

WINTER YOUTH CONFERENCE 2009

“IF YE BE WILLING AND OBEDIENT, YE SHALL EAT OF THE GOOD OF THE LAND...”Isa. 1:19

The above referenced verse ends with such a wonderful promise! It does not say “ye might” or “ye could” but it says “Ye **SHALL** eat of the good of the land!. This was **God’s promise** to His people. It was as secure as God Himself – because He said it! So we might conclude – if we did not have the written Word – that His people always experienced untold blessing. No doubt some did but many did not. Do you think this is any different today? Maybe we are like many of His people of old – we look at the **blessing** and seem to forget the **means of obtaining** the blessing. The two words in the beginning of the verse are momentous! They look simple enough don’t they? **“Willing”** and **“Obedient”**!

This is the springboard from which we shall launch our studies this year. What comes to your mind when you think of the word **WILLING**? Would we link it with our attitude? Before we go into the spiritual realm, let’s talk about the everyday world we live in. Would your parents say that you are a willing person? Be honest with yourself. The opposite of a willing person is a **strong willed** person who will have his or her own will at any cost and we may be sure that there is great cost when we insist on having our own way! What would our close friends say about us? An older brother used to tell us “If we will have **our way**– God allows us to have the **sorrow** of it!” Our studies initially will take up the life of a man for whom God had great plans – but Samson had many plans of his own at such a cost to himself and to the people of God.

The second condition that our God puts before His people is **OBEDIENCE**. How many of us treat the requests of our parents or those in charge of us as **OPTIONS**? If we do this in the natural realm of life – we will probably find that we do the same

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thing in the spiritual realm. Instead of “keeping his Word”, we will find that we may keep it if it is convenient! And then we learn in painful experience that God’s salvation is unconditional – but His blessing on our lives is conditional and very closely linked to the two words we have been looking at. So often we look at things as they appear to affect us right now – “short term” so to speak – and fail to realize that what we thought was “short term” is really a long term commitment. Let’s think “out loud” and name some of the decisions that we will make between the years of 16 and 30 that will affect us the rest of our life. Having done this, we will be much better prepared to get the gain from studying Samson and the decisions he made. Let’s list 4 or 5 decisions that all of us will make and discuss them before looking at Samson.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

JUDGES CHAPTER 13 THRU CHAPTER 15

We trust that before the conference you will take time to read the story of Samson. Can we list some advantages Samson may have had that others did not. Let’s discuss them.

1. His parents were _____.
2. Who had a plan for Samson’s life? Discuss other advantages.
3. Discuss the instructions of the angel to the wife of Manoah that were optional. Chapter 13 – verse 14.
4. Let’s discuss some danger signs in Chapter 14 – vs 1 – 7.
5. Let’s carefully look at verse 4 – what was “of the Lord” and what was not of the Lord in these verses?
6. What is the significance of the lion coming against Samson? What do you think the Lord was telling Samson?

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7. Discuss verse 16 – Who does she have reference to when she says “my people”? Discuss their relationship and her approach to him in verses 16 and 17.
8. Discuss her untimely end in Chapter 15 – vs 6.
9. Discuss Chapter 14 – verse 6, verse 19 and Chapter 15 – verse 14.
10. We can divide the life of Samson into two distinct time periods. In Chapter 15 – verse 18, the Lord comes in on behalf of Samson and there is a great victory and a time of spiritual prosperity seems to have lasted for 20 years.

CHAPTER 16

1. Verse 5 shows us a bit of the character of the Philistines. Discuss.
2. What are some of the obvious mistakes that you see as a young person that Samson made? How can we apply these failures seen in his life yesterday to our lives today? Discuss
3. Discuss the first part of verse 18.
4. Discuss verses 20 and 21 – especially the latter part of verse 20.
5. While verses 27 through 30 show us a great victory over the Philistines, how many of us would like to have our greatest victory in life for the Lord end in this way? Discuss

JOSEPH – A FRUITFUL BOUGH!

We trust that before the conference you will take time to read the story of Joseph.

We want to see some of the characteristics of this young man as scripture introduces him to us.

Chapter 37 – Verse 2

1. How old was Joseph? What was he doing? Do you think “feeding the sheep” was a hobby of his? Why do you think he was involved in this activity?

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2. Discuss his conversation with his father in verse 13 and apply his father's request to the beginning verses we had in Isaiah Chapter 1.

Chapter 39

1. We learn many valuable lessons for our lives by looking at the life of Joseph in this chapter. Discuss and list the very practical results that were seen in the life of Joseph as seen in verses 2 through 6.

Verses 7 thru 20 show us the frontal attack of Satan with Joseph.

2. Discuss the ***first action*** of Joseph in verse 8. How would we apply this to our lives today.
3. Discuss the ***reasoning*** of the mind of Joseph as seen in verses 8 and 9. What was of the utmost importance to him.
4. What very practical precautions did Joseph take in verse 10 and how would we apply this to our lives today?
5. To outward appearances, she seems to have won the battle – but let's discuss verses 21 through 23. What is the key in verse 21? Discuss the very practical results seen in the life of Joseph because Joseph was faithful to his God.