



**Judges 13:1** Again the Israelites did evil **in the eyes of the LORD**, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

**Judges 21:25** In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right **in their own eyes**.

### TWO IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT SIN:

1. What God sees as sin is sin, regardless of what we feel, what the experts say, or what culture agrees on.
2. Sin is very deceptive

Matthew 4:4; 2 Corinthians 10:5

## SAMSON WAS AN INCREDIBLY STRONG MAN WITH A DANGEROUSLY WEAK WILL

### GOD'S PLAN FOR SAMSON

**Judges 13:2-5** A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was sterile and remained childless. <sup>3</sup>The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son. <sup>4</sup>Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean, <sup>5</sup>because you will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor may be used on his head, because **the boy is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth**, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

#### *The Nazirite Vow (Numbers 6)*

- ❖ No drinking of alcohol
- ❖ No touching of a dead body
- ❖ No cutting of hair

### GOD'S PROTECTION FOR SAMSON

**Judges 13:12-14** So Manoah asked him, “When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule for the boy’s life and work?” <sup>13</sup> The angel of the LORD answered, “Your wife must do all that I have told her. <sup>14</sup> She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her.”

## **THE NAZIRITE VOW WAS GOD'S WAY OF TEACHING SAMSON BOUNDARIES**

# **GOD'S POWER FOR SAMSON**

**Judges 13:24-25** The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the LORD blessed him, <sup>25</sup> and **the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him...**

**Judges 3:10; Judges 6:34; Judges 11:29;**

**Judges 14:6** The **Spirit of the LORD** came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart...

**Judges 14:19** Then the **Spirit of the LORD** came upon him in power. He...struck down thirty of their men...

**Judges 15:14** The Philistines came toward him shouting. The **Spirit of the LORD** came upon him in power.

**Judges 16:27-30** Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. <sup>28</sup> Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” <sup>29</sup> Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, <sup>30</sup> Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

## **HOW TO GET BACK INSIDE GOD'S BOUNDARIES:**

1. **REMEMBER** there is maximum freedom found inside God's boundaries.
2. **RENOUNCE** any activity that has lured you violate God’s Word.
3. **REBUILD** the fences you've trampled.
4. **REJOICE** in the mercy and grace of a forgiving God.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.