

## ***THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for May 1:***

### *Judges 13:1-14:20:*

Judges 13:1-16:31 covers the life of the last judge of Israel, Samson. Today's reading covers his unusual birth (chapter 13) as well as his marriage to a Philistine woman (14). We learn that God tells Samson's parents prior to his birth he will be a Nazirite (see Numbers 6) for life. The Nazirite vow meant he could not consume any product of the vine (grapes, wine, etc.), could not cut his hair, and could have no contact with dead animals or humans.

In chapter 14 Samson pursues marriage to a Philistine woman which was contrary to God's will (Exodus 34:16; Deuteronomy 7:3). Additionally, he touched the carcass of a lion to get honey and then created a riddle which no one could answer until his wife shared the answer. In response Samson killed 30 Philistine men to fulfill his promise given to those who could answer the riddle. Throughout the section on Samson we are told that the Holy Spirit works in him to give him special strength or to guide him (cf. 13:25; 14:19)—and this is similar to what we read throughout the Old Testament. Yet, the Holy Spirit would not indwell all believers permanently until after Jesus' resurrection (see Acts 2).

We should also note that most likely Samson would have consumed wine at the wedding feast (14:10), so that he has now broken two of the three main part of the Nazirite vow. He has touched a carcass and consumed product of the vine.

### *John 1:29-51:*

John's reference to Jesus as "the Lamb of God (1:29, 35) is designed to reveal to us that Jesus truly did come to be a sacrifice for sin (Isaiah 53:6-7).

After John the Baptist gives testimony to Jesus (29-34), John records the call of Jesus for Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael to follow Him. This was a call to conversion. The call to ministry (Luke 5) and to apostleship (Matthew 10:1-4; Luke 6:12-16) both came later.

### *Psalms 102:1-28:*

In this lament we see the same pattern as in so many other psalms: In the midst of great trial the psalmist cries out to God in great anguish. Eventually, however, he does focus upon the greatness of God and His faithfulness by which God's people will dwell secure.

### *Proverbs 14:15-16:*

Here we learn that the truly wise person thinking through things and does not believe something told to him or her too quickly. What is more, the wise person does not make rash decisions.