

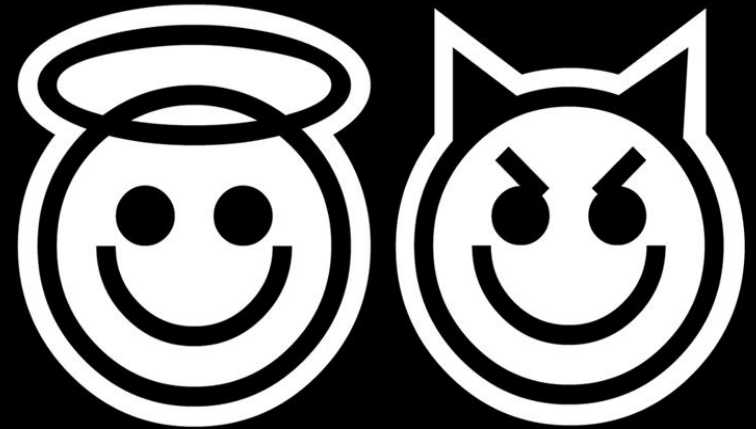
SAMSON AND BELIEVERS: LIVING LIVES OF IRONY

- Fine line between applying a biblical pattern versus twisting it into allegory
- Samson is a picture of a Believer
- Paul Rom. 7:11- 24
“I don’t understand my own behavior....”

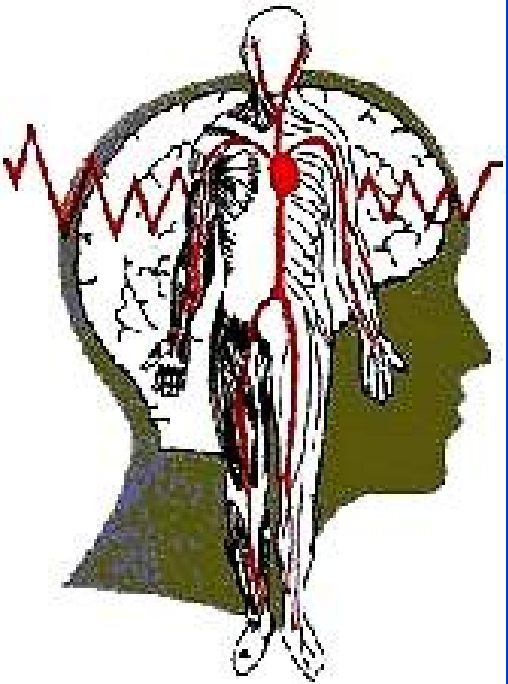


THE IRONY OF THE BELIEVER

- Saved by Grace, but seldom is that grace put into action in our lives
- Spirit of God in us, yet our flesh remains corrupted and our evil inclinations intact
- A Holy text at our fingertips, a Holy guide who lives in us, yet we look for validation elsewhere and do what pleases us
- We know what is wrong, that it is sin, but still do it
- We know what God is directing us to do, but do NOT do it



FAITH VS. FAITHFULNESS



- Faith is an act of the intellect interacting with the spirit
- We can have “faith” in all kinds of things, and every religion has faith in something
- What separates faith in the God of the Bible from all others is that it is an act of the intellect interacting with a HOLY spirit
- Faith in action becomes faithfulness
- Faith is knowing; Faithfulness is doing



JUDGES 16: SAMSON IN GAZA

- Samson goes to Gaza to engage the services of a Philistine prostitute
- Townsfolk plot to kill him in the morning
- He gets up at midnight and takes the city gates, and leaves
- No mention of the Ruach HaKodesh in this incident
- God's purpose for Samson was to cause discord between the Philistines and the Israelites





SAMSON'S LOVE/HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PAGAN WORLD

- Every documented report of Samson involves Philistine women
- **IRONY!!** He loved Philistine (pagan) women, but hated Philistines (pagans) in general
- Just like Believers!
- We like some things of this world and hate others
- It's always the things of the world that trip-up Believers



