

I. Two key battles with Philistines mark the end of the Judges period

- A. The terrible defeat at Aphek where the Ark was lost
- B. The deliverance at Mizpah twenty years later

II. Note the relationship of Samuel and Samson

A. Samuel

- 1. Spent time at the tabernacle before Aphek
- 2. At battle of Aphek Samuel was old enough to bring God's Word to the people
- 3. Twenty years later something caused Israel to seek God earnestly
- 4. Following Mizpah, Samuel assumes the role as Judge

B. Samson

- 1. Also at a time when Philistines rule
- 2. Samson was a Judge for twenty years
- 3. The angel of the Lord said Samson would begin to deliver
- 4. Samson's death seems to be the reason Israel turned to God

III. Similarities between the two men

- A. Both Nazarites from birth
- B. Both Judges
- C. Both part of God's plan of deliverance
 - 1. Samson – the mighty one
 - 2. Samuel – heard of God

Assignment:

Read 1 Samuel 7-14.

IV. Samson

- A. Most gifted of all the Judges
- B. Remained self-centered despite his high calling
- C. When he God anywhere close to fulfilling his calling God met him
- D. God was very patient with him
- E. Ultimately he died only partially successful because he toyed with the calling of God
- F. Never confuse God's patience with you as approval of your present state

V. Samuel

- A. Israel lost the battle at Aphek because they failed to deal with the idolatry of the nation
- B. For twenty years Samuel brought the Word of God to Israel with little visible affect
- C. God created a circumstance where Israel became desperate for deliverance
 - 1. Desperate enough to tear down the idols
 - 2. Samuel then calls for a national conviction of repentance
- D. The Philistines assumed the gathering was for war and attacked
- E. Israel had no means to fight but were in a real relationship with God
- F. God steps in –
 - 1. **Success or failure for Israel depends on their relationship with God**