

CHARISMATIC CHURCH (ABC)
LESSON 10
READ JUDGES 13-16 (SAMSON)

QUESTION

The CHARISMATIC CHURCH refers to the gift-centred church. It covers an approximate period from 1900 to 2000.

The Azuza Street revival of the early 1900's focussed on tongues.

1970's focussed on faith.

1980's focussed on prophets and prophecy.

1990's focussed on apostles.

Any focus on the gift including gift of the apostle(called apostolic movement) is a charismatic mentality.

Using Judges 13-16 explain how Samson is a type/picture of the CHARISMATIC CHURCH/MOVEMENT.

ANSWERS(LESSON 10 – THE CHARISMATIC CHURCH) - ABC

The Pentecostal movement, because of its emphasis on the gift of tongues, is herewith included in the Charismatic Church.

THE FOLLOWING ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT/CHURCH:

1. INITIATED BY GOD AFTER A PERIOD OF BARRENESS.

Judg 13:3

And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

(NKJ)

The church was barren in terms of gift manifestations prior to the Pentecostal experiences of the early 1900's. Just as the Angel of the Lord sovereignly intervened in the life of the woman, God sovereignly intervened in the life of the church in, for instance, the Azuza Street revival.

2. CLEAN BEGINNING.

Judg 13:4-5

4"Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean.

5"For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; (NKJ)

The move was born in purity. Nazarite means separation. The move was intended to deliver God's people from the Philistines(indulgence/wallowing).

3. IT WAS A "BEGINNING" AND NOT A "FINISHING" MOVE.

Judg 13:5

"For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

(NKJ)

4. IT WAS A LEGITIMATE MOVEMENT.

Just like Samson, the Charismatic Movement was sovereignly initiated. In addition, the acceptance of the goat offering (traditional sin offering), validated the Angel.

Judg 13:19

So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He

did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on--
(NKJ)
(Gideon also tested the manifestation through the goat offering.)

5. THE SPIRIT MOVED.

Judg 13:25

And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.
The Charismatic movement was characterized by great moves of the Spirit.

6. THE MOVEMENT WAS FOLLOWED BY SPIRITUAL DECLINE.

Judg 14:1

Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. (NKJ)
After the Spirit moved upon Samson, he WENT DOWN. The Charismatic Church squandered the move of God. Instead of personal responsibility to go up or into the Word of God, Charismatics went down into fleshly indulgence. Houses, cars, land and sexual immorality became priorities.

7. EXPOSURE OF SEXUAL STRONGHOLD.

Samson sought that which was forbidden – YET IT WAS OF THE LORD.

Judg 14:4

But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD-- that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel. (NKJ)

God intended to demonstrate that the Philistines had dominion over Israel i.e. the flesh was ruling. The Charismatic Movement demonstrated lustfulness in the church.

8. NO APOSTOLIC PROPHETIC ACCOUNTABILITY.

Judg 14:3

Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well." (NKJ)
Samson did not listen to his father and mother, pictures of the apostle and prophet respectively.

9. SILENCING THE LION.

Judg 14:5-6

5 So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him.

6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. (NKJ)

The lion roared after Samson's covenantal violation. Figuratively, this is Jesus roaring his disapproval in the church. The Charismatic Church silenced any disagreement. IT CALLED THE LION THE DEVIL.

10. THE CHARISMATIC CHURCH GAVE THE PEOPLE HONEY.

Judg 14:8-9

8 After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the carcass of the lion.

9 He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they also ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion. (NKJ)

This was a sweet movement. It never gave strong meat. It was a movement filled with cliches and good words. The honey came from the CARCASS OF THE LION – it came from something dead.

11. THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT DID NOT BRING REVELATION, IT POSED RIDDLES.

Judg 14:12

Then Samson said to them, "Let me pose a riddle to you. If you can correctly solve and explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing.

(NKJ)

The Charismatic Church posed perplexing questions and private interpretations.

EXAMPLES OF CHARISMATIC RIDDLES:

For every story there is a glory
For every glory there is a story
If you don't have the story, then you don't have the glory.

The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart.
If the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart,
then the problem of the heart is the heart of the problem.

Many of these riddles could only be solved by the manufacturer of these riddles.

11. LOSS OF PURPOSE.

Instead of destroying the Philistines, Samson :

- played riddles with them.
- feasted with them. (Judges 14:10)
- married one of them.

The Philistines are symbolic of the flesh. Instead of subduing the flesh, Charismatics indulged in it.

APOSTOLIC SEDUCTION.

Judg 14:10

So his father went down to the woman. And Samson gave a feast there, for young men used to do so. (NKJ)

After Samson went down, his father went down. Many apostles were seduced into charismatic indulgence.

SENTIMENTAL WEAKNESS.

Judg 14:16-17

16 Then Samson's wife wept on him, and said, "You only hate me! You do not love me! You have posed a riddle to the sons of my people, but you have not explained it to me." And he said to her, "Look, I have not explained it to my father or my mother; so should I explain it to you?"

