

4. Samson is an example of what happens when we don't use wisdom and give way to the things that tempt us. Another example is given for us in 2 Sam. 11:2-4. What cautions do the Scriptures give about protecting your eyes and heart so that you won't give way to temptation? See Job 31:1; Prov. 6:20-26; James 1:14-15.

5. How did Samson directly defy the word of God in 14:5-9? See 13:4 and Num. 6:1-8 as references.

6. Samson was indeed a flawed man! Yet God raised him up for a specific purpose. What hints do you find of that purpose in 14:4?

7. What events in Chs. 14-15 were spun into place to deliver the Israelites from the oppression of the Philistines when Samson went courting a Philistine woman?

Chapter 16

8. The Philistines were ready to ambush Samson in 16:1-3. How did his escape remind the Philistines of how remarkable a man he was?

9. Women were definitely a weakness for Samson. How did Samson's enemies use this weakness against him in 16:4-5?

10. Delilah repeatedly asks Samson the secret to his great strength. What were the different stories he told her in 16:6-14?

11. How does Delilah finally get Samson to tell her the truth about his great strength? See 16:15-16.

12. Delilah calls the Philistines and Samson is captured. What crucial information is recorded for us in 16:20?

13. Warren Wiersbe in his commentary on this passage points out that if Samson had stopped visiting Delilah, he would have kept his hair and his power, but he kept going back, and each time she implored him to reveal his secret. Samson's will gave way to the continual barrage of Delilah's temptation. Too often we are just like Samson, visiting the temptations that slowly nibble away at our restraint until we are lost in the sin. If you find yourself visiting temptations that keep you from obeying God and growing in His way, what steps do you need to take to be set free? See Josh. 23:6-8; Gal. 5:16-24; James 4:7-10.

14. How did the Philistines punish and humiliate Samson (16:21-22, 25)?

15. What plan forms in Samson's mind as he is standing before the Philistines (16:26-30)?

16. Samson was raised up and given great strength by God to overcome the Philistines who were plaguing the Israelites. Though he was often distracted from the task God had called him to do, in the end he fulfilled his purpose. How much better it would have been if he had kept his eyes on the Lord instead of on his own plans and purposes! How is his life a warning to you to live for the glory of God for your whole life?

Chapter 17

17. The key to understanding Ch. 17 lies in verse 6. What clues in this chapter reveal the truth of 17:6 where every man did what was right in his own eyes?

18. Micah makes up his own religion and thinks to earn God's favor by having a Levite priest as part of his household. Many do this today, making up a religion that is pleasing to them and thinking that if they throw in a few Bible verses or some church attendance that God will bless them. How does God view these acts? See Prov. 14:12; Is. 66:3-4; Matt. 15:8-9; Rom. 10:3.

19. What are some specific ways you can heed the warning of this chapter so that it could never be said of you she did what was right in her own eyes?