

Judges Chapter 15

V: 1-2 Previously Samson had been angry after his espoused wife tipped off the Philistines, that after he killed 30 men of Ashkelon and gave their clothes to the wedding guests, he went home without returning to the wedding feast.

- Now, sometime later he returns to consummate the marriage and his former father in law tells him “no” – that she’s been given to another man and is offered her younger sister.
- There would appear to be no particular scruples on either side of this situation.
- Perhaps God is protecting Samson from being unequally yoked and from breaking the law with regard to marriage.

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 ³Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. ⁴For they will turn away thy son from following Me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

2 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?”

V: 3-5 Sampson uses this “slight” as a provocation to avenge himself upon the Philistines.

- Catching 300 foxes is quite a feat all by itself.
- He then uses them to burn all their crops: shocks = bundles of wheat already gathered, the standing wheat, the olive orchards, and grape vineyards.

V: 6 The Philistines then kill Samson’s betrothed wife and father in law for provoking him to this “⁵displeasure”.

V: 7-8 Samson then avenges himself upon the avengers with a great slaughter.

- We’re not told how, but he kills those who were involved in burning his espoused wife and father in law.

V: 9-13 Now the Philistines mobilize against Judah – to which the children of Judah are either surprised or un-aware of what is going on.

- Samson is a “judge” of Israel, but he is not a leader – he is operating on his own.

V: 11 Samson: “I’m doing to them, what they did to me...” Revenge!

Luke 6:31 “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”

- This is also the only time during the time of Samson that we see the Israelites muster an army – and it is to apprehend one of their own!
- Samson seems intent on not fighting with his brethren and once assured that he won't have to, he submits to their custody which leads to his being turned over to the Philistines.

V: 14-17 Lehi = “Jawbone”.

- The Philistines shouted against him – probably a victory cry or a taunt of some kind.
- Then the Spirit of the Lord comes mightily upon him.

Jesus taught us:

Matthew 19:26 “... with God all things are possible.”

- Finding a new jawbone, Samson uses it to slay a thousand Philistine men and re-names the place “Ramath-Lehi” = “Height of a jaw bone” or “Jawbone heights.”
- Donkey jaw bones usually come from dead donkeys, [Nazarite vow?](#)
- Remember that the Philistines had the technological edge, they forged weapons of steel, and thereby dominated the region.

Judges 3:31 “And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad...”

- Samson uses a jaw bone from a donkey.
- David uses a stone & sling to kill the greatest Philistine of them all, Goliath.

Paul nails it:

1 Corinthians 1:27 “But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;”

V: 18-19 After the battle and victory Samson was very thirsty, he cried out to God, and God responded. We see that Samson has a flair for the dramatic – ¹⁸lest I die of thirst...

- This is the only time we see Samson call out to the Lord; because he is thirsty.

Psalms 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

- God broke a hole in the jaw bone and made water to come out.
- God refreshes and revives Samson's spirit.
- En-hakkore = "Spring of one calling"

V: 20 Samson judged Israel 20 years during the time of the Philistines:

- This is presented almost as the end of the story; perhaps the end of his time as a judge.

Judges Chapter 16

V: 1 Samson goes to Gaza which is a Philistine city – to a harlot.

- The phrase that he "went in unto her." which means essentially that he committed fornication with her.
- The Bible is very clear about the sin of fornication:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

V: 2-3 The Philistines gathered around him and waited in ambush.

- Samson gets up at midnight, he finds the gates locked and barred, trying to keep him in, so he takes the gates of the city about 10 miles away towards Hebron.
- While this is an incredible feat, note that it does not say "and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him..."

V: 4-5 Samson falls in love with a different woman – Delilah.

- Valley of Sorek = Valley of "Choice vines"... [Nazarite vow?](#)
- Delilah was a Philistine woman whose name means: "With long hair hanging down" ("Dainty one", "Feeble) Oh, the irony!
- The Lords of the Philistines immediately press her into service – entice him to find out the source of his strength:

1. That they may bind him.
 2. That they may afflict him.
- There were 5 Lords of the Philistines (**Judges 3:3**) and each was going to give her 1,100 pieces of silver or 5,500 pieces all together.

V: 6-9 Delilah asks Samson to reveal the source of his strength – and she tells him why! To bind him and to afflict him.

- This should be a clue about their relationship – as in it's time to bail!
- Samson seemingly toys with or plays with his seductive adversary – the bottom line is that he lies to her.
- The 9th commandment doesn't just apply to our dealing with believers – we're not to lie at all.
- 7 green "withs": 7 new chords or bow strings.
- After being bound with the chords and told that the Philistine were upon him, he quickly broke the chords – and even though it is not stated, he presumably killed the Philistines.
- Samson isn't just playing around with Delilah, he's playing around with God – obviously not taking his ministry seriously at all.

We can do the same thing: We get saved from the old life, maybe we get to a conference or a retreat and God really does a work in us – we're convicted of our sin, we're determined to walk in the ways of God. After we get home the phone rings: hey, what are you doing tonight? We're gonna party, we've got a keg – come on over.

