Samson the World's Strongest & Weakest Man

The book of Judges has a clear overall structure, in two parts, first: chapters 1-16 and second chapters 17-21. The Israelite conquest of Canaan under Joshua has been left incomplete. Israelites now live in close proximity with heathen peoples who do not serve the LORD. The ideals of elimination (Deut. 7:2, Josh. 10:34-44, 11:11) and complete separation (Exo. 34:12-16, Deut. 7:3-6) give way to a more complex, compromised reality.

The Samson story in Judges 13-16 is fascinating. There is sex and violence, influential women, and a deeply flawed hero. Naturally, commentators cluster.

It does not seem to fit neatly into the overall structure of the Book of Judges. Perhaps what has been missing is appreciation of a curious, often-overlooked hermeneutical key

Nations of Canaan 1400-1200BC.jpg

In the books of Exodus, Deuteronomy, Joshua and Judges, there is a conquest orders regarding the land of Canaan. Fifteen times, with variations, it is called a place of "the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites" (Exod 3:8; cf. 3:17, 13:5, 23:23, 23:28, 33:2, 34:11, Deut 7:1, 20:17, Josh 3:10, 9:1, 11:3, 12:8, 24:11, Judg 3:5). What is striking is that the Philistines, such prominent enemies in the early period of the united monarchy never make it onto these lists of enemies to be dispossessed.

Timeline - Exodus thru Samson.jpg

This is because the Philistines were not yet in the land of Canaan for they did not arrive until the 12th century BC. Leaving them out of these lists is internal evidence the Books of Moses were written in the 15th century BC as we have studied ... and are not to be late dated.

The Philistines were seen as a new arrivals and a new influence in Canaan. It is also understandable that Israelites would have initially viewed them more positively than those who were on the conquest list to be conquered or driven out.

The Israelites could have viewed them and their material culture and superior technology more positively than those who were on the conquest list.

Ramses III.jpg

The Philistines came out of a large migration of sea people from the My-cen-ae'-an & Ae-ge'-an culture. They came into contact with Egypt about 1200 BC ... two-pronged attack.jpg Rameses III defeated their two-pronged attack by land and sea making mercenaries of them and settling them up as over lords along Canaan or Palestine's Coastal Plain.

sea_battle.jpg

MedinetHabuStatues.jpg

severed-hands-at-Medinet.jpg

Papyrus_Harris_I_PI._LXXVI.jpg

seapeoples medinethabu.jpg

Rameses was so proud of his defense against them, he recounted his victory in both text, and temple relief walls at Kar'-nak.

Cities of the Philistines.jpg

With this Egyptian help a large settlement of Philistines arrived about the time of Deborah, and settled first into the cities Ash'-dod, Ash'-kelon, and Ek'-ron. Later Gaza and Gath were added making the five cities of the Philistines. Each were ruled by a petty king or group of lords as a ruling class. The Philistines merged and inter-married with the Canaanites and lost much of their cultural identity ... Speedily, they were assimilated into the Canaanite society, their pottery, shows Mycenaean & Aegean rather than Canaanite prototypes.

Philistine_pottery.JPG, swans.jpg

The Philistines had a preference for jugs and craters on which they painted swans, and black and red geometric designs. beer jugs.jpg Beer Strainer.jpg The jugs were often made with strainer spouts so that they could drink barley beer from them without swallowing the barley husks. two handed bowl.jpg Their smaller two-handed bowls were probably used for wine. William F. Albright was probably right when he said the Philistines were "mighty carousers".

s-I300.jpg

Samson, the last major judge to appear in the book of Judges, was a one-man army and God's wrecking ball rather than a leader.

Obviously we can look to the Bible as the roots of some of the Greek and European mythology ... Hercules.jpg the ancients in the Apocrypha stated the Hebrew Bible was the origin of some Greek mythology simply because the Biblical Samson inspired the-Greek legend called Hercules, and provided the basis for the myths of his life!

Samson did not have the full support of his own people, showing again the dis-unity of the children of Israel.

