

# Samson

**Samson was the last of the Holy Spirit led judges before Samuel.**

**Before his birth Samson was dedicated to God to be a lifelong Nazarite, [Judges 13:1-24].**

**It is sad that Samson is remembered for what he might have been as a leader used by God to free Israel from the influence and enslavement by the pagan Philistines.**

Not many people have started life with credentials like Samson's.

**Born as a result of God's plan to deliver Israel, Samson was given enormous physical strength.**

**Because Samson wasted his strength on practical jokes and getting out of scrapes, eventually losing his strength to satisfy Delilah whom he lusted after, we see him as a failure, wasted potential.**

**Samson did in many ways waste his life, [Judges chapters 14, 15 and 16].**

He could have strengthened his nation.

He could have caused the people to return to the true Creator God.

He could have wiped out the pagan Philistines.

**But even though Samson did none of the above, he did accomplish the purpose announced by the angel who visited his parents before his birth, "*he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.*"**

**Samson did this in his final act, [Judges 16:23-31].**

Interestingly, the New Testament does **not** mention Samson's failure or his heroic feats of strength.

In Hebrews, Samson is simply listed with others, "*who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice [Judges 16:31 – "he had judged Israel twenty years"] and gained what was promised.*"

That is given superhuman aid.

**In the end, Samson recognised his total dependence on God, turning his personal failures and defeats into victory.**

**Samson's life teaches us that it is never too late to start again.**

**However badly we may have failed our Creator God in the past, today is not too late to put our trust completely in God.**

We can also learn from Samson's weaknesses and mistakes.

Samson violates his vow and God's laws on many occasions, bringing pain and suffering on himself.

**Samson allowed his physical sensuality to control his life, with his fateful relationship with Delilah, [Judges chapter 16].**

**This relationship with Delilah caused him to confide in the wrong people.**

**Samson also shows us that strength in one area of our life does not make up for weaknesses in other areas.**

**Samson's relationship with God shows that His presence does not overwhelm our will, we have to choose to submit to His will.**

**Samson's life shows that the Creator God can use a person who has faith in Him inspite of their mistakes, when they make wrong choices by **not** seeking God's Wisdom that is available in His Word, the Christian Bible, or the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, [John 16:13].**