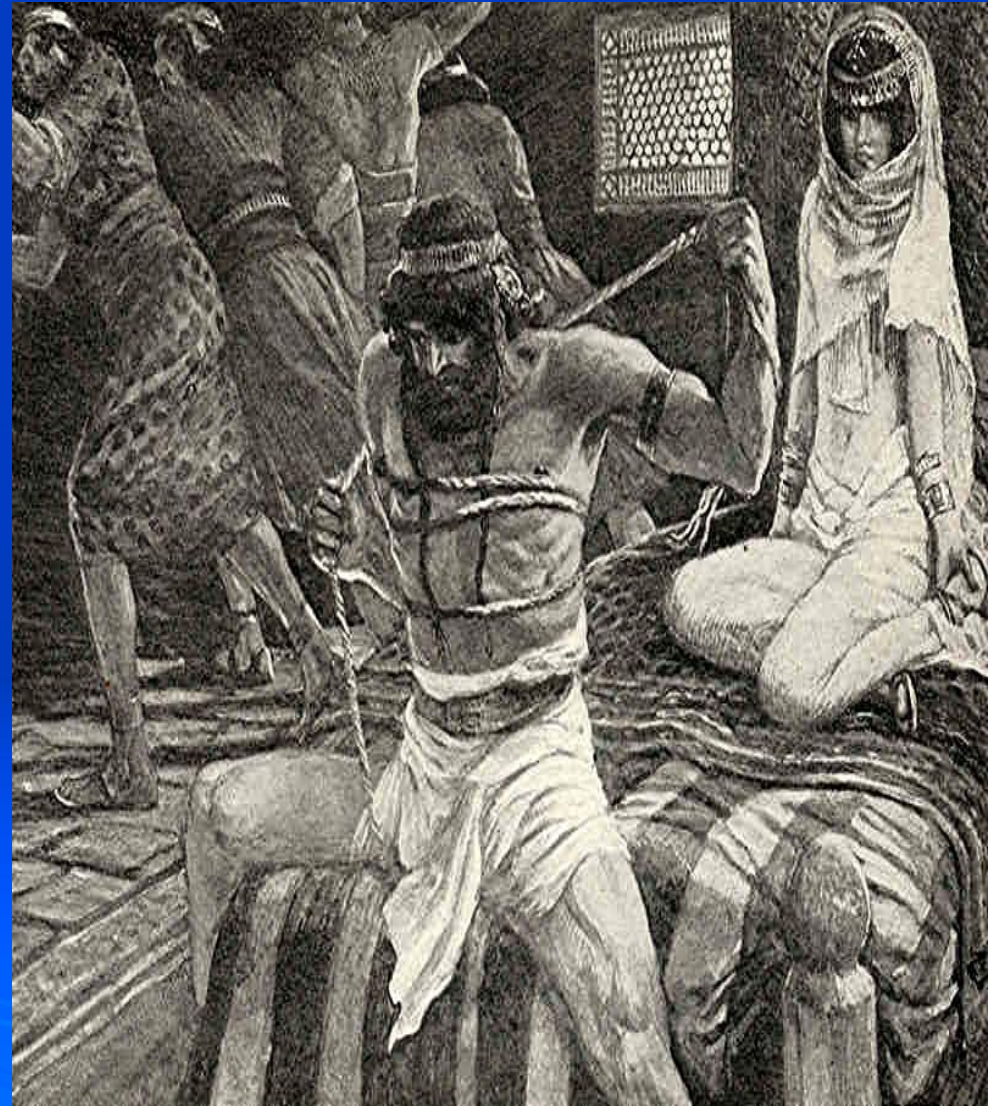
SAMSON AND DELILAH



- Delilah's name is probably a title given to her later on
- She worshipped Dagan and was loyal to the Philistines
- 5 Philistine kings know that force won't work to subdue Samson, but trickery might
- Kings offer Delilah a total of 5500 pieces of silver to find the secret to Samson's strength

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

- Delilah waited for the right moment to ask about Samson's secret
- He tells her that 7 fresh bowstrings would negate his power
- 7 was seen as a magic number
- Next he tells her that new ropes would render him as weak as other men
- **SAMSON IS PLAYING WITH FIRE!!**





- Delilah now tells Samson his lies are hurting her feelings
- So Samson tells her a partial truth
- If she weaves his hair into a loom, it will make him weak
- Men are suckers for outward beauty
- No record of Samson having a Hebrew girl friend