Judges 13:1-3 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. 2 And there was a certain man of Zo'-rah, of the family of the Dan'-ites, whose name [was] Ma-no'-ah; and his wife [was] barren, and bare not. 3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou [art] barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

Judges 13:6-7 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance [was] like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he [was], neither told he me his name: 7 But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean [thing]: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

Judges 13:24-25 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zo'-rah and Esh'-ta-ol.

Judges 14:1-3 And Samson went down to Tim'-nath, and saw a woman in Tim'-nath of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Tim'-nath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. 3 Then his father and his mother said unto him, [/s there] never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.

Because the Law of Moses forbad marriage to the heathen nations it would have been impossible for Samson to have brought such a wife into his father's house. Therefore, "The marriage was of the type in which the wife resided in her father's house.

"Get her for me, she pleaseth me well" Thus, very early in Samson's career, his character is revealed in this single sentence.

As nothing else could, that simple sentence epitomizes the kind of man Samson was. How ironic were Samson's words that he had seen a woman that looked good to him when those very eyes would be put out because of the betrayal of another eye-pleasing woman. I John 2: 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Judges 14:4 But his father and his mother knew not that it [was] of the LORD, that he sought an occasion (opportunity) against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

This verse is a parenthetical comment, outside the main narrative of the chapter and it does much to place the Samson story in its Biblical context: the narrator brings the LORD's point of view to the reader and highlights a real ongoing danger. The LORD wanted to stop not only the oppression of Israel, but their assimilation into ungodly cultures. The LORD uses Samson's checkered career to provoke conflict between his people and the Philistines, lest Israelites fascinated by Philistine culture and technology lose their distinctive identity as worshippers of the LORD God alone.

"... of the LORD ..." the Lord used Samson's determination to marry a Philistine woman an on-going problem among the people and turned it into an occasion for God to show His mighty power to the Philistines.

"For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel". The city of Tim'-nath was once an Israelite city, or, at least it seems so from Joshua 15:10, but now the Philistines had control of most of Israel.

Timeline - Exodus thru Samson.jpg

Archaeological remains point to an extended period of social contact and trade between the two peoples the Philistines and Israelites from about 1150-1,100BC. This corresponds exactly with the Bible date we have studied for an early date of the Exodus 1,447 BC cf I Kings 6:1

the 40 years in the wilderness, the conquest the conquest under Joshua beginning about 1,407 BC and then 300 years of Judges brings us down to Jeph'-thah (Judges 11:26) the Judge before Samson.

Judges 14:5-7 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Tim'-nath, and came to the vineyards of Tim'-nath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. 6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and [he had] nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done. 7 And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

After killing a lion with his bare hands ... he later finds a beehive with honey with-in the carcass ... at the weeklong wedding feast Samson puts forth a riddle to the 30 Philistine guests of the bride's family.

Judges 14: 14 And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle.

The guests threaten the wife to "burn them with fire" so she cries and nags him all week until on the last day he tells her the secret riddle.

Judges 14:17 And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people.

Samson was totally incapable of thinking his women would betray him but his Philistine wife betrays his riddle to the Philistine lords.

Judges 14: 18 And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What [is] sweeter than honey? and what [is] stronger than a lion? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.

Samson, of course, knew instantly what had happened, and he moved at once to pay the thirty changes of raiment which he had promised in case they "solved" his riddle ... since he considered himself in a covenant relationship with the bride's family in that town he ...

Judges 14:19-20 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ash'-ke-lon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

Ashkelon.jpg

The city of Ashkelon, one of the Big Five of the Philistine cities was located at the southern extremity of their territory on the very edge of the Mediterranean Sea.

This killing of thirty Philistines should not be understood merely as carnal worldly vengeance on the part of Samson.

This act is described as the operation of the Holy Spirit which came upon Samson, because it showed to the Philistines the superior power of the servants of the LORD.

It was not until the deed was done that his anger was kindled. Even then, his anger was not against the Philistines, but against his wife.

Judges 14:20 But Samson's wife was [*given*] to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.

