

Sovereignty of God and the Will of Man - Judges pt 13

Act 2:22-23 ... **Jesus** of Nazareth ... 23 **was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge**; and you, **with the help of wicked men**, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

- **God's Sovereignty and Free Will of Man** - God is in control while man is free to choose (mystery)

Last week → Samson followed his own desires, Today → God fulfilled his purpose to rescue Israel

- Jdg 13:5 You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be **dedicated to God** as a Nazirite from birth. **He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines.**

In His (Sovereignty), God directed Samson's sinful (free-willed) intentions to fulfill His purpose.

- Jdg 14:3-4 [*Samson in disobedience to God chased the Philistine wife*]...4 His father and mother didn't realize **the LORD was at work in this**, creating an opportunity to work against the Philistines,
- Jdg 14: 6 [*traveling to the city to get a wife - he met a lion*] **At that moment the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him**, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands.
- Jdg 14:19 [*after losing the bet and he needed 30 garments*] **Then the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him**. He went down to the town of Ashkelon, killed thirty men, took their belongings...
- **Lost bet because wife gave up riddle, he went home, wife was given away, burned fields, they burned her and her father, he killed many, 3000 came for him, and his people handed him over.**
- Jdg 15:14 [*taken captive by 3000*] But **the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon Samson**, and killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey
- **16:4 fell in love with Delilah** The Philistines wanted to know the source of his power...3 different times Delilah tried to get the secret Jdg 16:20 [*eventually he told her his hair had never been cut - so she cut it while he was asleep*] Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." **But he didn't realize the LORD had left him.**
- **Gouged eyes out ... Bound w/ chains ... Forced to grind grain ... but his hair grew back**
- Jdg 16:28-31 [*Revenge motivated, God heard prayer*]Then Samson prayed to the LORD, **"Sovereign LORD, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes."** SLIDE 29 Then Samson put his hands on the two center pillars that held up the temple. Pushing against them with both hands, 30 he prayed, "Let me die with the Philistines." And the temple crashed down on the Philistine rulers and all the people. **So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.**

1) If God is sovereign, does it matter what I do? Yes-decisions have consequences

- Phil 2:13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him

2) I don't completely understand the ways of God (sovereignty and free will work together somehow)

- Rom 11:33 - ... How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!
- If God loves me, then why did this happen?.....If God is so powerful why does he let that happen?

3) We know that God causes everything to work together for good

- Rom 8:28 NLT And **we know** that God **causes everything to work together for the good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

4) I am convinced that nothing will separate me from his love

Rom 8:35 **Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?** Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

Rom 8:38 And **I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love**. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.