

† As Samson arrived at Lehi, the Philistines came shouting in triumph. But the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon Samson, and he snapped the ropes on his arms as if they were burnt strands of flax, and they fell from his wrists. Then he found the jawbone of a recently killed donkey. He picked it up and killed 1,000 Philistines with it.

† Samson was now very thirsty, and he cried out to the Lord, “You have accomplished this great victory by the strength of your servant. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of these pagans?” So God caused water to gush out of a hollow in the ground at Lehi, and Samson was revived as he drank. Then he named that place “The Spring of the One Who Cried Out,” and it was still in Lehi when the book of Judges was written.

† Then, some time later, Samson goes to Gaza and spends the night with a prostitute. The men of Gaza plot to kill him in the morning and wait at the town gates. But Samson gets up at midnight and rips the gates, posts and all, and carries them on his shoulders up to the top of a hill.

† It is only after all of this that Delilah comes on to the scene. From the beginning she is a paid spy for the Philistines. Her only goal is to help discover the secret of his strength—or more accurately, the secret of his kryptonite.

° Samson has experienced this scenario before at his week-long wedding feast—when his unnamed fiancée kept pleading with him to divulge the answer to the riddle. But once again, he displays his weakness of mind and character. His lack of eyes to see the trap they were setting for him ultimately led to the loss of his physical eyes that caused him to now see nothing—nothing physically anyway. We see at the end of his life that he does see his need for God’s strength and the need to fulfill God’s divine purpose in his life.

» OUR MAJOR QUESTIONS:

Δ Does God know everything? If so, why would He choose Samson, who would be such a mess, and a life full of so many contradictions?

Δ Can God use less than imperfect people? It seems that Samson did not have a close relationship with God, and yet God’s power still came to him.

Δ Does God work with those who are not close to him as much as He does with those who are intentionally striving to have a close relationship? This doesn’t seem to fit what we normally teach.

Δ What does God’s choice of Samson say about God’s character?

My Prayers This Week...

1. What can God do through me, even though I am so much less than perfect?
2. How do I discredit what God is doing through others who are flawed?
3. How does this section of Scripture help me see more of God’s character?