

STUDIES IN THE LIVES OF GIDEON & SAMSON

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN - Judges 15:1-20

*He-man w/
She-Trouble*

TEXT:

- v. 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.
- v. 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."
- v. 3 Samson then said to them, "This time I shall be blameless in regard to the Philistines when I do them harm."
- v. 4 And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned them tail to tail, and put one torch in the middle between two tails.
- v. 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.
- v. 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.
- v. 7 And Samson said to them, "Since you act like this, I will surely take revenge on you, but after that I will quit."
- v. 8 And he struck them ruthlessly with a great slaughter; and he went down and lived in the cleft of the rock of Etam.
- v. 9 Then the Philistines went up and camped in Judah, and spread out in Lehi.
- v.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."
- v.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."
- v.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."
- v.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.
- v.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.
- v.15 And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out and took it and killed a thousand men with it.

- v.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."
- v.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.
- v.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?"
- v.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.
- v.20 So he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

woody - 2:00

INTRODUCTION:

We have witnessed together the birth of Samson, the happy and enthusiastic sanguine, who has a sunny disposition. We have seen all of the preparations made for his birth, and how through his early years the Lord blessed. And then we witnessed in our last study his progression downward, as he got involved with one of the Philistine girls and had a desire to marry her. watch where he was lookin' → Contrary to parents → Be not unequally yoked → 3 down + 1 to go! → learned so he would avoid

We now come to a further development in the life of Samson in this 15th chapter.

Nazarite Vow

Bloody
 Burning
 Bitter
 Betrayed

Timnah

v. 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.

After all the dramatic events in the preceding chapter, and the betrayal of his wife to the Philistines because of their threat, in giving them the answer to the riddle, Samson stomped off in a huff and slew 30 men of the Philistines and took their garments to pay off his wager, and then went back home to Zorah, and had remained there for some time.

Time is always a big healer of hurts and helps us to think of things more objectively, and the same was true of Samson. It is in the time of the wheat harvest, which is the month of May, when Samson has a desire to return.

So Samson goes back down to Timnah and calls upon his wife with a young goat as a gift, and he said, "I will go into my wife in her room." But her father did not let him enter.

The reason he stands in the way of this suggestion on the part of Samson is because of our last verse in the last study, verse 20:

still trying to be legitimate to a degree!!

Physical with his wife,

Used to telling everybody what he's going to do!!

Physical desires are drawing him back!!

Brought As A Goat Peace offering instead of flowers + candy!!

Always be Restraint
when you leave this
will

Never works out
No matter how well you plan it.

-3-

Bells, lights & sirens will tell you

"But Samson's wife was given to his companion who had been his friend."

v. 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."

As the father stands in the way of Samson, he also has an explanation. His explanation is that he had felt that because Samson went away so angry, that he hated her in this anger because of the fact that she had betrayed him to the Philistine men who threatened her with extermination if she didn't tell them the meaning of the riddle.

The father has another proposition for Samson in saying: "Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please let her be yours instead."

v. 3 Samson then said to them, "This time I shall be blameless in regard to the Philistines when I do them harm."

Samson is now ready to take matters into his own hands. And he reminds the father of the fact that when he does take his revenge, he shall be blameless in regard to the Philistines when he does them harm, because of what they have done to him.

v. 4 And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned them tail to tail, and put one torch in the middle between two tails.

The Hebrew word is now generally agreed to have included in its meaning, not only foxes, but also jackals, an animal rightly described as something between the wolf and the fox; and hence, sometimes termed by naturalists the wolf-fox. These animals which are very numerous in Palestine associate together in large herds or packs, sometimes to the amount of two or three hundred, differing in this respect from the fox, which is not gregarious, and is far more cunning. Like foxes, however, they live in holes which they form underground. They are particularly prone to resort to ruined towns, not only because they there find numerous secure retreats, ready-made, but because the same facilities attract to such places other animals on whose dead bodies they prey.

Samson evidently borrowed the local dogcatcher's equipment and caught 300 of these jackals and penned them up. He then prepared 150 torches made out of wood, and wrapped it in some absorbent material and soaked it in oil.

He then tied the torch with a large enough piece of rope so that it could be attached to the tails of two jackals, who would run into the fields carrying this burning torch, to bring devastation and ruin to much of the crops in and around the area of Timnah.

Not Cruelty to Animals!

Torch burnt the rope in two They Scattered!!

Called her
A heifer!!

Father's point
of view
Respects be-
cause it wasn't
his idea
Mac Again!!

Lumber yard
Block. Decker
work matt

v. 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.

In this little project that Samson is involved in, he is able to set fire to 150 different fields of the Philistines, bringing about massive devastation. He would stop by one of the fields, take out a pair, light the torch, and turn them loose. Drive up in his dodge pickup take out two lightem up + let em go!!