Samson going up to his father's house was considered an insult to the bride's family so they gave her to the "best man" they had provided for Samson from among the Philistines to be his "companion."

Judges 15:1 But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I

will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in.

"Samson visited his wife with a kid"... This is an indication of the kind of marriage that was contracted. It was like that of Gideon and his concubine, in which the wife continued to live in her father's house, with the husband paying occasional visits.

The gift of a little goat for his wife seems also to have been the customary price of conjugal visits that being exactly the price that Judah agreed to pay Tamar for his "going in unto her. Today the world would call this "a sugar daddy" marriage. It seems to have never occurred to Samson that he was a bit late with this attempt to consummate his marriage.

Judges 15: 2-3 And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: [is] not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her. 3 And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure. (great mischief)

This was Samson's blunt rejection of the offer of her younger sister, and the statement of his intention to take vengeance on all the Philistines.

Neither Samson nor the Philistines knew anything about a "Golden Rule." The father-in-law had indeed avoided what he considered a disgrace to his family, but he had failed to take into account the kind of man Samson was. Now he had a just cause for revenge, and he would certainly take advantage of it. The offer of the younger sister was an admission of the injustice done to Samson.

When the Philistines, earlier, had been unjust to Samson in the matter of the riddle he was in covenant with the people of Tim'-nath through his marriage and the laws of hospitality, for that reason he went down to Ashkelon to take his revenge Judges 14:19 but now that the

Philistines themselves had broken this bond, he was free to take his revenge on all the Philistines.

Judges 15:4 And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. 5 And when he had set the brands on fire, he let [them] go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards [and] olives.

"The Hebrew word here is shu`alim, which means `jackals,' an animal that resembles foxes ... Which-ever animal it was doesn't matter a super-man like Samson could have caught three hundred of them, exactly as the text says. Beside, Samson could easily have employed fellow-Israelites to help him with the whole project.

The firebrands were pieces of resinous wood, like Gideon's torches (Judges 7:20), which were loosely trailed between the tails of the jackals. The object of tying two together was to impede their motion a little, so that they might not dart away so violently as to extinguish the torch.

Judges 15:6 Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Tim'-nath, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire.

Judges 15:7-8 And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. 8 And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock E'-tam.

The Philistines blamed the Tim'-nath-ite family for being the original cause of the firing of the grain fields, and treated them accordingly. In any case, Samson did not appreciate what they did, and proceeded to slaughter a great number of them.

Before Samson in the first part of Judges, there is a circular pattern. The Israelites follow other gods; the LORD then, "gives or sells them into the hand of" an oppressing power; the people "cry out" to the Lord He raises up a judge" to deliver them; the "judge" leads people to a victory over the enemy; for a while all is well. Then the pattern repeats itself. But here cf:

Judges 13:1 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

The Samson story is the last, cycle in the "judge" pattern and the hero's life prepares the transition to the second part of the book. But the circular pattern is incomplete,

Israeli 4-room house

This time there is no crying out to the LORD (as before in 3:9,15; 6:6,7; 10:10,14). A child is given, but he will only begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines (13:5).

He never leads anyone in battle. When he has a great opportunity to do so (15:11-13), meeting up with 3,000 fighting men from Judah, they do not follow him. They are content to accept Philistine rule, thus they bind him and hand him over to the Philistines. Samson is twice described as "judging" (better: leading) Israel for twenty years, but that is explained as "in the days of the Philistines."

The breakdown of the circular pattern of the first part of Judges and failure to cry out unto the LORD also prepares on a larger scale for the rise of the Davidic monarchy in I and 2 Samuel.

Later David's legitimacy as a true heir of Joshua would be confirmed by his completing what Samson had only begun: subduing the Philistines in II Samuel 8: 1 And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Me'-theg-am'-mah out of the hand of the Philistines.

Samson now the hunted outlaw gives himself up to his brethren to and they hand him over to the Philistines accepting their bondage.

Judges 15:14-16 [And] when he came unto Le'-hi, the Phi-lis'-tines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that [were] upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands (manacles) loosed from off his hands. 15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand (eh'-lef) men therewith. 16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand (eh'-lef) men.

