

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

SAMPSON: STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS

International Sunday School Lesson for July 31, 1938.

Golden Text: "Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might."—Ephesians 6.10.

Lesson Text: Judges, Chapters 13 to 16

Into the arms of a childless woman came a son, promised by God, especially blessed by God and set apart for His service—Samson. As a Nazirite, his parents swore to bring him up under the strict laws of the sect. He was sworn never to touch any alcoholic beverages nor was a razor ever to be set upon his head.

Early in life, Samson felt and recognized that "the Spirit of the Lord began to move him." If Samson had followed the movings of the Spirit in the days that followed, the story of his life would have been quite different from what it turned out to be.

Apparently accustomed to having everything he wanted, whether it was what he should have had or not, Samson demanded of his Hebrew parents that they arrange a marriage for him with a young woman at Timnah. Being a Philistine woman, his parents were very reluctant to do this, but they acceded to his request. On the way to Timnah, Samson encountered a lion and killed it with his bare hands, the first recorded feat accomplished showing his remarkable physical strength. As a result of this he propounded a riddle to the guests at his wedding feast, stating that if they guessed it in seven days, he would give the thirty men linen under and outer garments, but if they were unable to guess it, they would each give him similar garments. The riddle was, "Out of the eater came forth food, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." Unable to solve the puzzle, they persuaded Samson's wife to get the answer from him. This she did and Samson went to Ashkelon, slew thirty men, took their garments from them and gave them to his guests.

While he was gone to Ashkelon, his father-in-law for some unknown reason, gave his wife to one of the wedding guests. When Samson returned and discovered this, he became enraged and, in order to get even, secured three hundred foxes, tied firebrands to their tails and set them

loose in the wheat-fields of the Philistines. This act, of course, made the Philistines determined to destroy Samson. In order to save themselves, three thousand men of Judah asked Samson to give himself to the Philistines. This he agreed to do, but when he, bound with ropes, came in sight of the Philistines, he snapped his ropes as if they had been flax that was burned with fire.

Apparently Samson failed to learn anything from his bitter experiences with the Philistines and the women of Philistia. We next hear of him in a harlot's house, with his enemies determined to get him. However, hearing of their plans, he escaped at midnight by taking the heavy gates of the city to the top of a hill near Hebron, some miles away. Soon thereafter, he met and fell desperately in love with another Philistine woman, because she was willing to be the instrument through which he was shorn of his physical power and brought to his doom. Through her constant pleas and nagging, she finally persuaded Samson to tell her the source of his remarkable strength. As soon as she learned from him his secret, she plotted with the lords of the Philistines to shear his hair, thus depriving him of his strength. As he slept, with his head on her knees, his hair was shaved off and his strength went from him.

We cannot believe that Samson's powers lay in his long hair. His strength was God-given, but his hair was evidence of the vow he had made to God that he would dedicate his life to His service. When this link with God was broken, the psychological effect on Samson caused the loss of his strength. As a result, he was an easy prey to his enemies, being taken by them, his eyes put out, he was bound with fetters and made to grind corn in the prison house with the slaves. We know how Samson's life ended—a miserable failure, dying with his enemies when, his strength having returned, he pulled down the supports to a great feast hall, causing the entire building to crumble upon the Philistines and himself.

What a tragedy! A physical giant but a moral weakling! It brings us to a consideration of the question, "Who is strong?" This modern life demands strong men and women, but strength of character, which comes only through a life dedicated to God, is more necessary than mere physical strength.

CUMBERLAND NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Leigh White and children, of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. C. B. White.

Misses Mary Elizabeth White and Celesta Godwin, and Ervin Perry, Howard and Harold Hurdle visited Miss Esther Perry, at General Hospital, Norfolk, Va., Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Roach, Mrs. Effie Miller visited Mrs. Eva Stallings on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Davenport, of Elizabeth City, visited Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Godwin Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. West, Mrs. J. E. Perry, Mrs. J. H. Miller and Elmer Miller visited Miss Esther Perry, at Norfolk, Va., Friday.

Mrs. Annie Crain has returned to her home at Charlotte, after visiting her mother, Mrs. Susan Etheridge.

Miss Virginia Umphlett spent a few days last week with her sister, Mrs. Clifton Morgan.