17 Now she had wept on him the seven days while their feast lasted. And it happened on the seventh day that he told her, because she pressed him so much. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people. (NKJ)

The Charismatic Church succumbed to sentimental persuasion and manipulation. Love was prized above truth. Many pastors succumbed to sad stories and testimonies.

MATERIAL MOTIVATION.

The only reason Samson attacked the enemy was to settle his debt.

Judg 14:19

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father's house. (NKJ)

Here again it was a downward movement after the Spirit moved upon him mightily. The Charismatic movement was characterized by strong material motivation in its crusades, conferences and missions. Often, more time was spent on the offering than the Word. This happened in a time of a mighty move of God.

WIFE GIVEN TO HIS BEST MAN.

Judg 14:20

And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man. (NKJ)

The better half, fled with the best man. Split churches were the norm in the Charismatic movement. The best elder fled with half the church to start his own family.

REACTIVE RATHER THAN PROACTIVE.

Judg 15:3

And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!" (NKJ)

Samson attacked the Philistines in response to a personal crisis – he could not get his wife back. In fact every attack on the Philistines was reactive.

Spiritual activity (attacking the Philistines) in the Charismatic Church (prayer, fasting, special corporate gatherings) was largely due to crisis or need e.g. sickness, demonisation, building projects etc.

FIRE FROM THE FOX'S TAIL.

Judg 15:4-5

4 Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails.

5 When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves. (NKJ)

God's fire directed as in the case of the pillar of fire in the wilderness (Exod. 13:21) and validated (1 Kings 18:24) his person.

Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire (Num. 26:61)

THIS FIRE CAME FROM THE FOX'S TAIL.

The fox is a symbol of CUNNING.

The Charismatic Movement was characterized by cunning fire. Just as the fire from the fox's tail destroyed the vineyards, human resources were destroyed by deceptive fire that never equipped the believers. Many demonized individuals were in involuntary prostration for the entire teaching of God's word – unable to internalize any Word that would effect self-deliverance.

AFTER THE FIRE THE FLESH SPOKE.

Exod 3:2

And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. (NKJ)

Exod 3:4

So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." (NKJ)

GOD SPOKE FROM THE MIDST OF THE FIRE.

Judg 15:6

Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" (NKJ)

AFTER THE FOX'S FIRE, THE PHILISTINES SPOKE.

The deceptive fire of some Charismatic Churches was followed by the voice of the flesh.

Rev 13:13-14

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. (NKJ)

"CLEFT OF THE ROCK" EXPERIENCES.

Judg 15:8

So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam. (NKJ)

Jesus is metaphorically designated by the rock. The "cleft of the rock" signifies the awesome, protective, manifest presence of God which was a classic feature of the Charismatic Movement.

THE RULE OF THE FLESH.

Judg 15:11

Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them." (NKJ)

Samson's brothers reminded him as to who was ruling.

AS MORE AND MORE LEADERS IN THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT WERE DISQUALIFIED, TRUE LEADERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FLESH (PHILISTINES) WAS RULING IN THE CHURCH.

DO UNTO OTHERS AS THEY HAVE DONE UNTO YOU.

Judg 15:11

Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them." (NKJ)

Revenge attacks were not uncommon. This sometimes took place on television as megachurches fought with each other.

BINDING AND LOOSENING.

Judg 15:13

So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. (NKJ)

His brothers tied him up and handed him over to the Philistines.

There was so much of binding in the Charismatic movement, that eventually brother was bound by brother.

BROTHER DISCOURAGING BROTHER.

Judg 15:13

So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. (NKJ)

Samson's own brothers brought him out of the rock. It was your own brothers that discouraged you in the Charismatic Movement and removed you from the manifest presence of God.

ONE MAN MINISTRY.

Judg 15:15-16

15 He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.

16 Then Samson said: "With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!"

(NKJ)

Samson killed a thousand men all by himself.

It was not uncommon for celebrity preachers to call their ministries by their names, because they did it by themselves. The Charismatic Ministry was devoid of teamwork.

THE GIFT OF THE GAB.

Judg 15:15

He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it. (NKJ)

He did the job with a fresh jawbone.

Charismatic victories were often due to the jawbone – the gift of the gab. The most eloquent speakers come from the Charismatic Movement.

REVIVAL FOR SURVIVAL.

Judg 15:18

Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to the LORD and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

(NKJ)

Samson's cry was, "give me water or I die".

The Charismatic cry was "revive us or we die".

The need for revival was to survive, rather than accelerate the purposes of God.

AN HOLLOW ANOINTING

Judg 15:19

So God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day. (NKJ)

The water to quench Samson's thirst came from the hollow place, not from the rock.

Many Charismatic churches, survive on an hollow anointing. This anointing is SPIRIT WITHOUT THE

WORD.

NOTICE

- SAMSON NEVER FOUGHT WITH THE SWORD(SYMBOL OF THE WORD).
- THE WORD OF THE LORD NEVER CAME TO SAMSON.

INDULGENCE AFTER REVIVAL.

Judg 16:1

Then Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. (NKJ)

After revival Samson indulged himself with the harlot.

