

September 19, 1993

"Samson"
Judges 3-16

Couples Class
Wendell Alford,
Teacher

I. Moses died and Joshua, his general, took over the leadership of the Israelites. The general was especially equipped to organize the horde (Ex. 12:37; 38:26) of Israelites now capturing the east bank of the Jordan River. Joshua was one of the spies sent into Canaan at Jericho and later went over the river and captured a foothold there. The peoples were divided into twelve tribes named for ten sons of Jacob (Israel) with ten regions assigned to each tribe. The Levites were not given a specific territory but were to live from the tithes of the other tribes, Josh. 13:14. Joseph was not given a territory, but instead his son Manasseh was. The tribe of Gad and Reuben occupied areas east of the river and the other ten on the west. The land forming Gad's and Reuben's and 1/2 of Manasseh's tribes were conquered under Moses with Joshua as general.

II. Joshua died before completely conquering all the land assigned to the twelve tribes, Josh. 13:1-3. Perhaps the people who occupied the land (Canaan) which had been promised to Abraham's descendants and who were most difficult to displace were the Philistines. The Philistines were [in my opinion -- WA] probably a people resulting from a mix breeding of the descendants of Canaan, the fourth son of Ham who was a son of Noah, and another branch of Ham's son Mizraim, Gen. 10:1,6,13-14; I Chron. 1:8-12. Jacob and his sons were descendants of Noah's son, Shem, I Chron. 1:17-34. After Joshua's death there was no one person over all of the Israelites. Instead, a number of supervisors called "Judges" led the tribes. These Judges ruled over different portions of areas occupied by the Israelites, and also, their periods of leadership overlapped with Judges in other areas. Of the 15 Judges from Othniel through Samuel their time intervals would add up to 410 years, but the overlapping reduces the period between the patriarchs and Saul's monarchy to 300 years.

III. The Philistines lived along the coast of the Mediterranean in a very fertile region and were therefore materially well-off. The southern part of that area lay in the area given to the tribe of Dan, Judah, and Simeon. Samson was born and lived in the town of Zoar just across the line from Judah in Dan. Before his birth his mother was barren and longed very fervently to conceive. A messenger of God appeared to her to tell her that she would conceive and bare a son who would be sanctified by God as a Nazarite and who would begin to deliver the land from the Philistines to the Israelites, Judg. 13:1-5. The woman told her husband, Manoah, who prayed that the messenger (angel) would reappear and give them instructions about the son. The messenger cautioned the woman for the third time that to have the child she must refrain from wine and strong drink and follow a strict diet. God's angel would not eat with them but asked them to offer a sacrifice unto the Lord with meat and fire. As the flames went up, the angel ascended up in the flames. The couple feared for their lives, because they had seen God's messenger. However, they were safe, she bore a son, and named him Samson (like the sun).

IV. The Spirit of the Lord directed Samson's activities as a youngster, but when he became a young man, not all of his decisions appeared to be Spirit led. His first choice of a wife was a Philistine from the town of Timnath. His parents disagreed with him, for she was not of their own circumcised group. Nevertheless, Samson continued seeing her, and on a journey to her one day the Lord's Spirit enabled him to kill a lion bare-handed. On his return he noted that bees had made honey in the lion's carcass, and he ate some of the honey. He determined to marry the Philistine and took his parents for the ceremony. As was custom Samson held a seven-day feast at which he told a riddle and offered a reward for its solution. The riddle was based upon his encounter with the lion. A group threatened to kill her parents if the prospective bride did not divulge the riddle to them. She begged him until Samson told her the secret. Samson was very angry, went to the countryside, killed 30 Philistines, and from their possessions paid the reward.

V. Later Samson went back to visit his intended bride and apparently thought the marriage was a fact, but her father would not let him see her saying that Samson's best man had married her. However, the father offered her younger sister for marriage. This development infuriated Samson and he promised revenge. It was wheat harvest time, and Samson took 300 foxes, tied them together two by two, attached torches to them, and ran them through the ripe wheat of the Philistines. The Philistines learned who had done the deed and burned Samson's bride and her father alive. Samson then went out and killed many more Philistines and escaped to Judah. The men of Judah fearing retaliation tied him and delivered him to the Philistines. In their presence he broke the ties, picked up a donkey jawbone lying near, and killed 100 Philistines with it.

VI. Afterwards, Samson at Gaza on the coast, spent the night with a Philistine prostitute. By this time he had become a wanted man, and locals determined to catch and kill him the next morning. Samson arose at midnight, lifted the city gates and took them away to a mountain top. Next, Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The five rulers of the Philistine area learned of Samson's new love, approached her, and demanded that she learn the source of Samson's immense strength. She was offered a huge sum of money (\$5,000?) for the information. She nagged him continually to tell her the secret, but he told her three false reasons before revealing that his strength was from God. A covenant made before his birth made him sanctified for God's service so long as his hair was not cut. Samson had taken a Nazarite vow, Num. 6:1-21. Delilah cut his hair as he slept, the Philistines chained him, gouged out his eyes, and made him a grain-grinder in prison. The Philistines made a feast to celebrate his capture and brought Samson to the banquet hall to belittle him publicly. They were celebrating the superiority of their god over Israel's God, Dagon over Jehovah. Samson pleaded with God to return his strength one last time. God heard his prayer, and Samson pushed the two main supporting pillars causing the building to collapse killing himself and over 3000 Philistines. Thus, he killed at his death more than all before. After twenty years as a Judge in Dan, he was buried by his family

