

## Judges: Review

- Story of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judge of Israel - Samson
  - 40 years of Philistine oppression – no repentance by Israel
  - Unique yet very human character – used as the Lord's weapon
  - Story of great strength & weakness
  - Drawn to Philistine women, triggered by revenge, powered by H.S.
- We've been looking at Samson's attempt at marriage
  - The Lord was seeking an occasion against Philistine - JDG 14:4
  - Yet Samson broke 2 of the three Nazirite rules: wine/grapes, carcass
  - But his sin did not thwart God's plan...
- Explosion #1 – The Riddle, Ashkelon
  - Samson entrusts secret to wife, friends get answer, Samson explodes
  - Kills 30 bystanders, His wife given to good friend
  - We saw Samson - intelligent, risk taker, likes a challenge, revengeful
  - The story continues today as we look at the aftermath of this event

JDG 15:1 But after a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it came about that Samson visited his wife with a young goat, and said, "I will go in to my wife in her room." But her father did not let him enter. 2 And her father said, "I really thought that you hated her intensely; so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please let her be yours instead." 3 Samson then said to them, "This time I shall be blameless in regard to the Philistines when I do them harm." 4 And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned the foxes tail to tail, and put one torch in the middle between two tails. 5 When he had set fire to the torches, he released the foxes into the standing grain of the Philistines, thus burning up both the shocks and the standing grain, along with the vineyards and groves. 6 Then the Philistines said, "Who did this?" And they said, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he took his wife and gave her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire. 7 And Samson said to them, "Since you act like this, I will surely take revenge on you, but after that I will quit." 8 And he struck them ruthlessly with a great slaughter; and he went down and lived in the cleft of the rock of Etam. 9 Then the Philistines went up and camped in Judah, and spread out in Lehi. 10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" And they said, "We have come up to bind Samson in order to do to him as he did to us." 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 I have done to them."

JDG 15:12 And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you so that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines." And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not kill me." 13 So they said to him, "No, but we will bind you fast and give you into their hands; yet surely we will not kill you." Then they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. 14 When he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily so that the ropes that were on his arms were as flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds dropped from his hands. 15 And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out and took it and killed a thousand men with it. 16 Then Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey I have killed a thousand men." 17 And it came about when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand; and he named that place Ramath-lehi. 18 Then he became very thirsty, and he called to the Lord and said, "Thou hast given this great deliverance by the hand of Thy servant, and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" 19 But God split the hollow place that is in Lehi so that water came out of it. When he drank, his strength returned and he revived. Therefore, he named it En-hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

### Samson's Revenge: I only did to them what they did to me

- Observations/comments/questions?
  - How do you catch 300 foxes? How long would it take?
  - Philistine god Dagon – god of grain (agriculture)
    - Burning shocks, grain, vineyards, and groves V5 – major slam
    - Philistine's are very angry now!
  - What is the Philistine army's purpose when they go to Judah?
- V10 "We have come up to bind Samson in order to do to him as he did to us."
- What is Samson's rationale for his behavior?
- V11 "As they did to me, so I have done to them."
- Both felt justified, How accurate are Samson's perceptions?
    - 30 people coerce his wife, he kills 30 bystanders, walks out on wife
    - Father-in-law gives his wife to friend, he wreaks economic disaster
    - Father-in-law & wife killed, he exacted a great slaughter
    - Philistine army does not attack Israel, they just want Samson; he then kills 1000 Philistines

## Samson's Revenge: I only did to them what they did to me

- How do the Israelites view their situation?  
V11 "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us?"
  - The very people God is rescuing are oblivious to the instrument of rescue, they simply see a large Philistine army
  - They'll do whatever it takes to keep the status-quo, remain alive
- The famous battle unfolds! AMAZING 1:>1000 V16-17
- How do you picture this battle?
  - Philistines SHOUTED a victory cry (Dagon), but underestimated YHWH
  - Probably lasted quite awhile
  - Philistines wouldn't give up easily to 1 man
  - Dead bodies piling up around Samson
  - With 1000 Philistines dead, remaining wisely retreat
- Samson's 2<sup>nd</sup> Couplet, poem-  
16 Then Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey I have killed a thousand men."
  - Donkey – 'chamor'; Heaps – 'chamolah'

