

# Rev. Luke's Weekly Blog

## September 18, 2025

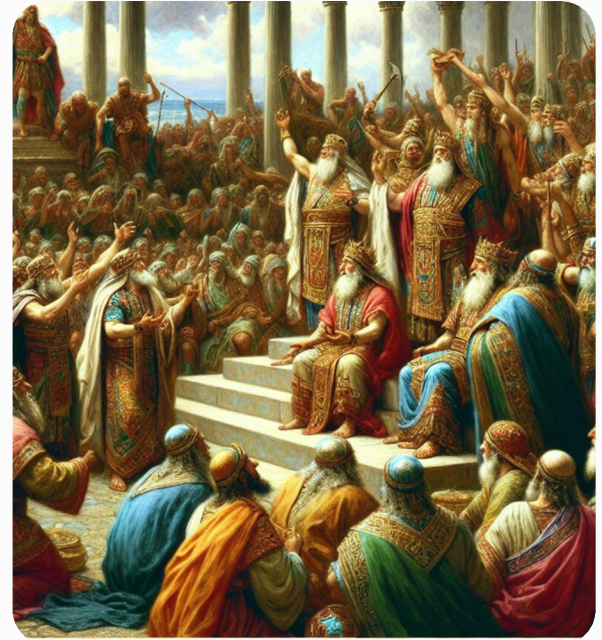


### POWER IN WEAKNESS

Judges 16:23–30

The narrative of Samson's final act is one of the most dramatic and unsettling conclusions in all of Scripture. The passage opens with the Philistines gathering to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon, celebrating because they believed their deity had delivered their enemy, Samson, into their hands.

This parallels the spiritual reality of Christ's passion. The forces of darkness believed they had achieved ultimate victory when Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified. The religious and Roman authorities believed they had overcome the threat to their dominion. The scourging, the crown of thorns, and the insults at the cross echo the Philistines' call for Samson to entertain them. In both narratives, the enemy revels in a perceived triumph over God's chosen vessel, unaware that they are participating in the very mechanism of their own destruction. The celebration of Dagon prefigures the temporary victory that the powers of this world believed they had won on Calvary.



Samson's strength was a gift from God, contingent upon his Nazirite vow, symbolized by his uncut hair. His capture and blindness represented the loss of that consecration and the seeming absence of God's power. Similarly, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus appeared to his captors as a mere man, and on the cross, he appeared powerless, to the point where the bystanders mocked him to come down and save himself. The divine power that calmed storms and raised the dead seemed utterly vanquished. Yet, in both cases, this apparent weakness was the very vehicle for God's power.

Samson's physical strength had returned with the regrowth of his hair, a sign of God's renewed presence with him even in his broken state. For Christ, his apparent powerlessness was the ultimate expression of God's power, the power of perfect obedience and self-sacrificial love. As the Apostle Paul would later articulate: ***For the weakness of God is stronger than human strength*** (1 Corinthians 1:25).

The blinded, grinding Samson is a type, though not perfect, of the suffering servant of Isaiah 53, who was ***led like a lamb to the slaughter***, his divine majesty hidden beneath the bruises of his passion.

## POWER IN WEAKNESS Continued

In his final prayer, Samson does not pray for personal escape or a return to his former life. Instead, he prays for vindication: ***Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes*** (Judges 16:28). This plea, while mingled with personal motive, is ultimately for God's glory and the deliverance of God's people. It is a prayer for the power to enact a decisive, final victory through his own death. In His high priestly prayer in John 17, Jesus prays for the glorification of the Father and the salvation of those given to Him. He, too, sought strength for his final hour, praying in Gethsemane, ***Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done*** (Luke 22:42).

Both prayers are petitions for divine strength to fulfill a mission that culminates in death. Samson positioned himself between the two central pillars of the Dagon temple, the foundational supports of the entire pagan system. His death, which brought the entire structure down upon the rulers and the people, destroying the seat of Philistine power and idolatry, is a type of Christ's death on the cross. By stretching out his arms on the wood of the cross, Jesus struck a decisive blow at the foundational pillars of a far greater enemy: sin, death, and Satan's kingdom. His death brought down the spiritual stronghold of the enemy. ***Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross*** (Colossians 2:15).

The outcome of both deaths reveals the redemptive pattern of victory through sacrifice. The text concludes by noting that Samson killed many more in his death than he had in his life. His greatest act of deliverance for Israel was accomplished not through his supernatural strength in life, but through his sacrificial death. Jesus's entire life of teaching and miracle-working, as magnificent as it was, was not the act that accomplished our salvation. His perfect, sinless life qualified him as the spotless lamb, but it was his death that defeated the enemy. As the writer of Hebrews states, ***without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin*** (Hebrews 9:22). Through his death, Jesus destroyed the power of death and ***brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*** (2 Timothy 1:10).

Samson's death provided temporary, political deliverance for Israel from a physical oppressor. Christ's death provided eternal, spiritual deliverance for us. Samson, the flawed type, points us irresistibly to Christ, the flawless antitype, in whom all such shadows find their substance and their ultimate meaning.

### PRAY FOR:

- *the faith to trust in God's power when you feel weak and broken.*
- *a heart that seeks God's glory above personal victory or comfort.*
- *the strength to embrace sacrificial obedience, believing that death to self leads to life and victory for others.*

***Soli Deo Gloria – to God alone be the glory!***  
***Rev. Luke Haisa***

