

- 1. Samson did what was right in his own eyes, violating the explicit commands of the LORD (v.1-3). *Idolatry not Racism
 - JUDGES progresses from bad to worse to worst. Bad people, good judge. Worse people, compromised judge. Bad people, bad judge. Ends with no judge, no king, worst people (21:25).
- 2. Samson touched, or at the very least came near, the lion carcass, violating his Nazarite vow (v.9).
- 3. Samson hosted a weeklong feast with eating and drinking alcohol, further violating his Nazarite vow (v.10).
- 4. Samson was enticed by the hard-pressings of his wife and afterward left her, violating his role as leader and protector (v.11-18,19c-20). Q. What would your story look like if we got a birds eye view? What would mine? O how we need Jesus!

V. THE LORD ACCOMPLISHES HIS PURPOSE THROUGH SINFUL SAMSON (v.19-20)

- **You will serve the LORD's purpose; will you serve Him like Samson or serve Him like David? Judas or Peter?**
- **This is what we must SEE in this passage:**
THE OBVIOUS SINS OF SAMSON AND THE OVERRULING SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD.
- **This is, in one sense, exactly what we see in the cross of Jesus Christ:** The obvious sins of Judas, the religious leaders in Jerusalem, Herod, Pontius Pilate along with the Gentiles...AND THE OVERRULING SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD.
- **ACTS 4:27-28** 27 "for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod & Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles & the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand & your plan had predestined to take place."
- **JOHN 12:24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."