

1/12/14

Judges 15-16

We come to the last two chapters of the life of Samson, the man with such great potential, but he wasted it on himself!

15:1-8 *The revenge of Samson over his wife being married of to the best man.*

15:1-3 The visit was to consummate his marriage.

- 1) The time was after the wheat harvest, May-June. vs. 1
- 2) Samson visited his wife to reconcile from the anger outburst over losing the bet to solve the riddle, he came with present of a young goat. vs. 1
* The type of marriage was that the wife stayed in the father's house and the husband would visit periodically!
- 3) Samson asked permission of his wife's father to enter her room, but was denied. vs. 1
- 4) Samson's father-in-law told him, thought Samson hated her, so he gave her to companion. vs. 2
* The fact that Samson had not consulted the wedding gave legal right for divorce by the father.

- 5) He offered Samson her younger sister, commenting she was much attractive than his wife. vs. 2
- 6) Samson took out his anger on the Philistines, declaring he was blameless in harming them. vs. 3

15:4-8 The burning of the crops of the Philistines.

- 1) Samson caught 300 jackals tied torches to each pair of jackals, burning the stacks of grain and the crops of grapes and olives. vs. 4-5
 - a) A serious offence in Israel. Ex. 22:6
 - b) Absalom burned Joab's barley fields when he would not come to him. 2Sam. 14:29-32
- 2) The enquired of the Philistines discovered the culprit to be Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, due to having given his wife to another. vs. 6
* In retaliation, the Philistines burned her and her father with fire, the every thing the 30 had threatened her with. Judges 14:15
- 3) Samson then retaliated against the Philistines, taking vengeance by a great slaughter, retreating to the cleft of the rock of Etam. vs. 7-8
* Etam near the town of Judah.

15:9-20 *The victory of Samson over the Philistines.*

- 1) The Philistines ascended to encamped in Judah, sending out troops against Lehi “jaw”. vs. 9
- 2) The men of Judah were surprise they came against them, to which they revealed they were after Samson to arrest and punish Samson. vs. 10
- 3) Three thousand men of Judah journeyed to the cleft of the rock of Etam. vs. 11
 - a) Reminding him of their bondage to them, “Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us?”
 - b) Rebuking him for creating problems, “What *is* this you have done to us?”, being very complacent with their bondage.
 - c) Samson responded as an immature man, “As they did to me, so I have done to them.”
- 4) The men revealed they came to hand him over to the Philistines, his only plead was that they, themselves not kill him. vs. 12
- 5) Agreeing with Samson they informed him they would bind him brought him up from the rock. vs. 15
- 6) Arriving at Lehi, the Philistines yelled against him and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, braking loose of the rope with ease. vs. 14

- 7) Samson found a fresh jawbone of a donkey and killed a thousand men with it. vs. 15
- 8) Samson memorialized his victory with a little poem with a play on the sound of the words “donkey” and “heaps”, “With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!” vs. 16
- 9) He then cast the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi, “height of a jawbone”. vs. 17
- 10) Samson prayed for the first time on record to God, again the focus being concern with himself only. vs. 18
 - a) Due to the great slaughter he was very thirsty and cried out to the LORD.
 - b) He acknowledge God gave used him as His servant for the victorious deliverance.
 - c) He thought he was about to die of thirst and be taken by the Philistines.
* A bit dramatic!
- 11) God miraculously provided water in Lehi, he drank; and his spirit was revived, memorializing the event by the name En Hakkore, in Lehi “springs of one calling”. vs. 19
* God provided water for the children of Israel in the wilderness constantly!
- 12) Samson judged Israel a total of 20 years, during the days of the Philistines. vs. 20

16:1-3 *The visit of Samson to Gaza.*

- 1) Samson went to Gaza and seeing a prostitute he had sex with her. vs. 1
 - a) Once again Samson reveals he has sexual weakness for pagan women.
 - b) Gaza was about 12 miles south of Ashkelon.
- 2) The men at Gaza became aware of his location and laid low all night until they would attempt to kill him in the morning. vs. 2
- 3) Samson surprised the Philistines and made his escape at mid-night, in a way that they could not catch him, as he jammed out the gate and post and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. vs. 3

16:4-22 *The down fall of Samson through Delilah.***16:4-5** The hire of Delilah by the Philistines.

