

3. Avenged.

How severe was the punishment put upon Samson?
 What was Samson's prayer?
 Does this teach that God approves of human vengeance-taking?

What do the Scriptures teach about self-avenging?
 Deut. 32:35; Psa. 94:1; Isa. 35:4, etc.
 How was he avenged upon his enemies?
 What was the character of Samson?
 Was his life a success or a failure?

Practical Teachings.

The old story is told over: temptation, parley with evil, a moment of weakness, asleep in sin, bound hand and foot by the devil. Life is daily witnessing the same scene. Are you acting upon his enemies?
 Men come to a spiritual crisis as Samson came to a physical one. If they yield, spiritual blindness comes, and who will restore sight to those blind eyes? Is there a hint that it will ever come? Samson died blind.

Hints for Home Study.

1. Study first the history from Gideon to Samson.
2. Study, second, the history of Samson's life.
3. Study the effect of his life on history.
4. See if you can find any references to him in other parts of the Bible.
5. What were the elements of success and failure in his life?

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.**1. Blind.**

Of what blind man does this lesson tell?
 What caused Samson's blindness?
 Where did his captors take him?
 To what mean employment was he put?
 What sign of returning strength appeared?

2. Mocked.

What great gathering occurred at Gaza?
 What idol did those people worship?
 What victory did they ascribe to their god?
 What said the people when they saw Samson?
 What demand did the revelers make?
 From whence was Samson called?
 Where was he placed?
 What other great captive was mocked by his enemies?
 Matt. 27:31.

3. Avenged.

What request did Samson make of his keeper?
 Who were in the house?
 How many were upon the roof?
 What prayer did Samson utter?
 What preparation did he make for avenging himself?
 What trial of his strength did he make?
 What disaster followed?
 What is said of the number slain?
 Who buried Samson?
 Where was he buried?
 How long did he judge Israel?
 What lesson does Samson's history teach us? (Golden Text.)

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That sin binds its victims with fetters?
2. That sin blinds its victims to danger?
3. That sin ruins its victims at last?

Hints for Home Study.

Read the early history and achievements of Samson.
 Find a commendation of Samson in the New Testament.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Who was Samson? The son of Manoah.
 What had God given him? Great strength.
 Who were the enemies of Israel at this time? The Philistines.

What work had God called Samson to do? To deliver Israel from the Philistines.
 How did Samson displease God? By telling the secret of his strength.

How did the Lord punish him? By taking away his strength.

What did the Philistines then do to him? They took him and put out his eyes.

Where was he confined? In a prison at Gaza.

What did he learn while there? That all strength is in God.

What did God restore to him? His strength.

To whom did the Philistines make a great feast? To their idol, Dagon.

Who was called to amuse the people? Samson.

Where was the feast held? In the idol temple.

Who were present? All the lords of the Philistines and many others.

What did Samson pray that he might do? Slay all these people.

What did he then do? He pulled the house down upon the people.

What work was Samson thus able to do in his death? To deliver Israel from the Philistines.

Words for Little People.

God gives us our strength and talents to use for him.
 We must not use them to please ourselves.
 We must not boast of what we have or can do?
 God gives all to us; let us give all to him.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

[For the entire school.]

1. When the Philistines had overpowered Samson what did they do to him? Put out his eyes.
2. What did they then compel him to do? To grind in the prison-house.
3. To whom did the Philistines ascribe their victory over Samson? To their god Dagon.
4. What do we know was the cause of his misery and death? His wicked forgetfulness of God.
5. What serious warning from this great man's life comes to us all? "Great men are not always wise."
6. Wherein only lies true wisdom? In fearing and loving God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

18. Who is the devil or Satan?

The chief of the fallen angels, who, before man's fall, sinned against God, and was cast out of heaven.

1 Peter v. 8. Be sober, be watchful; your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

John 6. Angels which kept not their own principality, but left their proper habitation. He hath kept in everlasting bonds under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.**Samson in Two Aspects.****I. CAPTIVE THROUGH SIN.**

1. **Blinded.** "Put out his eyes." v. 21.
 "Knowest not that thou art... blind." Rev. 3:17.
2. **Fettered.** "Fetters of brass." v. 21.
 "Committeth sin... servant of sin." John 8:34.
3. **Burdened.** "Did grind." v. 21.
 "Servants... brought in bondage." 2 Pet. 2:19.
4. **Despised.** "Make us sport." v. 25.
 "Rejoice not... O mine enemy." Micah 7:8.

II. CONQUEROR THROUGH FAITH.

1. **Reconsecrated.** "Hair... began to grow." v. 22.
 "The Lord shall repent." Deut. 32:36.
2. **Believing.** "Called unto the Lord." v. 28.
 "This is the victory." 1 John 5:4.
3. **Praying.** "Strengthen me." v. 28.
 "Shall call... I will answer." Psa. 91:15.
4. **Self-sacrificing.** "Let me die." v. 30.
 "Lose his life... shall find it." Matt. 16:25.

THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.**The Lessons of Samson's Life.**

1. There are some sad warnings from Samson's life: Against fleshly lusts which war against the Spirit; against a selfish use of the divine endowments bestowed for noble purposes; against frivolous aims in life, wasting God-given powers; against evil companionships, which drag the highest down to level with the low.

2. Samson's history shows that the misuse of powers foreshadows the loss of them. There is a depth of meaning in that sentence, "He wist not that the Lord had departed from him." v. 20.