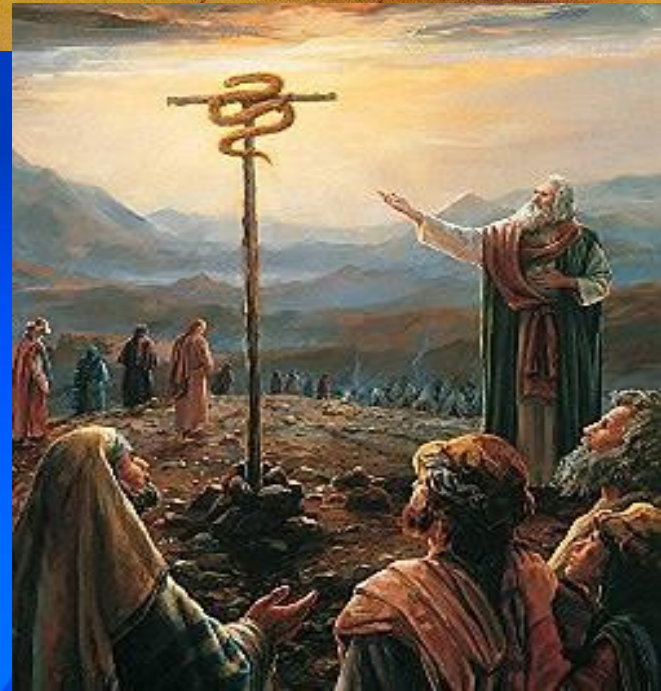
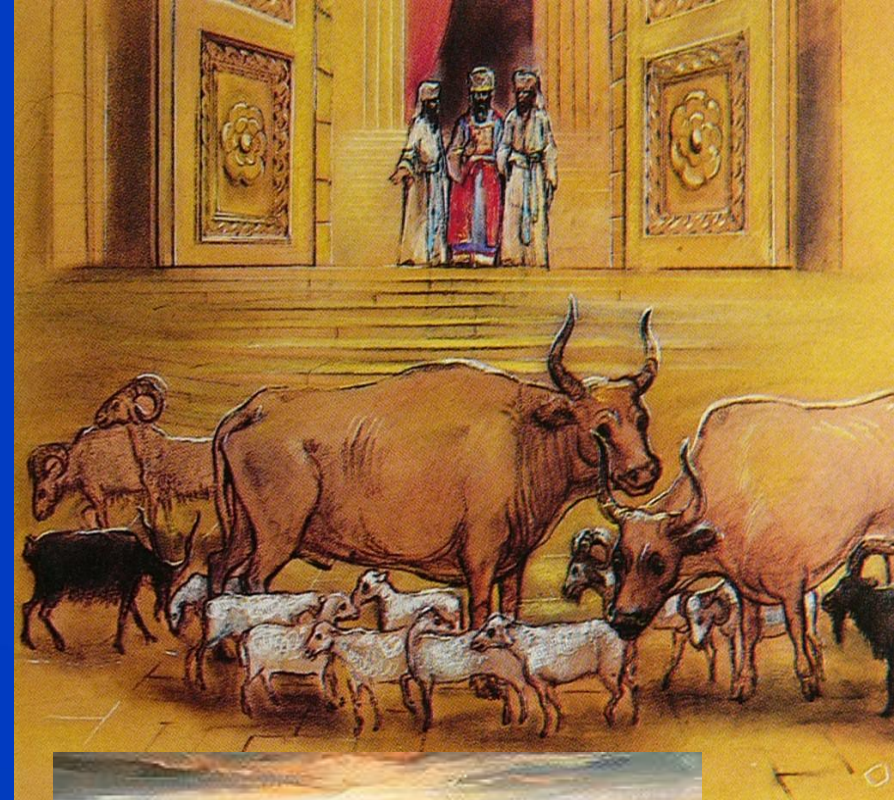
SAMSON LOSES HIS LOCKS

- Delilah nags him daily until he gives in
- He tells her that as a *Nazir* his hair is the source of his strength
- Samson falls asleep on Delilah's lap and a barber comes in and cuts off his braids
- Philistines capture him, but at first Samson doesn't recognize his loss of strength

