Thesis Statement

During the time of the judges,

the Israelites became like the Canaanites,

but God preserved them as a distinct, surviving people and nation

by raising up judges who saved them from their enemies
Judges 13 – 16 . . .

The Spiral Continues

SIN 13:1

SERVITUDE 13:1

(SUPPLICATION )

SALVATION 13:2 – 5 ff

SILENCE 15:20, 16:31
Judges 13–16  Samson the Judge

Chapter 13---  Samson's Supernatural Birth

Chapter 14---  Samson's Philistine Wife

Chapter 15---  Samson Defeats the Philistines

Chapter 16---

Samson and Delilah :1 – 22

Samson's Extraordinary Death :23 – 31
The Nazirite Vow --- Numbers 6:1 – 21

General Guidelines

- Man or woman :2
- Designated duration :4,5,6, 8, 13-21
- Vow of separation to the LORD :2, 5, 6, 17, 18

Specific Regulations

- Involuntary contact with the dead :9-12
- Ceremony ending the Nazirite vow :13-21

Three Major Areas of Separation

1. No grape products whatsoever :3-4
   - wine, vinegar, grape juice, fresh grapes, raisins

2. No razor upon his head :5
   - hair was not to be cut as long as the vow was in effect

3. Not to go near dead body :6-8
Israel and marriage to foreigners

Exodus 34:12 – 16

Deuteronomy 7:3 – 4

I Kings 11:1 – 8

Ezra 9 and 10
Samson and his wife – Judges 14 & 15

– chose on basis of appearance 14:1, 2, 3

– showed disrespect to his wife and her people during the wedding feast 14:12 – 18

– failed to leave father and mother and cling to his wife 14:16

– referred to his bride as a heifer 14:18

– made a 'business trip' to Ashkelon immediately after the wedding feast 14:19

– deserted his new bride and went home to his parents 14:19
Samson and his wife (continued)

- made an attempt (feeble, rude, sincere?) to reconcile with his wife, which ended in personal revenge and, ultimately, in the death of his wife and father-in-law 15:1 – 6

How should Samson have loved his wife?
'Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church . . .'

Eph. 5:25f

How did Christ love the church?

(does)

1. Unconditionally
2. Purposefully
3. Sacrificially
4. Eternally
Samson and faith

15:18 – 20
'he cried out to the LORD'

16:28 – 30
'Then Samson called to the LORD'

Hebrews 11:32 – 34

What wondrous GRACE is this?