

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

JUDGES 14

Judges 14

Chapter fourteen is the continuation of chapter thirteen which gives the background of the story of Samson, one of the most beloved Judges and one of the saddest stories in the Bible of a man who had everything going his way and through lust and weakness squandered the gift of God. Yet, God who is rich in mercy and grace allowed Samson to kill more Philistines, the enemies of God, in his death than all the years of battle combined. The context is found in 13:1, **"Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years."** God raised up a godly family from the small tribe of Dan, through a man named Manoah. His wife was barren, she could not have children. The Angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and said, you will conceive and bear a son. He will be a Nazarite from the womb. He should never drink wine or cut his hair.

After a time, the Angel of the LORD appeared to both Manoah and his wife and after a series of questions from Manoah, God miraculously vanished in the flame of the

sacrifice as it lifted heavenward. Manoah said, "we surely will die, because we have seen God" (13:22). His wife simply said to him, If God had desired to kill us, we would be dead!" Thank you, Mrs. Manoah! As Samson grew, his weaknesses became apparent. He went to places he should not have been going into, the territory of the enemies of Israel and there saw a beautiful Philistine woman that he desired. He went to his father and asked that she be acquired for him. His father urged him to marry someone from his own people. Samson did not know it, but God was going to use Samson despite himself, to overthrow the yoke of the Philistines that held the children of Israel in that region captive in their own land. Samson was so strong that he killed a lion with his bare hands (14:6). Samson gave a foolish wager and lost his wife. In anger he killed thirty Philistines and so the battle began.

Prayer and Action Steps

Samson was a gifted man from birth, but his foolish pride and lust drew him away from God's best for his life. Please God, help me to walk in your way and seek your help in every situation in my life.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?