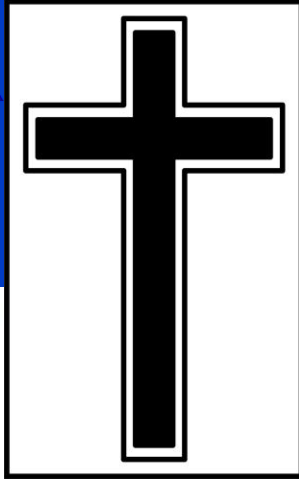


SYMBOLS ARE TRICKY THINGS

- Samson's loss of strength was due to his losing the symbol of his Nazarite relationship with God...Hair
- NO power in the blood of Bulls and Goats
- NO power in Samson's hair
- The issue was obedience to God's laws and commands
- Men tend to misuse symbols
- Bronze Serpent eventually became an object of worship



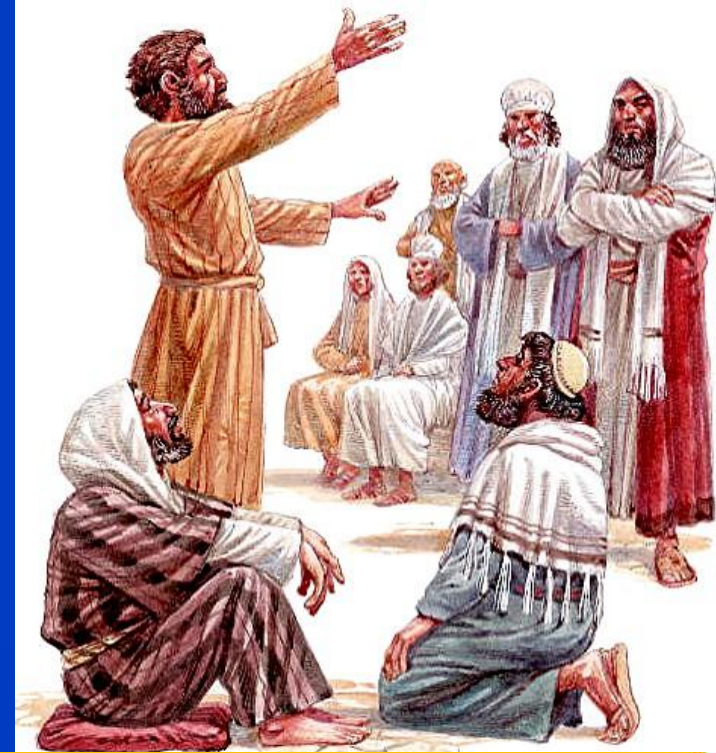
HOW SYMBOLS CAN BECOME IDOLS



- Once we impute ANY power to a symbol, it has become an idol
- No symbol, including Samson's hair, had power
- God departed from Samson after his hair was cut off
- Samson played a frivolous game with a whore over the symbol of his faithfulness, and LOST!
- Thus Samson **CHOSE** to let his special relationship with God slip away from him

ONGOING SYMBOLS OF THE BELIEVER

- Sabbath and confessing with our mouths that Yeshua is Lord are the ongoing SYMBOLS of our relationship with God
- Ex. 31:13 “*you are to observe Shabbats....a sign between me and you*”
- Luke 6:5 “*The Son of Man is Lord of the Shabbat*”
- **ONLY** trust in Christ is needed to obtain and maintain salvation



שִׁבּוּת • שְׁלוֹמִים

SHABBAT

Shalom

SAMSON'S "SALVATION" LOST?



- YHWH departed from Samson when his hair was cut off
- Samson was NOT spiritually cut-off from God or destined for the Place of Torments
- Samson still believed in the God of Israel
- Samson still had faith BUT he had abandoned his FAITHFULNESS!
- His spiritual weakness led to his physical weakness

BACKING AWAY FROM GOD THROUGH DISOBEDIENCE

- Disobedience makes us weaker
- Temptation is no longer resistible
- The world's treasures become everything to us
- No man can measure our faith, but our faithfulness is usually quite apparent
- As “Baby Christians” all we have is faith
- As we mature we gain faithfulness
- We are NOT supposed to stay being “Baby Christians”!!



- Samson's eyes were gouged out
- His eyes were the instruments of his unfaithfulness
- His eyes were the portals of his lust
- By now becoming blind to the things of the world, he could FINALLY see the Lord.