

I. An Enemy Enraged & Determined (9-11)

A. Intentional advance (9) – “Then the Philistines came up and encamped in Judah and made a raid on Lehi.”

B. Clear agenda (10) – “And the men of Judah said, “Why have you come up against us?” They said, “We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him as he did to us.”

C. Discouraging accusation (11) – “Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, “Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?” And he said to them, “As they did to me, so have I done to them.”

II. A Strategy of Humility & Shrewdness (12-14a)

A. Samson trusts God with adversity (12) – “And they said to him, “We have come down to bind you, that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines.” And Samson said to them, “Swear to me that you will not attack me yourselves.”

B. The men agreed to the plan (13a) – “They said to him, “No; we will only bind you and give you into their hands. We will surely not kill you.” **3,000 came up to Samson because they assumed he would fight them**

C. Outwardly, Samson looked doomed (13b-14a) – “So they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. 14a When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him.”

III. An Anointing That Meets the Need (14b-17)

A. God came to Samson (14b) – “Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands.” **The heat of the Holy Spirit melted the thing that chained him.**

B. God uses the ordinary & unimpressive (15) – “And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men.”

C. The moment became a memorial (16-17) – “And Samson said, “With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey have I struck down a thousand men.” 17 As soon as he had finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone out of his hand. And that place was called Ramath-lehi **{elevation of the jawbone}.**”

IV. An Opportunity to Leave the Glory with God (18-20)

A. Apart from God, Samson knew his weakness (18) – “And he was very thirsty, and he called upon the Lord and said, “You have granted this great salvation by the hand of Your servant, and shall I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?””

B. God brought refreshment to Samson’s weariness (19) – “And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore, the name of it was called En-hakkore **{fountain of the crier}**; it is at Lehi to this day.”

C. Scripture records Samson as an honored servant (20) – “And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.”