**GOD’S PURPOSE IN ALL THINGS**

**Text: Judges 14:1-4**

* 1 Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines.
* 2 So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, “I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.”
* 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.”
* 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.

**INTRO:**

* Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.
* In all things God works for His purpose to take place
* Things that happen to us would only be good when God’s purpose is fulfilled
* If not, it does not make sense

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO SEE GOD’S PURPOSE IN EVERYTHING
* FOR US TO WORK WITH GOD IN THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS PURPOSE

**I. SAMSON LOVED A WOMAN FROM THE UNCIRCUMCISED PHILISTINES-V 3**

* Exodus 23:32 You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.
* 33 They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For *if* you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”
* Deuteronomy 7:16 “Also you shall destroy all the peoples whom the LORD your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that *will* *be* a snare to you.
* Judges 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.”
* But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD
* His feeling was God-driven
* It wasn’t an accident or man’s plan
* Proverbs 16:9 We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps. NLT
* God was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.
* In short, in everything God has a purpose
* Pattern in the book of Judges: God’s people worship other gods, they will become slaves, they cry out to God, and God will send a deliverer
* Samson was one of them
* Samson married this woman
* He gave them a riddle but the Philistines threatened to kill his wife
* She was given to the best man
* Samson burned their grain and vineyard
* The Philistines killed his wife and her family
* Samson took revenge and slaughtered many of them
* Their enemies were killed which would lead to their freedom
* The men of Judah arrested Samson and when he was delivered to the Philistines, he killed a thousand of them
* Unfortunately, God’s purpose of delivering them wasn’t fully fulfilled
* He judged Israel for twenty years

**II. SAMSON WALKED OUT FROM HIS (GOD’S) PURPOSE**

* Judges 16:1 Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.
* Judges 16:4 Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name *was* Delilah.
* This time, his love was not on God’s purpose
* He loved Delilah and revealed his secret
* Delilah was a woman who is willing to torture him
* Judges 16:9 Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.
* Judges 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.
* He was captured by his enemies
* Judges 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.
* The tendency of not doing God’s purpose is, we will be doing the enemy’s purpose
* Whose purpose are you fulfilling at the moment?
* Christians should not be spectators
* Everyone must function in Christ’s body because we are called for according to His purpose
* All must be doing something to advance the kingdom of God

**III. SAMSON’S UNTIMELY DEATH**

* He was brought our of prison to entertain his enemies
* He asked a lad to let him feel the pillar that support the temple
* He begged God to have his vengeance for his eyes
* Instead of delivering God’s people, his concern now was selfish, to take revenge
* God once again strengthened him and he killed more enemies than before
* In other words, untimely death is when you haven’t fulfilled your purpose
* Life was given to us to fulfill a purpose
* When we fulfill God’s purpose, it’s a good/perfect/lovely death
* Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD
* *Is* the death of His saints.

**IV. REHOBOAM’S DECISION TO TAKE HEED THE YOUNG ONES’ ADVICE**

* Rehoboam was Solomon’s son who succeeded him as a king
* The Israelites came to him to ease the burden his father placed on the people
* He gave the people three days for him to respond on their plea
* He consulted the old ones and the young ones as well
* The old people said, to lighten the burden to have their loyalty
* The young ones advised him to make it worst
* II Chronicles 10:15 So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn *of events* was from God, that the LORD might fulfill His word,
* which He had spoken by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.
* I Kings 11:11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.
* 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.
* 13 However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

**V. THE LIFE OF JOSEPH**

* He dreamt dreams
* He shared his dreams to his family which made them indignant to him
* Intended to killed him if not for the intervention of Judah
* He was sold by his own brothers
* He became a slave, accused of raping his master’s wife
* He was imprisoned, interpreted dreams
* Genesis 40:14 “But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.
* He was totally forgotten until the Pharaoh dreamt dreams
* He became the Pharaoh’s right hand, second in command in Egypt
* Gen 45:5 “But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.
* 15 When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him.”
* 16 So they sent *messengers* to Joseph, saying, “Before your father died he commanded, saying,
* 17 ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph: “I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.”’ Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.
* 18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we *are* your servants.”
* 19 Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God?
* 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.
* 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**VI. GOD’S PURPOSE TO HUMBLE THE ISRAELITES**

* Deuteronomy 8:3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make
* you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.
* 4 Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.
* Approximately 3 million died in the wilderness without experiencing the land of milk and honey because they fail to humble themselves
* Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of hosts has sworn: “As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,
* He will continue to work our His purpose

**CHALLENGE:**

* CAN YOU SEE GOD’S PURPOSE IN EVERYTHING?
* WILL YOU INSIST YOUR OWN PURPOSE DESPITE KNOWING HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR OWN GOOD?

**CONCLUSION:**

* **Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.**