

Everything written in the Old Testament is a shadow of spiritual realities unfolding in the New Testament today. For example, as we read how God called the children of Israel out of Egypt to Canaan through the wilderness, so too does God call His children today out of the bondage of sin [Egypt], leading them through the Red Sea [representing baptism 1 Corinthians 10], and then into the wilderness journey that every Christian must pass through. In this wilderness, one is taught to worship God, to rely on Him completely, to be tested in every area yet never abandoned. The final step is entering Canaan, which begins on earth now and ultimately culminates in the new heavens and the new earth.

Similarly, we learn another lesson from the story of Samson, which is also a shadow of spiritual realities at work today. We read that Samson was consecrated by God from his mother's womb, just as the Church of Christ began at Pentecost, holy and pure, without blemish. Samson was instructed by God not to cut his hair but to bind it in seven locks a picture of the Church of Christ that we see reflected in Revelation chapters 2 & 3, where the Lord sends messages to the seven churches. Remember, the Church has passed through seven distinct periods known as the Seven Church Ages over the past 2,000 years, and the era we live in now is the final age, Laodicea.

Just as Samson’s strength was in his hair, the Church in all seven ages has relied on the Word of God to stand. Yet, tragically, we read that Samson exhibited immoral behavior by consorting with harlots and foreign women who were not of Abraham’s lineage. These women later discovered the secret of his strength. Proverbs 31:3 warns: “Do not give your strength to women.” But Samson ignored this, allowing himself to be deceived by worldly women who did not know the God of Israel. The result: he fell into the hands of his Philistine enemies for a long time:

*Judges 16:15-21*

*15 Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me; you have not told me the secret of your great strength.”*

*16 When he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines went up to her and brought the money in their hands.*

*17 She made him sleep on her lap, and so she called a man to*

*shave off the seven braids of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.*

*18 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I will go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.*

*19 The Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes, and took him down to Gaza. He was bound with bronze shackles and forced to grind grain in the prison.*

Do you see the pattern? The same thing happened to the Church after the apostles departed. Paul wrote:

*Acts 20:29-30*

*29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.*

*30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth to draw away disciples after them.*

In the New Testament, Delilah represents the harlot Church, which refers to the Catholic Church, which gradually mixed false teachings into the original Church. By 325 AD at the Council of Nicaea, pagan rituals and idolatry were incorporated, the practice of praying to saints, penance, hierarchical leadership, and monetary requirements all absent in the early Church were established. As this Church grew in influence, the Spirit’s power waned, except among a small remnant. This period of spiritual darkness lasted over 1,000 years and is known in history as the Dark Ages.

During the Nicaean council, the “Delilah Church” completely cut the hair of the Church of God the Church lost its spiritual gifts, Scripture was restricted, faith in Christ through grace alone nearly disappeared, and monetary requirements replaced true spiritual devotion. But just as Samson’s hair eventually grew back, so too did the Church experience a renewal. When his hair grew again, Samson brought greater destruction than he had at first:

*Judges 16:22-30*

*22 But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had*

*been shaved.*

*23 Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon...*

*27 Samson said to the servant who held him by the hand, “Let me feel the pillars that support the temple, so I may lean against them.”*

*28 Now the temple was full of men and women; all the rulers were there, and on the roof were about three thousand people watching.*

*29 Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Strengthen me just once more, O God, so that I may with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.”*

*30 Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars and braced himself against them. “Let me die with the Philistines!” he shouted. Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple... so that the dead he killed during his life were far fewer than those he killed at his death.*

Similarly, in the Church, when the “hair” began to grow again that is, when believers returned to the Word of God the Lord raised up men like Martin Luther in the 16th century to teach justification by faith in Christ, John Wesley in the 18th century to teach sanctification through the blood of Jesus, and in the 20th century, William Seymour at the Azusa Street revival in the United States to teach baptism in the Holy Spirit as the seal of God (Ephesians 4:30; Romans 8:9). The restoration of spiritual gifts began again from the early 1900s.

All of this is preparation for the true Bride of Christ for the coming rapture. The “hair” has reached its full growth, and what remains is the final awakening of the Bride through the seven thunders of Revelation 10:4, giving her perfect faith (Luke 18:8) to enter the rapture a powerful and brief revival surpassing even the first Pentecost.

Ask yourself: are your “hairs” growing? Or are you still serving religion and denominations? Remember: hair growing signifies returning to the Word. No Christian’s strength exists outside the Word of God. The Bible warns against idolatry, yet churches may condone it always follow the Word over human tradition.

Scripture says that those who believe and are baptized will be saved meaning full immersion in water but churches may teach sprinkling. Always follow what the apostles did in the Bible:

*Acts 2:37-38*

*37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”*

*38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

These are the last days. Now is the time to ensure your “hair” is growing. Seek a personal relationship with God. Return to the Word. Denominations cannot take you to the rapture only a few will enter it (as the Bible says). Have you been born again? Have you been baptized and received the Holy Spirit? God bless you.

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ARE YOUR “HAIRS” GROWING OR HAVE THEY STOPPED?

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