Times of the Judges

HE-MAN WITH A SHE-WEAKNESS

Tuesday, November 17

Reading: Judges 13-14

> ***Judges 14:1*** *Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines.* ***2*** *So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."* ***3 ...****"Get her for me, for she pleases me well." (NKJV)*

Samson's birth was remarkable. It was announced by the Angel of the Lord to a barren couple. He had been born to "begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines." For this purpose, he was set apart to God from birth. As a Nazarite, he was committed to three basic vows: (1) not to eat or drink from the fruit of the vine, (2) not to touch a dead body, (3) not to cut his hair (see Numbers 6). Over the course of his life, Samson would break all three of these vows!

His attitude can be wrapped up in his statement about his Philistine bride: "Get her for me, for she pleases me well" or in literal Hebrew, "she is right in my eyes" (She looks good to me!" (NLT). Samson seemed to live his life for his own selfish pleasure - what made him feel good instead of following the Lord's instructions. One has to ask what Samson is doing in a vineyard since he is not allowed to have anything involved with grapes (14:5, 8) Upon his second visit he purposely eats honey out the carcass of the lion he killed, thus breaking his second vow not to touch a dead body. He is even flippant about breaking this vow, making a riddle out of it for his wedding guests. Samson is not off to a great start! He seems to spend more time being friendly with his enemies than he does helping his people.

God will use Samson's weakness and stubbornness to strike blows against Israel's enemies. But how much more could Samson have done if he was led by his faith instead of his libido!

LESSON ONE: Are we driven by our emotions and desires? Is our first thought how something will make us feel or how it will benefit us? What can we learn from Samson about the results of this kind of attitude?

LESSON TWO: What do the following verses tell us about the difference between living by our emotions and desires and living by faith?

> **James 1:14** But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. **15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

> **Philippians 2:3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. **4** Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus