

# Falling from Faithfulness: The Book of Judges

## Samson's Beginning

### Judges 12:8-14:20 ESV

Main Idea: God demonstrates his power in the deliverance of his people.

Intro: Judges 12:8-15

Grudem: "God's omnipotence means that God is able to do all his holy will. The word omnipotence is derived from two Latin words, omni, "all," and potens, "powerful," and means "all-powerful." ... God's omnipotence has reference to his own power to do what he decides to do."

Block: "As already indicated, the purpose of this chapter is to describe how Yahweh provided a deliverer from the Philistine oppression for the Israelites. The narrator's concern is not primarily the human characters (except to their weaknesses) but on the divine force behind the events."

Yahweh's Power in Samson's Start: Judges 13:1-24

*We see that it is God's will, his desire, his pleasure to save Israel as he raises up yet another deliverer. His ability to bring about salvation is seen in the details of Samson's birth*

Yahweh's Power in Samson's Selfishness: Judges 13:25-14:4

*God's powerful ability to save is displayed in bringing about his will despite evil and sin.*

D. A. Carson: "To put it bluntly, God stands behind evil in such a way that not even evil takes place outside the bounds of his sovereignty, yet the evil is not morally chargeable to him: it is always chargeable to secondary agents, to secondary causes. On the other hand, God stands behind good in such a way that it not only takes place within the bounds of his sovereignty, but it is always chargeable to him, and only derivatively to secondary agents.

In other words, if I sin, I cannot possibly do so outside the bounds of God's sovereignty (or the many texts already cited have no meaning), but I alone am responsible for that sin-or perhaps I and those who tempted me, led me astray, and the like. God is not to be blamed. But if I do good, it is God working in me both to will and to act according to his good pleasure. God's grace has been manifest in my case, and he is to be praised.

If this sounds just a bit too convenient for God, my initial response (though there is more to be said) is that according to the Bible this is the only God there is. There is no other."

Yahweh's Power in Samson's Strength: Judges 14:5-9

*Samson's first exploit of strength points to God's power and his own weakness.*

Yahweh's Power in Samson's Striking: Judges 14:10-20

*God's will to save and his mighty all-powerful-ness ensures he will save*

Seeing Christ in Samson's Story

In both salvation stories, God announces the birth of the deliverer to a pious woman through an angel. Both deliverers would bring salvation by the power of God's Spirit. Both stories are a testament to the power of God in salvation of his people.

Samson, though morally and spiritually weak, would show God strong through his physical strength. Jesus, though physically weak, would show God strong through his moral and spiritual strength.

Samson's victories were primarily private and personal. Samson, though impressively empowered, accomplishes less on behalf of his people than the other deliverers. He doesn't lead his people into battle and he doesn't experience any kind of national triumph.

Christ's victory was vicarious, it was for sinners. Christ accomplishes infinitely more than all deliverers and saviours combined. He also didn't lead his people into battle because he fought alone and his triumph was not national in scope, but cosmically universal.

Through Samson God demonstrated his power to temporarily deliver his people from their enemies. In Christ, God demonstrated his power to eternally deliver his people from their enemies.

Ephesians 1:3-8 ESV – God's will to save us

Ephesians 1:15-21 ESV – God's ability to save us