

4. SAMSON

Judges 13–16

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Judges 13

13:1 Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of Yahweh, so that Yahweh gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.

13:2 There was a certain man of Zorah ... and his wife was barren and had borne no children.

13:3 Then the angel of Yahweh was seen by the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son.

13:4 Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.

13:5 For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

13:24 Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and Yahweh blessed him.

13:25 And the Spirit of Yahweh began to stir him

Judges 14

14:1 Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines.

14:2 So he came back and told his father and mother, “I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now get her—her—for me as a wife.

14:3 ... Her—get for me, for she looks right in my eyes.”

14:5 Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah

14:8 ... He turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion.

14:9 So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went.

...

14:10 ... Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this.

14:19 ... He [Samson] went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil and gave the changes of clothes to those who answered the riddle.

Judges 15

15:15 He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out and took it and killed a thousand men [Philistines] with it.

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Judges 16

16:1 Now Samson went to Gaza and he saw a prostitute there, and he had relations with her.

16:4 After this it came about that he loved a woman ..., whose name was Delilah.

16:5 Yahwehs of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and see where his great strength lies and how we may overpower him that we may bind him to afflict him. Then we will each give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

1 **16:6** So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength is and how you may be bound to afflict you."

16:7 And Samson said to her, "If they will bind me with seven fresh cords that have not been dried, then I will become weak and be like a man."

2 **16:10** Then Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have deceived me and told me lies; now please tell me how you may be bound."

16:11 And he said to her, "If they will bind me tightly with new ropes which have not been used, then I will become weak and be like a man."

3 **16:13** Then Delilah said to Samson, "Up to now you have deceived me and told me lies; tell me how you may be bound."

And he said to her, "If you will weave the seven locks of my hair with the web and fasten it with a pin, then I will become weak and be like a man."

4 **16:15** Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have deceived me these three times and have not told me where your great strength is."

16:16 It came about when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, that his soul was annoyed to death.

16:17 And he told her all that was in his heart and he said to her, "A razor has never come on my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will leave me and I will become weak and be like every man."

16:20 She [Delilah] said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that Yahweh had departed from him.

16:30 And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life.