

Sovereignty of God & 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 *[God's sovereignty]*; and you, with the help of wicked men *[free will of man]*, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

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.

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...

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

Jdg 16:20 [eventually he told Delilah 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.

Jdg 16:28-31 [Samson motivated by revenge,
however God heard his 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.”

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, because our actions 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

Rom 11:33 - ... How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

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

Rom 8:28 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?

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

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.