

## Th131 God's Plan

### *Lesson Th131-18 Lucifer & Delegated Authority*

In our last lesson we learned that Lucifer was one of the four anointed cherubim that flew above the throne of God and cried out, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!" He had authority over one third of all the angels and over one third of the universe. Although Lucifer was created perfect, his pride became self-centered, which led to anger and violence in his heart. This in turn became sin. God, not wanting sin in His throne room, expelled Lucifer from His presence. Lucifer's embarrassment and anger led him to decide to become the opposite of God and thus evil entered into God's creation.

From this we can see that although God created Lucifer, He did not create evil. Everything that God creates is good. He cannot create evil, as there is not a single shadow in His being. Lucifer created evil because of his hurt pride and it is through Lucifer that evil entered into God's creation. Thus, no one can point their finger at God and accuse Him of being the reason that evil exists.

Now God's form of government is called delegated authority. God himself has all power and all authority. However at times He delegates His power and authority to others. Here is how it works: God endues an individual with the power to accomplish a task. He then grants them the authority to use the power. The individual must assume responsibility for the power and authority, because one day God will hold them accountable for what they have done with it. We see this principle over and over throughout the Bible. Some individuals are faithful with God's power and authority, while others are not.

There are two types of power and authority. The first is the power and authority that is built within an individual. This type of power and authority is unconditional. One person is born tall and strong, another person is born small and weak. The stronger has more power than the weaker. The second type of power and authority is delegated authority that is contractual in nature. As long as the individual heeds the terms of the agreement they will continue to exercise the power and authority given to them. But, if they break terms of the agreement, their power and authority can be stripped from them. Here is a shortened version of the story of Samson that you will learn in your Old Testament course.

Now the people of Israel had conquered most of the Canaanites and had inhabited the land. These were the days before there were kings in Israel. Whenever the Israelites turned their backs on following God, He would allow the neighboring nations to harass them. For 40 years the Israelites had turned their backs on God and He had allowed the Philistines to take over the land. This caused much hardship for God's people and they began to cry out to God for deliverance.

There was a man from the tribe of Dan whose wife couldn't have children. The angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said, "Soon you'll become pregnant. The child you'll be carrying is going to have the vow of a Nazirite from the time he's born. So be careful. Don't allow the boy to drink alcohol or eat anything that is against the Law of Moses. And never cut

your son's hair. He will save Israel from the Philistines" (Jud 13:2-7). The wife shared this with her husband. They agreed that if they were given a child, they would raise him according to the vow of a Nazirite. A short time later the woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son, whom they named Samson. Honoring their vow to God they raised Samson without ever cutting his hair and not allowing him to drink alcohol, nor or to eat or touch any unclean animals. As the child grew, it was soon apparent that he had the anointing of God upon him. When the power of God came upon him, he had superhuman strength.

Now Samson had one weakness, Philistine women! As a young man he coerced his parents into allowing him to marry a Philistine girl. This resulted in his first battle with the Philistines where he killed 30 of his nation's enemies. A later dispute led to the Philistines murdering his father-in-law and his wife. He became so angry that he tracked down the murderers and killed many of them (Jud 15:8).

You can imagine how angry the Philistines became. They gathered up a large army and invaded Israel, demanding that Samson be turned over to them. The Israelites feared the Philistines and after tying Samson's hands, turned him over to his enemies. Suddenly the power of God came upon Samson. He broke the ropes as if they were small threads. Then, looking down, he saw the dried jawbone of a donkey skeleton. Using the jawbone as a weapon, he attacked the Philistines. One would think that an army of 3,000 could easily subdue a single man. But not on this day, as the supernatural power of God rested upon Samson. Instead of fleeing from the enemies of Israel, he attacked and killed 1,000 Philistine soldiers.

For 20 years Samson led Israel. Many times he would shake himself and the power of God would come upon him to do supernatural feats of strength. But, Samson did have one weakness, Philistine women. And after the death of his wife, Samson would venture down to the Philistine cities to visit prostitutes. One time they locked the massive gates of the city to capture him. He merely shook himself and when the power of God came upon him he tore the gates from their hinges and carried the gates away.

One would think that this kind of behavior with prostitutes would result in God's removing the power and authority from Samson. But the delegated power and authority was based upon an agreement. Obey the Nazarite vow and receive power. Thus far, Samson had kept his end of the agreement, so God did also. But that was about to change.

Samson met a beautiful young Philistine woman named Delilah. He would spend many nights with her. One day the leaders of the five Philistine cities came to Delilah. "We will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver if you help us find Samson's weakness so that we can capture him." Now this was an enormous amount of money—about the equivalent of ten years of wages!

Delilah quickly set about trying to pressure Samson into telling her the source of his strength. "If you tie me with new bowstrings I will become weak," he lied to her.

Later he fell asleep and she tied him with new bowstrings. "Arise Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" she cried out as her fellow conspirators rushed into the room. Samson awoke with

a start, shook himself, and when the power God came upon him he broke the bow strings. The Philistines ran in fear. A second time she pressured him for his secret. Again he lied to her. She bound him with new ropes as he slept and as the Philistines rushed in to capture him, he shook himself and the ropes snapped like thread. Yet a third time she pressured him for the truth. When he fell asleep she wove the braids of his hair tightly into the fabric on a large loom, after which the Philistines rushed in. Samson awoke; shook himself and the power of God came upon him to free himself. His enemies fled.

Now you would think that Samson would have figured out that this Philistine woman was up to no good. But Philistine women were Samson's weakness. Yet one more time she pressured him for the truth. Only this time, instead of lying to her, he told her the truth that he had been living under a Nazirite vow since his birth. After he fell asleep, Delilah had someone shave his head. One last time she called out, "Arise Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" Samson jumped to his feet and shook himself. But the power of God had departed. Samson's part of the agreement had been broken and God could not condone his sin with prostitutes. Samson was captured, his eyes gouged out, and he was thrown into prison (Jud 16:21).

In a similar way, Lucifer had been delegated authority over one third of the angels and over one third of creation. Although the condition of his heart had become evil, he had not broken any law by which he could have his power and authority stripped from him. As long as Lucifer played by the rules he would continue to hold his power and authority. But God knew all of this in advance and there was a plan already in motion that would set all things right. After all, God's purpose for the universe was to have children. Lucifer would provide the children an alternate choice to God and, in time, Lucifer would break the law resulting in his power and authority being stripped away. But that is a future lesson.

This lesson is **important** because it shows that Samson was given great strength and power as long as he fulfilled his part of his agreement with God to be a Nazirite.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that God rules the universe using delegated authority. As long as individuals do not break the law of God, He will allow them to continue to exercise His delegated authority.

Let's **review** what you have learned today.

1. What is God's form of government? [Pause 5 seconds]
  - A. If you said God's form of government is delegated authority, you are correct.
2. In the story of Samson, what caused him to lose his power? [Pause]
  - A. If you said, "Samson lost his power when his hair was cut and because he broke his Nazirite agreement with God," you answered correctly.
3. Did Lucifer's original sin cause him to lose his power and authority? [Pause]
  - A. If you said, "No," you are right.

Your **assignment** is to review this lesson until you completely understand the concept of delegated authority. Meditate on how this principle applies to your own life and ministry.