## Samson's Revenge: I only did to them what they did to me

- What happened after the battle?
    - He left the jawbone, named it "Height of Jawbone" "Jawbone Hill"
    - He was extremely thirsty – think heat exhaustion/heat stroke
  - His cry to the Lord seems reasonable – why after such a huge victory let him almost die?
    - God reminds Samson (& us) of his humanity, dependence on the Lord
    - Simple fact: He NEEDS water
  - He named it 'En-Hakkore' – The Caller's Spring
    - Great Lesson: Remember where your strength came from & your own mortality!
- JDG 15:20 So he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.
- What are the implications of this verse?
    - Israelites recognize his leadership (unlike earlier)
    - Philistine domination broken
    - 20 years shows a lengthy Judgeship for Samson (often overlooked)

JDG 16:1 Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. 2 When it was told to the Gazites, saying, "Samson has come here," they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. And they kept silent all night, saying, "Let us wait until the morning light, then we will kill him." 3 Now Samson lay until midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the city gate and the two posts and pulled them up along with the bars; then he put them on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of the mountain which is opposite Hebron.

- Why include this incident in the Samson's story?
  - Samson, still not married, struggled with his flesh - lust
  - Gaza & Hebron are not that close!
  - Demonstrates incredible strength & endurance!
- How would you sleep at night with your front door torn off?
  - Sense of safety for the Philistines diminished

JDG 16:4 After this it came about that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. 5 And the lords 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." 6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength is and how you may be bound to afflict you." 7 And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh cords that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." 8 Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh cords that had not been dried, and she bound him with them. 9 Now she had men lying in wait in an inner room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he snapped the cords as a string of tow snaps when it touches fire. So his strength was not discovered. 10 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have deceived me and told me lies; now please tell me, how you may be bound." 11 And he said to her, "If they bind me tightly with new ropes which have not been used, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." 12 So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" For the men were lying in wait in the inner room. But he snapped the ropes from his arms like a thread. 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 weave the seven locks of my hair with the web [and fasten it with a pin, then I shall become weak and be like any other man."

14 So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his hair and wove them into the web]. And she fastened it with the pin, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep and pulled out the pin of the loom and the web. 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 And it came about when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, that his soul was annoyed to death. 17 So he told her all that was in his heart and 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 shall become weak and be like any other man." 18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all that was in his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all that is in his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her, and brought the money in their hands. 19 And she made him sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his hair. Then she began to afflict him, and his strength left him. 20 And she 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 the Lord had departed from him. 21 Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison.

## Samson's Flirt with the Devil

- Delilah – Arabic word for flirt; Sorek – “choice vines”
- Observations/comments/questions?
- What does Samson believe is going on?
  - He's faced a woman nagging for his secrets – I'm up for the challenge
  - Samson did not back down from a game of wit, riddles, and tests  
“I can withstand this test, I'll wisely deceive her” – he was wrong
- What method does he use to defeat her attempts? Lies
- Why doesn't he leave? What's holding him there?
  - He's bound by lust & sex; Worn down by her words

PRO 7:21-23 With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him. 22 Suddenly he follows her, As an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool, 23 Until an arrow pierces through his liver; As a bird hastens to the snare, So he does not know that it will cost him his life. 24 Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, And pay attention to the words of my mouth. 25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths. 26 For many are the victims she has cast down, And numerous are all her slain. 27 Her house is the way to Sheol, Descending to the chambers of death.

## Samson's Flirt with the Devil

- Third rule of the Nazirite vow was broken, What's the result?
  - His power source was gone (The Holy Spirit had departed)
  - With the Spirit gone the results are disastrous (Saul 1SAM 16:14)
- Lessons for the believer?
  - Sexual lust has ability to bind you in a dangerous position
  - Lies are unsuccessful at helping you walk the fence
  - How did Jesus handle temptation? TRUTH, not lies
  - Don't think you can stand against this type of sexual temptation, Remember 1COR 6:18 "Flee immorality"

JDG 16:23 Now the lords of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice, for they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hands." 24 When the people saw him, they praised their god, for they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hands, Even the destroyer of our country, Who has slain many of us." 25 It so happened when they were in high spirits, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may amuse us." So they called for Samson from the prison, and he entertained them. And they made him stand between the pillars. 26 Then Samson said to the boy who was holding his hand, "Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them." 27 Now the house was full of men and women, and all the lords of the Philistines were there. And about 3,000 men and women were on the roof looking on while Samson was amusing them. 28 Then Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes." 29 And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left. 30 And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the 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. 31 Then his brothers and all his father's household came down, took him, brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. Thus he had judged Israel twenty years.

## Samson's Last Stand

- Observations/comments/questions?
- What is the error in Philistine thinking?
  - Wrong god
  - Chains work (James Bond Foe's Syndrome)
  - He's harmless
- Massive loss of life – think 9/11 numbers
- What is the impact to the Philistines?
  - They lost their leaders (kings and military)
  - Severely weakened, but not gone
- What lessons stood out to you in Samson's life?