GUESTS HONORED BY DANCE

Miss Ruth Hollowell delightfully entertained at a dance on Wednesday evening in honor of her house guest, Miss Dorothy Hollowell, of Hobbsville, and Miss Foy Stephenson, of Pendleton, the house guest of Miss Marguerite Ward.

Those invited, in addition to the honorees, were: Misses Ruth Winslow, Frances Newby, Geneva White, Marguerite Ward, Margaret Broughton, Florence Darden, Nita Newbold, Marjorie Buck, Maewood Pierce, Ann Felton, Julia Broughton, Mary Thad Chappell, Lila Budd Stephens, Polly Tucker, Alice Roberson, Ellie Mae White, Sara Ward, Ruth Nachman, Virginia White, Mary Wood Koonce, Katherine Jessup, Nancy Darden, Blanche Moore Berry, Marie Anderson, Hattie Pearl Nowell, Katherine Leigh, Mary Fields, Mary Morris, Lucy Darnall, of Huntington, West Virginia, and Edith Matthews, of Suffolk, Va., and Clark Stokes, Billy Umphlett, Harrell Johnson, George Fields, Jack Winslow, Durward Reed, McMullan White, Durwood Harrell, of Edenton, Zach Harris, Zach White, Bill Cox, Paul Tucker, Watt Winslow, Charles White, Herman Ward, Chas. Harrell, Fred Campen, Charles Clark, Jarvis Ward, Al Ward, Elwood Nowell, Hemby Chappell, James Divers, Buddy Cannon, Joe Tucker, of Robersonville, Hollowell Nixon, Tim Brinn, David Broughton, Heywood Divers, Beverly Blanchard, William White, Jim Bob White, Darius Elliott, Ben Koonce, Dan Sharpe, Fred Armstrong, Charles Murray, Jesse Lee Harris, and the chaperones, Misses Ruth Alice Ward and Elizabeth Knowles.

Classified and Legals

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Having qualified as Administratrix of the estate of C. F. Sumner, Sr., deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Hertford, N. C., on or before the 13th day of July, 1938, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 13 day of July, 1938.
MARY E. SUMNER,
Administratrix of C. F. Sumner, Sr.
July 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5, 12, 19

NOTICE
By virtue of a decree of the Superior Court of Perquimans County made in the cause of Nora Rogerson et als Vs. Daniel Roberson, a re-sale having been ordered, the undersigned Commissioner will on Friday, the 12th day of August, 1938, at 11:00 o'clock A. M., offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash at the Court House door in Hertford, Perquimans County, the following described lands: That certain tract of land in Hertford Township, Perquimans County, Beginning on Chinquapin Road in a branch Sallie Goodwin's line, and running along the road N. 25 1/2 west 2 1/2 chs to persimmon tree, thence S 64 West 4 1/2 chains to a post, then S 23 East 2 chains to persimmon tree in Sallie Goodwin's line, then along her line down center of branch to place of beginning, also 4 acres adjoining above, the lands of R. E. Chappell and others, see deed from N. O. Ward to Daniel Roberson Book 13, page 297, Perquimans County Records.
The bidding will start at \$300.00.
This July 26th, 1938.
CHAS. WHEDBEE,
Commissioner.

July 29, Aug. 5

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Jesse Hurdle, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at 701 Raleigh Ave., Elizabeth City, N. C., on or before the 22nd day of June, 1938, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 22nd day of June, 1938.
M. M. HURDLE,
Administrator of Jesse Hurdle.
June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

NOTICE OF SALE
By virtue of the authority contained in that certain deed of trust executed on the 4th day of September, 1908, by Octavius Taylor to T. S. White, Trustee, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Perquimans County, N. C., in M. D. Book 8, page 167, default having been made in the conditions of said deed of trust, and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned Trustee will, on the 19th day of August, 1938, at 11.30 O'clock A. M., at the court house door of Perquimans County, N. C., offer for sale at Public Auction, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described property:

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Mrs. Ada L. White, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Edenton, N. C., on or before the 24th day of May, 1938, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 24th day of May, 1938.
JOSIAH ELLIOTT,
Executor of Mrs. Ada L. White,
June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, pd.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Mattie I. Charlton, deceased, late of Perquimans County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Kenly, N. C., on or before the 21 day of June, 1938, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 21 day of June, 1938.
F. A. WHITE,
Administrator of Mattie I. Charlton.
June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

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