- a. No, thanks bro, I'm not up to it tonight, I'm not feeling too hot, I'll have to pass --- tie me up with new ropes – playing around.
- b. *God has convicted me of my sin and by the grace of God I'm not going to live like that anymore – I'm following Jesus – I don't do that anymore.*
- c. I've made a decision to really follow Jesus; no more parties for me, no more drugs, no more alcohol, I'm living full on for Jesus. Thus closing the door to future invitations, making a solid commitment.
 - If you don't close that door, then it's still open – they'll call back – and in a weak moment... we can't play games with these things.

V: 10-12 The same foolish charade continues now with "new ropes" – but Samson breaks them as if they were threads.

V: 13-14 Again the same silly game, toying with sin. This time if you weave 7 locks of my hair with a weaver's loom and a pin – the rod used in weaving.

- After he's all woven up, he wakes up – physically, not spiritually and goes away with all this junk in his hair.
- Notice that he's come closer to telling her, now the game involves his hair.

V: 15-17 He goes back! This is a monkey trap!

Proverbs 4:23 “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

- She's working him – until his soul is “vexed unto death”
- Interesting that he had to tell her that he was a Nazarite.
- Samson tells her that if his hair is cut he will become weak like other men.

V: 18-19 Delilah knows that Samson has revealed his heart – and his weakness.

- Delilah arranges the trap with the Lords of the Philistines.
- She lulls Samson to sleep, then the Philistines cut off the 7 locks of his hair.

“His strength went from him.”

- This was the final part of his Nazarite vow that hadn't been compromised – or now his compromise was complete.

The words of the prophet to king Asa:

2 Chronicles 15:2 “And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; the Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.”

V: 20 As with the previous time Delilah wakes Samson with the same warning.

- He wakes up and assumes that everything is as before – he doesn't seem to perceive that his head has been shaved, or that his hair has been cut.
- Samson was oblivious; he didn't know that the Lord had departed from him.
- How could Samson be so dumb? How could he not know? He more than likely did know – but he didn't believe.

1. He had compromised in the area of grapes and vineyards – and nothing happened, nothing changed.

2. He had compromised with dead things, the lion and the jawbone – and nothing happened.
 3. So why would it matter if his head was shaved?
- We've all done the same thing. Is this ringing any bells with anybody? We've gone this far and nothing has happened. We've compromised in this area and we're still ok. How do we know when it's too far? How far can we go?
 - The only safe place for any of us is in an abiding personal relationship with Jesus.

Jesus said:

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.”

V: 21 The Philistines took Samson – he was overpowered, they could easily have killed him, but they wanted to humble and abuse him, use him for entertainment.

1. They blinded him.
2. They bound him – in fetters of brass. (Judgment)
3. They made him their slave.

2 Peter 2:19 “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

V: 22 The Philistines weren't paying attention – they should have had a barber on standby at all times – they had the knowledge about Samson's hair, they didn't have the wisdom to use that information.

- Samson's strength wasn't in his hair; his hair symbolized his commitment to the Lord – in a place of brokenness it would appear that Samson was re-committed to the Lord.

Psalms 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

- Samson's hair grew back, but his eyes didn't – there's always a repercussion to sin.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

V: 23-25 As the Philistines gathered together in the temple of Dagon, their pagan god to celebrate their seeming victory and having captured Samson.

- Dagon was a sort of fish god; depicted as a mer-man, as opposed to a mermaid. Half man / torso, and the lower half looking like a fish. (Neptune / Greek)
- They brought him out for their entertainment. Jay Leno and David Letterman love making fun of fallen Christians.

One of the effects of David's sin with Bathsheba:

2 Samuel 12:13-14 ¹³“And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, the Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. ¹⁴Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.”

V: 26-27 Being led by a child he asks to be taken to the columns that support the temple.

- The temple is filling up, even with people on the roof – presumably the lords of the Philistines, their leaders are present.

V: 28-30 Samson calls upon the Lord praying for the strength to bring down the temple and avenge himself upon the Philistines.

- God's mercy and God's grace: answering Samson's prayer, once again giving him the strength he needed to defeat the Philistines.

V: 31 His brethren, his mother who had been barren went on after Samson to have more sons – being blessed of God.

- His brothers and the rest of his father's household retrieve Samson's body and he is buried along with his fathers – it is an honorable burial.

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- Samson's life is a picture of a compromised Christian, having been empowered by the Spirit of God, yet we see him yielding his body to the appetites of the flesh.
 - Even though he dies under the ruins of a heathen temple. He's no longer controlled by the lust of the flesh, he's no longer subject to the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life – he's no longer walking by sight – now he's walking by faith – and God meets him there.

James 4:8 “Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you...”

- Samson is mentioned in **Hebrews 11:32**, the hall of faith. Why? Because it's never too late to turn back to God!

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all un-righteousness.”