

**“SANTA, SAMSON & THE SAVIOR”\***  
**JUDGES 13-15**

Materialism breeds professional consumers—those who think life is about getting goods and using people. Sometimes, while shopping for satisfaction, consumers make the descent into darkness. Who can deliver them?



**I. HOW DARK THE NIGHT**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Deliverer Judges 13

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Darkness Judges 14-15

**II. HOW BRIGHT THE LIGHT**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Deliverer Matthew 1:18-23

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Darkness Philippians 2:5-11

Use the following questions to reflect on lessons from *Judges: Descent Into Darkness*. Ponder these during your quiet times, or use them as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends or REALife Group.

1. Review Judges 13. What did Samson have going for him at the time of his birth (e.g., people, promises, purpose, etc.)? How do Samson's God-given resources compare to yours?
2. What did Samson do with his God-given potential? List his actions from Judges 14-15. Was Samson operating off of God's agenda or his own? What do your actions reveal about your agenda?
3. What similarities and differences do you find between the promised birth of Samson (Judges 13) and the promised birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:18-23)? How does this impact your worship of Jesus?
4. Because of our depravity, all of us have lived life with varying levels of selfishness. What examples of "personal darkness" have you experienced as a result of self-interest?
5. Jesus made the descent into darkness to deliver us from a life of self-interest and all of its dark consequences. Write a Christmas poem of praise for the light He has brought to your life.

**THE PROMISED DELIVERER PENETRATES  
OUR PERSONAL DARKNESS.**

\*10<sup>th</sup> from "*Judges: Descent Into Darkness*", by Danny Box, 12-03-06  
This message can be heard at [www.hbcpcf.com](http://www.hbcpcf.com) or as an iTunes podcast

How Dark the Night,

How Bright the

Light

# I. HOW DARK THE NIGHT

## A. Promised Deliverer

- Great Purpose
- Great Power
- Great Potential

Light

# I. HOW DARK THE NIGHT

A. Promised Deliverer

B. Personal Darkness

- Lacks Power Over Self

Judges 14-15

“Sometimes our gifts will take us where our character cannot keep us.”

-Ed Cole

Light

# I. HOW DARK THE NIGHT

A. Promised Deliverer

B. Personal Darkness

- Lacks Power Over Self
- Loves Power to Serve Self
- Leverages Power to Avenge Self

Judges 14-15

“The Philistines want Samson for slaughtering their own people; but he had done this because they had killed his wife and father-in-law; but they had done this because he had burned their fields; but he had done this because his father-in-law had given away his wife; but he had done this because Samson had gotten angry and left; but he had done this because his wife had given the riddle’s answer to her kinsmen; but she had done this...”

*Polzin, Moses and the Deuteronomist*

# I. HOW DARK THE NIGHT

A. Promised Deliverer

B. Personal Darkness

- Lacks Power Over Self
- Loves Power to Serve Self
- Leverages Power to Avenge Self
- Limits Power to Save Self

Judges 14-15

## II. HOW BRIGHT THE LIGHT

### A. Promised Deliverer

- Promise of a Son
- Purpose of the Savior

Light

## II. HOW BRIGHT THE LIGHT

A. Promised Deliverer

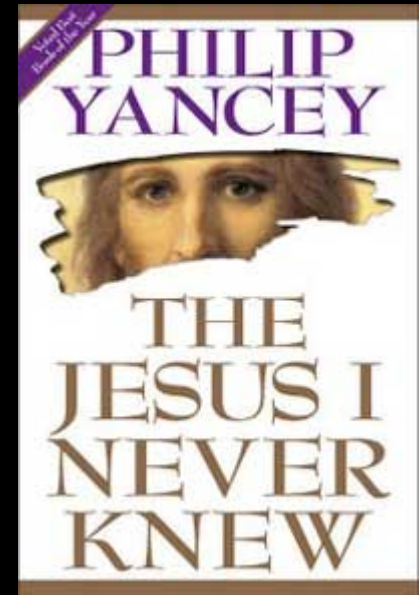
B. Penetrates Darkness

- His Decision

Philippians 2:5-11

“Before Jesus, almost no pagan author had used “humble” as a compliment. Yet the events of Christmas point inescapably to what seems like an oxymoron: a humble God.”

*-Philip Yancey*



Light

## II. HOW BRIGHT THE LIGHT

A. Promised Deliverer

B. Penetrates Darkness

- His Decision
- His Descent
- His Deliverance

Philippians 2:5-11

John Eldredge writes, “Under the cover of night he stole into the enemy’s camp incognito, the Ancient of Days disguised as a new born. The Incarnation, as Phil Yancey reminds us, was a daring raid into enemy territory. The whole world lay under the power of the evil one and we were held in the dungeons of darkness.” God descended into our darkness to deliver us.

# *How Did You Find Me Here?*

Words and  
Music by  
David Wilcox



The night I fell in sorrow  
I knew I was alone  
A dozen good-time friendships  
But my heart is still unknown

I thought I saw your footsteps  
In the sand along the shore  
And I mumbled empty phrases  
That sang so well before

Now inches from the water  
About to disappear  
I feel you behind me  
How did you find me here?

I couldn't reach for rescue  
I hid myself from you  
I couldn't stand to see me  
From your point of view

I knew I'd disappoint you  
If I showed to you this child  
Who is crying out inside me  
Lost in the wild

Now inches from the water  
About to disappear  
I feel you behind me  
How did you find me here?

I feel you behind me  
Laughing in the water  
Wash away my tears  
I feel you behind me  
How did you find me here?  
I feel you behind me  
But how did you find me here?

Light

The Promised  
Deliverer  
Penetrates Our  
Personal Darkness.