

SAMSON

FAMILY DEVOS



Victory in Death

Scripture: Judges 16:23-31

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:18

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”

For My Family:

Samson, the mighty Judge of Israel, had been imprisoned, tortured, and then was mocked and laughed at by his captors. The Philistines praised their god, Dagon, who in their minds had delivered Samson to them as punishment for the destruction that Samson had brought against them. Whereas before Samson had been so strong, now he was so weak.

What had seemed like a great victory for the enemies of God would of course quickly turn into their greatest defeat. Samson finally did what he should have done his whole life and called out to the Lord to strengthen him one more time as he tore the supporting pillars down in the temple and, in his death, won the greatest victory yet. What the Philistines had intended for evil, the Lord used for good.

Many years later, there would be another man who would be imprisoned, tortured, and mocked by a crowd. Jesus Christ was not chained up in a temple with hands placed on two pillars. Rather, He was taken to a place called Calvary, and His hands were nailed to a cross. Like Samson, it seemed that One who was sent to redeem His people had been defeated. Like Samson, the enemy thought that they had won a great victory, and just like Samson, it was in Jesus' death that the Lord's greatest victory was won.

Samson was a man with many faults and flaws, a sinful man who always wanted to do things his own way. Jesus was a man who never sinned. He always listened to the voice of His Father and was always obedient to that voice in all things. Where Samson was captured and defeated because of his own sinful nature, Jesus went willingly to the cross, laying His life down so that we could live.

There is of course one other huge difference between Samson and Jesus. Samson brought the roof down on the Philistines and his life was done. We read that he was buried in a tomb, and that is the end of the story. When Jesus died on the cross, He too was buried in a tomb, but after three days, Jesus rose again. He had conquered death itself.

For you and me there is hope in both these stories. Like Samson, although we are flawed and imperfect people, we can still be used mightily by the Lord. Because of what Jesus did for us, like Him, we can know that when our time on earth is over, we will rise as Jesus did because death has been conquered forever.

Questions for Young Children:

At the end of the story, how did Samson show that he knew he needed God to help him?

God won a victory through Samson. How did God win a victory through Jesus?

Samson died and was buried in a tomb. What was different after Jesus died?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

In 1 Samuel 15:22, we read that obedience is better than sacrifice. How can this be applied to the end of Samson's life?

How are Samson and Jesus similar in this story? How are they very, very different?

Compare the stories of Samson and Gideon. How are they different and what can we learn from these? (Gideon starts out afraid, learns to rely on God, but then fails at the end of his life. Samson starts out confident and sure of his own strength, fails miserably, but then finishes well).