

Fresh Oil Releases

Samson-shedding Light

Part Two - Exchanging Passions

Samson enters the next step in his preparation process from the vantage point of the cleft of the rock. This is the viewing place from which Moses saw God's goodness. However, God's goodness sometimes comes disguised in ugly packages. Now, it is not just one person who betrays Samson but many. The philistines are intent on revenge and move into Judah and Lehi. The men of Judah march up to Samson and blame him for the effect these philistines are having on them. He allows them to bind him and deliver him to the philistines, which seems a little strange until we read further and discover him easily breaking their bonds and picking up the jawbone of an ass, using it to kill a thousand philistines!

The mention of the ass leads us to the tribe of Issachar:

Gen 49:14 *Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens*

1Ch 12:32 *And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do*

Samson is demonstrating in the natural his internal spiritual position. He now realizes it is not only about him and his comfort and welfare. He has understanding of the times and knows what God wants him to do. Intimacy with the Bridegroom will lead to the Spirit of Counsel imparting to you so that you may operate in the Spirit of Might. This is why Samson meekly allowed himself to be bound by his own people. He has moved to a higher level of learning in the Kingdom. He knows that the betrayal of his countrymen serves as a vehicle to bring him into the midst of the enemy camp so that he is perfectly positioned to carry out God's purpose. Equipped with the jawbone, representing his spiritual understanding of the times and seasons of God operating in his life, he quickly wreaks havoc on the enemy. This time there is no tit-for-tat battle. Warfare is more effective because he is no longer leaning on his own natural understanding and does not take out his anger on his own people but on the enemy who had driven them to hand him over.

Beloved, this is the stage in a son's maturing process where we fully realize that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood but principalities and powers. We no longer see only the face of the betrayer but the enemy who is behind the attack and so we are able to war to bring victory and deliverance not only for ourselves but even for those who have acted unrighteously towards us. Christ is emerging in greater measure within.

Job 22:30 *He shall even deliver the one who is not innocent: he shall be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.*

Samson is exhausted following his victory and cries out to the Lord.

Jdg 15:19 But God cleaved a hollow place that was in the jaw, and water came out of it; and when he had drunk, his spirit revived: so he called the name of the place Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day.

The hollow place in the jaw is a place where there is a tooth missing. The Hebrew word for 'tooth' also means 'teaching'. So here is a prophetic picture of a gap in a son of God's understanding. Although at this time, it is not clear what this gap is, God breaks open this place and causes living water to flow and refreshes and strengthens this weary son's spirit. Here the Father ministers personally to his son and quickens his mortal body. Fresh strength for the rest of the journey is his. A more fully rounded understanding of what God is showing him will come once he has been through what is waiting for him just round the corner!

The next woman in Samson's life is a harlot. The lesson on the lust of the flesh has arrived in Samson's inbox! This refers to being driven by bodily needs and soulish appetites. Samson has had a bad experience with marriage. He is not interested in commitment of any kind. All he wants is his own needs to be met. He has a hunger to be caressed and ministered to and is willing to pay for it! He wants to deposit the seed of a Word but does not want any responsibility for its outworking. He wants to come and go as he pleases with no accountability - as long as he is satisfied, that is his whole aim. It is all about him - this seems to be a regression in Samson's progress spiritually. However, it is actually dealing on a deeper level within.

This trial deals with the throne of Self in our lives. It exposes the whole arena within the Body of pandering to soulish teachings which tickle the ears; the endless obsession with receiving or giving a personal prophetic word and the over-emphasis on prosperity and worldly possessions. All in all, the son of God becomes entangled in the Babylonian harlot religious system...

It is here that he becomes surrounded by a silent enemy hiding in the gates; one who is quietly waiting the right moment to overcome him. When the sons of God are caught in the web of the religious harlot spirit's making, they are unaware that the enemy is hiding in the wings waiting patiently to strike. They are too absorbed in the soulish pleasure derived from serving this system. They are being stroked and caressed, flattered and used as a source of income in return for the satisfying their own fleshly hunger. It is a sad and an ugly picture; the place where many find themselves at this time.

However there is good news. The enemy expects him to be held in the clutches of the harlot until morning. Yet at midnight Samson arises!

Jdg 16:3 And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.

Midnight is a significant time. It is at midnight that the Lord killed the firstborn of Egypt - this is a picture of that which has come forth from the flesh or the world being destroyed. At midnight Boaz discovered Ruth at his feet and spread his garment over her - a term for agreeing to marry her. At midnight the Bridegroom comes for His bride:

Mat 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom comes; go out to meet him.

It is at midnight that Paul and Silas sang and prayed in prison and an earthquake occurred. It was at midnight that Samson was awoken from his state of stupor and was delivered from the arms of the harlot. Who awakens Samson? It is the Spirit of the Lord who wants to deliver him from the clutches of this harlot system. Suddenly he looks at this woman he has been embracing and sees her for what she is. He flees the scene of temptation and seeks higher ground.

Chapter 13 of Ezekiel records the Lord's thoughts concerning those who claim to represent Him in order to ensnare people (remembering we are not wrestling against flesh and blood):

Eze 13:20 Wherefore thus says the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against your pillows, which you use to hunt souls like birds, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that you hunt like birds. Your scarves also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and you shall know that I am the LORD.

Samson took the gates of the city and carried them to the hill near Hebron. In so doing. He exposed the hiding place of the enemy! Hebron means 'seat of association'. It is at midnight that the hiding place of the enemy is revealed and the prison door opened (or the gates removed). At this time there occurs a separation between what is of God and what is not. The sons of God choose their seat of association - they will be seated at the top of the hill, not down in Gaza which means 'stronghold'. When the call of the Spirit comes to awaken and leave and cleave and the sons of God are obedient, then the enemy is left with his carefully constructed prison but it is empty. The snare is broken and the sons of God have escaped!

Now Samson can see the gap in his spiritual understanding which was causing his strength to be sapped! Remember that when he drank the water flowing from the gap in the jawbone, his spirit revived? This word 'revived' means 'quicken, recover, repair, restore (to life)'. At midnight, the time of transition between two different days, revelation comes to the sons of God which will propel them from a horizontal position, lying in the clutches of the harlot, to a standing alert position, fully awake and aware of the danger they are in. Not only do they see the role of the lust of the eyes in ensnaring them but they now understand the seductive power of the lust of the flesh - it has the power to bring them into bondage to a system which intends to steal, kill and destroy them (how can a man take burning coals in his bosom and not be burned?) The Spirit of God has revealed the hiding place of the enemy in the gates of their lives - or at least **two** of the three areas in which a son of God is targeted

and must overcome or be overcome! If they sow to the flesh, they will reap corruption - it is imperative to be fully led by the Spirit.

A greater separation unto the Lord is occurring within Samson's heart. His ability to be led by the Spirit of God is growing and he is maturing and leaving childish ways behind. He is choosing where he wants to be seated and with whom he wants to be associated. Christ is emerging in greater measure in his life - the spirit of this world is progressively losing its ability to deceive him. However there is still one more enemy to overcome- the last enemy to be defeated is death. Will Samson be victorious in the battle that awaits him on his journey to perfection or mature manhood? Or is the legacy inherited from Adam still strongly rooted within? Let us be encouraged - the good work God has begun in us will be completed. We are predestined to be CONFORMED to the image of His Son! Christ will see the fruit of the travail of His soul in us and rest satisfied. (part 3 to follow)