Lesson change Oct. 10 Samuel; Oct. 17 Elijah

Joshua was the last part of week, pp. 575-4 - 40 pages
6000
Rosh Hoshana on Thurs., 16th

September 19, 1993

"Samson"
Judges 3-16

Couples Class
Wendell Alford,
Teacher

2 weeks ago
Shem
Samuel
Abraham
Isaac
Jacob
Joseph
Moses
Joshua
Saul
David
Solomon
Jesus
John
Paul
Peter
James
John
Jude
Mary
Joseph
Jesus
John
Paul
Peter
James
John
Jude
Mary
Joseph

Read
to the end
of the book

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See chap. 12 for Moses + Joshua
Land of Canaan

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Regions of Palestine area, also known in Scriptures as the land of Canaan, all land water Jordan

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See End. 13:14
etc. - see end

on individuals in OT but
Exod. 31:13 for this

Ad 9/11/12
Exodus
Numbers
Judges

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Slipping

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Samson also
must have
killed
together

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Next - End of Judges +
beginning of Kings

✓ Palestine, Land of the Philistines

Pertinent Scriptural references:

Gen. 10:14; Exod. 15:14; Isa. 14:29, 31; Psa. 60:8; 83:7;
87:4; 108:9; Joel 3:4

How term "Palestine" relates to other designations:

1. Canaan Land - when promised to Abraham

2. Palestine

3. Israel (David + Solomon)

4. Holy Land (Terra Sancta)

The prize spot in the entire area is Jerusalem

1. Canaan Land - when promised to Abraham, Exod. 6:4.

2. Israel - David and Solomon period

3. Judea - when Jesus Christ was here

4. Palestine - During Muslim control, 637^{AD} - 1917 AD

5. Holy Land (Terra Sancta)

Jer. Times 9-14-93 p. 4a

Having a chance *Jerusalem* to live side-by-side

"The interim period gives both sides a chance to live together and demonstrate that cooperation works," said one senior Clinton administration official said. "It will be an entirely different situation from the standpoint of their mutual psychology a couple years down the road when they begin to tackle those questions."

That's the hope.

But Israeli Prime Minister ~~Yitzhak~~ Rabin left no doubt about his own views on such questions at a news conference Monday afternoon.

"One united Jerusalem must remain united under Israel's sovereignty and our capital forever," Rabin said.

In addition, he said, Israel does not envision "uprooting Israeli settlements and destruction of Israeli towns" in the disputed area, as happened following the 1979 Israeli accord with Egypt.

I. Shimon Peres
"The test will be in Gaza," Rabin said. "Gaza: three quarters of a million Palestinians. Less than 5,000 Israelis in the settlements. All the miseries you can find there ... Will the world take the price tag? ... Will the world, who speaks so much about peace, will it be ready to take even more than that ..?"

Sat, 9-18-93
P. 5A

878 8188

WORLD

MIDEAST

Palestinians protest Israeli-PLO accord

A general strike, called by Muslim fundamentalists, virtually shuts down the Gaza Strip.

DEMOCRAT NEWS SERVICES

Hundreds of Arabs opposed to the Palestinian autonomy agreement marched through the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Occupied Gaza Strip after Muslim prayers Friday and vowed to destroy the PLO-Israeli peace plan.

Claiming the peace plan sold them out, they pledged to escalate armed struggle against Israel "until the liberation of all Palestine."

In Gaza City, small groups of Islamic militants dressed in black and armed with axes promised to step up suicide bombings and other attacks against Israel.

A general strike ordered by the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement to protest the accord paralyzed the Gaza Strip. Stores were closed throughout the coastal strip, and the few cars on the road were stoned.

The march came a day after PLO chief Yasser Arafat's mainstream Palestinian Fatah faction said in Tunis, Tunisia, it had reached an agreement with Hamas to avoid violence between PLO and Hamas supporters over the peace pact.

Although there was no violence during the march, the protesters warned Arafat that he could be assassinated.

The pact would start Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho, leading to a permanent accord based on Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories.

About 400 people participated in the Nuseirat march, and organizers said the turnout was limited due to the general strike. The two largest Islamic groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, also took part in the march.

Activists from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, based in Syria, led the march, waving axes and shouting: "Arafat, be patient, the Palestinian people will dig your grave!"

Marchers wearing hoods of leopard-print cloth shouted through a megaphone: "In reality, they have done nothing except sell the problems of our people for a plate of lentils — in order to take the seats of power."

The strike was called to mark the monthly anniversary of the deportation of over 400 Islamic activists to Lebanon in Dec. 17 for allegedly inciting anti-Israeli activities.

The Gaza City protesters said in a statement that they "will aveng our martyrs and will not stop struggle until the liberation of Palestine. . . . Wait for our destined attacks."

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials said Friday that the PLO hopes to reopen an office in Washington next month if Congress can cancel several anti-PLO laws off the books by then.

The Clinton administration, as well as Congress, has discussed reopening of such an office. PLO officials of the PLO, State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said.

But administration and congressional officials cautioned that next month might be too soon.

"Their optimism on how quickly that might be done could not be shared by Congress. We'll have to see," McCurry said.