Judges 15:20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

This narrative of Samson is an unmitigated tragedy. No potential savior figure offered MORE promise than Samson, or delivered LESS. Israel had sunk to a new low; and these two final incidents fully expose Israel's plight.

Judges 16:1-5 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. 2 [And it was told] the Gaz'-ites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed [him] in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. 3 And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put [them] upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that [is] before Hebron. 4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of So'-rek, whose name [was] Delilah. 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength [lieth], and by what [means]

we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred [pieces] of silver

This was a fortune ... probably 3 or all 5 of the Philistine cities X 1,100 = 5,500 pieces of silver ... so ... Delilah goes for the \$ and betrays him.

Judges 16:17-21 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I [have been] a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any [other] man. 18 And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. 19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. 20 And she said, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

Hebrews 12: 5-6 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Judges 16:21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

Blind, Bind & Grind:

Sin will BLIND you:

II Peter 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Sin will BIND you:

Acts 8: 23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and [in] the bond of iniquity.

Sin will GRIND you

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants (dou-los slave) to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Judges 16:22-27 Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. 23 Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. 24 And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us. 25 And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. 26 And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them. 27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines [were] there; and [there were] upon the roof about three thousand (eh'-lef large groups) men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

It is difficult indeed to imagine a more shameful situation for God's Chosen People than that in which their Judge and accepted leader was blinded and made to do the work of a mule, grinding wheat in the mill of the Philistines, and suffering the humiliation of being compelled to entertain his captors at the very festival where they were celebrating the strong man ... Samson's defeat.

Judges 16:28-32 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. 29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. 30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with [all his] might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that [were] therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than [they] which he slew in his life. 31 Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought [him] up, and buried him between Zo'-rah and Esh'-ta-ol in the burying place of Ma-no'-ah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

Philistine Temple Columns.jpg

In 1972 a Philistine temple was found. Many cult objects were found with the temple, but, most interestingly the roof was used for commoners to party while looking down upon the Philistine overlords and Dagon worship spectacles going on below.

Amazingly, the temple and its roof were held up by two columns which were several feet apart ... that apparently Samson was bound between and tormented.

In the final chapters of Judges In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes (17:6, 21:25; cf. 18:1, 19:1). Anarchy prepared the way for monarchy.

With the story of Samson, the era of the Judgeship in Israel was concluded. Samuel indeed judged Israel for a while, but it was he who anointed Saul as Israel's first king, bringing in the institution of the monarchy. It is not hard to understand why many in Israel began to clamor for a king.

After Samson the remaining chapters of Judges were written to explain why Israel began to see the need for a King.

Samson suffered and was chastised by the Lord for his worldly ways Peter warns us about our wicked ways and tells us how to live cf:

II Peter 1:1-10 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge (ep-ig'-no-sis true and correct knowledge) of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue (moral excellence) 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience (self-control); and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

Romans 1: 18-32 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither

were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents. 31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

John 6: 28-29 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Won't you come to Jesus today?

There is not one word said in the New Testament about "saying the sinners prayer."

Won't you come to Jesus the Christ in the appointed way?

Believe the Gospel Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:9-10 and make the good confession that Jesus is "the Christ the Son of the living God" Matthew 16:13ff; put your Faith & Trust in God through Christ to save you Hebrews 11:7; Repent of your sins Acts 17:30 and be baptized into Christ Acts 2:38 & Galatians 3:27 ... washing away your sins Acts 22:16 ... which is an reenactment of the Gospel of Christ (the death, burial & resurrection I Corinthians 15:3) in your life Romans 6:3-6.

John 10: 27-28 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand.

Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Sources: KJV Bible, theWord.com, Burton Coffman, BW Johnson, Adam Clark, FF Bruce, McKnight and JW McGarvey, George Faull Commentaries, Archaeology & the Old Testament by Alfred Hoerth, On the Reliability of the O.T. K.A. Kitchens, Google Images, Halley's Handbook, Wikipedia & Stuart J. Foster.