

## People of Faith

### (Lesson 13)

#### Introduction:

1. In Hebrews 11 we read about a number of Old Testament characters who showed how faith will enable a person to be in good standing with God.
2. In vs.32 Samson is mentioned.
  - a. Samson was one of Israel's judges.
  - b. (Judges 13-16) God used Samson to deliver Israel from Philistine oppression.
3. Review of Judges 13-14:
  - a. (13:1) The Philistines were afflicting Israel.
  - b. (13:5) Manoah's wife was informed that she would give birth to a son who would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines.
  - c. (13:24) Samson was born, and the Lord blessed him.
  - d. In ch.14 we read about Samson's first involvement with a Philistine woman.
4. In ch.15-16 we read about Samson's victories over the Philistines and his involvement with Delilah.

#### Discussion:

- I. (Judges 15) SAMSON BEGAN TO AFFLICT THE PHILISTINES
  - A. (vs.1-2) Samson returned to take his wife, but her father had given her to someone else.
  - B. (vs.3-8) Samson retaliated against the Philistines.
    1. He first burned their crops (vs.3-5).
    2. In turn, the Philistines killed his former wife and her father (vs.6).
    3. Samson responded by slaughtering many of the Philistines (vs.7-8).
  - C. (vs.9-13) The Israelites delivered Samson to the Philistines.
  - D. (vs.14-20) Samson broke his bands and killed 1,000 men.
- II. (Judges 16) SAMSON WON HIS GREATEST VICTORY OVER THE PHILISTINES AT HIS DEATH
  - A. (vs.1-3) Samson escaped from Gaza.
  - B. (vs.4-14) Delilah made 3 attempts to discover the source of Samson's strength.
  - C. (vs.15-18) Samson revealed the secret of his strength to Delilah.
  - D. (vs.19-21) Samson was finally conquered.
  - E. (vs.22) However, Samson's hair began to grow again.
  - F. (vs.23-31) Samson was given an opportunity to win a final victory over the Philistines.
    1. The Philistines credited Dagon with delivering Samson to them (vs.23-24).
    2. Samson "made sport" [amused and entertained] for the Philistines (vs.25-27).
    3. Samson brought the house down upon many of the Philistines at his death (vs.28-31).

#### Conclusion:

1. After losing his strength Samson finally appreciated the true source of it (Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 4:13).
2. After losing his eyesight Samson was able to demonstrate his faith as he never had before (2 Corinthians 5:7).