- 1) Samson fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek, named Delilah. vs. 4
 - a) The valley of Zorek “choice vine”.
 - b) Delilah “d@liylah” means feeble and probably a Philistine.
- 2) The five lords of the Philistines hired her to entice Samson to reveal the secret of his strength, so they could apprehend

him, each giving her 1,100 pieces of silver. vs. 5

16:6-9 The first attempt of Delilah.

- 1) Delilah asked Samson straight out directly to reveal how his strength could be overcome. vs. 6
- 2) Samson told her, “If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.” vs. 7
- 3) The lords of the Philistines provided her the seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him. vs. 8
- 4) Philistines were hidden in the room and when she gave warning to Samson, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!”, he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn touched by fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

16:10-12 The second attempt of Delilah.

- 1) Delilah acted offended and accused Samson of mocking her and pleaded that he tell her the secret to bind him. vs. 10
- 2) Samson told her, “If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used”, then he would become weak as any man. vs. 11
- 3) The Philistines again were hidden in the room, she bound Samson with new ropes

and warned him, but he broke them like a thread. vs. 12

16:13-14 The third attempt of Delilah.

- 1) Delilah accused him of mocking and lying to her, acting hurt and asked him tell her the secret, to which he said, “If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom”. vs. 13
- 2) Delilah wove his hair tightly with the batten of the loom, she gave the signal once again, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!”, he awoke and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom. vs. 14
* Probably a horizontal one since he was laying on her lap.

16:15-22 The fourth and last attempt of Delilah.

- 1) Delilah accused Samson of not loving her, having mocked her three times and not revealing the secret of his strength. vs. 15
- 2) Delilah kept bugging Samson and urging him pestered him daily that it became intolerably irritating. vs. 16
- 3) Samson revealed all his heart, telling her of his Nazirite vow, “No razor has ever come upon my head, for I *have been* a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If shaven his strength would leave him and be as any man. vs. 17

* But Samson was wrong, his strength was the Spirit of God!

- 4) Delilah recognizing the truth of his call, then called for the lords of the Philistines and told them told them Samson has revealed the secret, so they paid her off. vs. 18
- 5) Delilah lulled him to sleep on her knees, and had a man shave the seven locks of his head, then provoked and irritated him. vs. 19
- 6) Delilah for the last time warned him, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!”, only to awake, thinking he would shake himself free, not knowing that the LORD had departed from him. vs. 20
* But it wasn’t his hair, but rather his unrepented worldliness and sin, God removed his strength!
- 7) The Philistines took and put out his eyes, and took him down to Gaza bound with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. vs. 21
- 8) Samson’s hair began to grow again after it had been shaven. vs. 22

16:23-31 *The vengeance of Samson and death.*

16:23-27 The mocking of Samson.

- 1) five lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon, their

- fish-god, rejoicing for his deliverance of their enemy Samson. vs. 23
- 2) The people equally praise Dagon for delivering Samson the destroyer of so many in the land. vs. 24
 - 3) When they became drunk they called for Samson from the prison to perform “sachawq” to make them laugh and play, to amuse themselves, stationing him between the pillars. vs. 25
 - 4) Samson commanded the lad who holding his hand to let him feel the pillars that supported the temple to lean on them. vs. 26
 - 5) The temple was filled with men and women, including the five lords of the Philistines, about three thousand observing Samson being ridiculed. vs. 27

16:28-31 The shameful death of Samson.

- 1) Samson prayed for the second time for God to remember him, so he could take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes, it is still all about him! vs. 28
- 2) Samson laid hold of the two middle support pillars of the temple, braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. vs. 29
- 3) Samson third and last prayer was to die with the Philistines, pushing on the pillar the entire temple collapse, killing more than he had killed in his life. vs. 30

- 4) Samson’s relatives came down, took him and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah, after he had judged Israel twenty years. vs. 31