The Charismatic Church squandered the moves of God with fleshly indulgence – the church got more cars, land and buildings and less and less of God and his word.

29. POWERFUL DECLARATIONS IN THE MIDST OF A PERVERSE LIFESTYLE.

Judg 16:3

And Samson lay low till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put them on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron (NKJ)

Samson dismantled the gate of Gaza and placed it on the hill facing Hebron. This was a symbolic declaration to every Philistine –

“THE GATES OF GAZA WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST HEBRON”(where the people of god lived).

Charismatics claimed similar declarations:

Matt 16:18

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (NKJ)

Just after this declaration, Samson violated covenant by consorting with Delilah.

Judg 16:4

Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. (NKJ)

STRONG ARMS, STRONG SHOULDERS, BUT NO BRAINS.

He moved the gates with his arms and carried them on his shoulders but failed to discern the inaccuracy of his relationship with Delilah. This was a wasted demonstration as it did not defeat the Philistines, but merely postponed the battle.

THERE IS NOW A STRONG DEMAND UPON ALL BELIEVERS TO USE THEIR MIND, GIVEN TO THEM BY GOD, TO CONTEND FOR THE FAITH.

INACCURATE RELATIONSHIPS

Samson moved from the woman in Timnath, to the harlot in Gaza and finally to Delilah.

Many Charismatics have a problem with commitment. They move from church to church looking for someone to please them.

Judg 14:3

Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well." (NKJ)

Delilah means "brought low". Imagine having a relationship with someone whose name and prophetic destiny is to bring you low.

“WORTH MORE THAN JESUS”.

Samson's price of betrayal was 1100 pieces of silver, Jesus only 30.

The Charismatic celebrities prized themselves above Jesus. Those bound by the flesh were willing to pay.

The miracles, signs and wonders, and the celebrity speaker was in big letters – Jesus in small letters or not mentioned at all.

LAWLESSNESS.

1100 is a multiple of 11, the number of lawlessness. Many leaders in the Charismatic movement became a "law unto themselves". When manifestations are exalted above the voice of God, and the gifts above the giver that is lawlessness.

STRENGTH IN EXTERNAL MANIFESTATIONS.

Judg 16:6

6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you." (NKJ)

Judg 16:17

17 that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man." (NKJ)

Samson told Delilah that his strength was in his hair. HE DID NOT SAY THAT HIS STRENGTH WAS IN GOD.

The hair is symbolic of external manifestations. The hair is the first thing you notice about a person.

The strength of the Charismatic lay in external manifestations:-

SIZE OF THE BUILDING.

SIZE OF THE CONGREGATION.

PROFICIENCY OF THE MUSIC TEAM.

DRESS OF THE LEADERS – (SOME FOLK BELIEVE THAT THE

ANOINTING IS IN THE TIE.)

VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE.

PROJECTS.

FEEDING SCHEMES.

TENT CRUSADES.

ETC.

When these things are taken away, many believers feel naked.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY TO THE SPIRIT.

In the midst of great moves of the Spirit Samson indulged himself. He had no conviction of the Holy Spirit. He failed to recognize the void when the Spirit left.

Judg 16:20

And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. (NKJ)

The Charismatic Church said "let us have a tent crusade as before, at other times". The church came back having failed. What is even worse is when the church calls failure success. This lack of sensitivity to the present demand of God – the demand to mentor/equip/raise sons in the house – is a clear indication that God is no longer speaking through the many leaders in the Charismatic Church.

BOUND, BLIND AND GROUNDED.

Judg 16:21

Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. (NKJ)

Samson was blind and bound. He went in circles, grinding in prison – he stagnated.

Sadly, this is what I see in the movement.

37. WARRIOR TO CIRCUS PERFORMER.

Judg 16:25

So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may perform for us." So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them. And they stationed him between the pillars. (NKJ)

Samson was now performing to entertain the Philistines. Sadly, many Charismatic churches are now entertainment centres. THIS IS AUDIENCE BASED CHRISTIANITY that feeds the flesh.

38. SUICIDE MISSION

Judg 16:30

Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life. (NKJ)

SUICIDE AMONGST MANY BELIEVERS IS ON THE INCREASE.

MORE EFFECTIVE IN HIS DEATH.

Samson killed more Philistines in his death, than during his lifetime.

Judg 16:30

Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life. (NKJ)

FOR THE PURPOSE OF EFFECTIVITY, THE MOVEMENT MUST BE ALLOWED TO DIE.

Judg 16:31

And his brothers and all his father's household came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. He had judged Israel twenty years. (NKJ)

His brothers BROUGHT HIM UP when he died. Death (death to the flesh) is the only event that will result in the upward migration of the believer.

NEITHER A PRIEST NOR KING.

Samson was neither a priest nor king. He never ministered to the Lord as a priest, or ruled as a king. Most believers in this movement neither minister as priests nor rule as kings.

THEREFORE WELCOME TO DAVID AS GOD RESTORES THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID, THE PROTOTYPE OF THE MELCHIZEDEK ORDER OF BELIEVERS.