

DESTINY FOR SALE

“... So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.” Judges 16:18-21.

Going by the title of this tract, one may wonder how destiny could be offered for sale, but, in actual fact, many people have offered their destinies for sale through their reckless lifestyles. To drive home this point, I will use the life of Samson, a man who was divinely appointed to lead God's people and deliver them from the oppression of the Philistines, as well as one who enjoyed uncommon favour of God, even from birth. However, he mismanaged this rare opportunity. Samson was the thirteenth judge of Israel. He was born to the family of Manoah and his wife, who was barren. They had no children for a number of years after their marriage. An angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and told her that she would conceive and bear a son who would be a Nazarite to God from the womb, that no razor should come upon his head, and that he would deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines. Judges 13:2-5. He was destined to lead and deliver Israel from the bondage of the Philistines. As a Nazarite, he was consecrated to God by a vow to avoid drinking wine or any strong drink, not to shave or cut his hair, and to avoid being defiled by the presence of a corpse, that is, not to touch a dead body. Number 6:2-6. From birth, Samson was endowed with enormous strength. He operated in the power of the Holy Spirit, which was a rare privilege at his time, and he did great exploits among which are:

- 1.He fought and killed a lion with bare hands. Judges 14:15-16.
- 2.He attacked and killed thirty Philistines and took their garments to settle those who explained his riddle. Judges 14:19.
- 3.He caught three hundred foxes, tied them tail to tail and touched them with fire. Judges 15:4.
- 4.With a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he fought and killed a thousand men of the Philistines who came to arrest him. Judges 15:15.
- 5.At Gaza, he took hold of the doors of the city gate, the gate-posts and bars, pulled them up and carried them on his shoulders to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

But, in spite of his enormous physical strength, Samson lived a reckless life, a life devoid of self-control. As he grew up, he rejected the wise and godly counsel of his parents over the choice of a Philistine woman as his marriage partner (Judges 14:2-3), and violated the Nazarite vow by touching the carcass of a lion in order to harvest the honey from the dead lion. Judges 14:8-9. Number 6:6. These actions portrayed him as someone who had no regard for the law of God and possessed an uncontrolled appetite for food. Deuteronomy 7:3; 8:3. He threw a seven-day marriage feast at his in-law's place where wine was lavishly served. Again, this was in violation of his Nazarite vow. He seemed to care less about the consequences of his actions on the purpose of God for his life, and gratified his flesh, nonetheless. Eventually, he mortgaged

his destiny on the altar of lack of self-control, inherent craving for strange women and lust. He went down to Gaza where he saw a harlot and went in to her. And when the Philistines heard that he was with the harlot, they surrounded the place, laid ambush for him all the night and hoped to kill him in the morning. However, he escaped death by a whisker, through the help of God. Judges 16:1-3. Thereafter, he befriended another Philistine woman called Delilah, who did not love him but moved in to live with him without any proper marriage. It was this woman who sold him to her kinsmen, the Philistines. Having elicited the secret of his extraordinary strength from him, she lulled Samson to sleep on her knees and hired someone to shave off the seven locks on his head, after which she handed him over to the Philistines.

After his arrest, the Philistines bound him with bronze fetters, took him to Gaza, plucked out his eyes and he became a grinder in the prison. They often gathered together in the temple of Dagon, their god, to offer sacrifice to him, rejoicing and celebrating Samson's defeat and capture; and he would be brought from the prison to perform and entertain them as they praised their god. What a shame! Despite the favour of God that was lavished on him, his recklessness, disobedience to parents, disregard to wise and godly counsel, lack of self-control and insatiable appetite for women brought his life to a shameful abrupt end through suicide. He frustrated the purpose of God for his life. Though he judged Israel for twenty years, yet Samson died an untimely, violent, sorrowful and a disgraceful death in the camp of the enemy, contrary to the purpose of God for him.

Dearly beloved, do you want to end your life as Samson ended his own? Do you want to mortgage your destiny as Samson did his own? Do you want to die an untimely, violent and disgraceful death, without fulfilling your purpose in life? Where do you think your reckless living will lead you to? Your disobedience to parents and constituted authority, where do you think those will lead you to? Your drunkenness, wild parties, lewdness and lust, where do you think those will lead you to? Your disregard to God's word and instruction, where do you think it will lead you to? Definitely, self-destruction, early grave and eternal damnation in hell are the answers. Sin is a destroyer and a destiny waster. Why do you want to sacrifice your eternal destiny on the altar of disobedience and passion for worldly pleasure and immorality? Why do you want to permit sin to ruin your destiny and frustrate the purpose of God for your life? It is right time for you to repent and change your ways. It is right time for you to stop wasting your life and destiny. Should you die today, where will you spend eternity? Heaven or hell? Both are real. However, hell is a terrible place to go; it is a place of eternal torment and agony. Luke 16:24,27-28. Revelations 21:8. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Ephesians 5:5-6. Think about the love of God towards you, for sparing your life till today despite your waywardness. Romans 2:4. It is not good for you to die in your sinful state; it is not the will of God that you go to hell. Therefore, repent and turn to God. Perhaps you have been struggling through personal efforts to change but to no avail, turn to Jesus today. Give your life to Him. He will forgive you and give you a new life. 2 Corinthians 5:17. He will give you the power to overcome sin, to bring your body under and to live right. Come to Him now. Do not delay the offer of pardon and eternal life. Kindly take the following steps:

1. Repent of and confess your sins to God in prayer. Acts 3:19.
2. Turn away from these sins; be converted. Acts 17:30.

3. Believe and confess that Jesus suffered and died on the cross for your sins, and that He rose from the dead the third day for your justification. Romans 10:9-10.
4. Believe and accept Jesus as the Son of God, your Saviour and Lord. Acts 16:30-31. Confess Him publicly and hold fast to your confession. Romans 10: 9. Hebrews 10: 23.
5. Pray always to God in the name of Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:17. John 16:22-24.
6. Read your Bible every day. Joshua 1:8.
7. Finally, for your spiritual growth join a church or a fellowship where the Bible is believed, taught and obeyed as the whole counsel of God. Hebrews 10:25.

- Paul Kilanko

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