I am sure he would probably go down the road a little ways and light another torch, and turn loose another set to wreak devastation on that field.

Absalom had his man set Joab's Barley Field on Fire!

As he released them into the standing grain of the Philistines, they in their running, bearing the burning torches, burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, along with the vineyards and groves.

v. 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 and her father with fire.

The Philistines found out at once that Samson had done them this injury because his father-in-law the Timnite had taken away his wife and given her to his companion. They, therefore, avenged themselves by burning her and her father, probably by burning his house down to the ground, with the occupants within it. This is an act of barbarity and cruelty which fully justified Samson's war upon them.

The fire departments are all working with the brush fires out of control in all parts of the city, and the arson squad has been called in to seek to find out who had done this. The reports come in that Samson is the one who did it. The reason he did it was because the Timnite had taken his wife and given her to his companion.

In an act of retribution, then, the Philistines come and burn up the home of the Timnite, along with the father and the daughter.

v. 7 And Samson said to them, "Since you act like this, I will surely take revenge on you, but after that I will quit."

The Philistines had threatened Samson's wife that if she did not obtain and disclose her husband's secret, they would burn her and her father's house with fire. She, to save herself and oblige her countrymen, betrayed her husband. And now by so doing, brought upon herself the very doom which she so studiously sought to avoid. To seek to escape suffering by sin is the surest way to bring it upon us. The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him.

Rampaging Arsonite

Field + Forest Fires Everywhere!!
up-to-date

Fear Fell upon her!!
Tried to Avoid Living by the Law of Philistines

Samson now receives the report that the Philistines have taken the life of his father-in-law and wife and burned up their home in retaliation for his destruction of the grain fields, vineyards and olive groves. And now he says, "I will surely take revenge on you, but after that I will quit."

v. 8 And he struck them ruthlessly with a great slaughter; and he went down and lived in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

Samson is here involved in a one-act play in that he is the only character involved in the deliverance of the nation Israel from the Philistines. He, empowered by the Spirit of God, strikes them ruthlessly with a great slaughter. It does not say what was involved here, but after having taken out his revenge and fulfilled his anger, it says he went down and lived in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

This was evidently some place down to the south in the mountains of Judah, and here he took refuge.

v. 9 Then the Philistines went up and camped in Judah, and spread out in Lehi.

The Philistines were more organized and took their army and went up and camped in Judah to avenge themselves for the defeat they had sustained from Samson. And they encamped in Judah, spread themselves out in Lehi.

There is evidently quite a vast host here of this army, and they spread out in this place called Lehi in Judah. It must have been some kind of valley or flat place where they could all gather, similar to the gathering of the Midianites and the Amalekites in the valley of Jezreel in anticipation of their battle against Gideon and the forces of Israel.

v.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."

The men of Judah seek to find out from the Philistines why they are having a quarrel against them, only to discover that Samson is the cause of the whole invasion; and they have come with the purpose of binding Samson, so that they can do to him as he had done to them.

v.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."

It is obvious from these statements that Samson is living by the order of the Philistines, and that is: As they did to me, so I have done to them. And now the Philistines are wanting to do the same.

One Man
War!!
David Against
3000

When people live by the law of everyone doing that which is right in their own eyes, you have serious confrontations like this that we are beholding.

Three thousand of the men of Judah organized themselves and go down to have an argument with Samson. It is interesting what they say to him: "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?"

They have two questions:

1. Don't you know that the Philistines are ruling over us and we are in bondage to them?
2. What then is this that you have done to us?

When the men of Judah learned what was the object of this invasion on the part of the Philistines, 3,000 of them then went down to the cleft of the rock in Etam to bind Samson and to deliver him up to the Philistines.

Instead of recognizing in Samson a deliverer whom the Lord had raised up for them and crowding around him that they might smite their oppressors with his help and drive them out of the land, the men of Judah were so degraded that they cast this reproach at Samson.

v.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."

These men of Judah want to avoid any kind of conflict with the people who are ruling over them, and they are not willing to even consider the possibility that God is going to use Samson to deliver them from the bondage to the Philistines; and so they simply tell Samson that they are taking the side of the Philistines in this matter. And they have come down to bind him so that they can give him into the hands of the Philistines.

And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not kill me."

Before he is willing to make a commitment to these men of Judah and allow them to take him up to the camp of the Philistines in Judah, he makes them promise that they'll not kill him in the process.

v.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.

After they give him the assurances that satisfy him of their intentions, that they will only bind him and give him into their hands and will not kill him, he then consented to their request. They bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock, that is, in Etam, and took him into the land of Judah and prepared to give him over to the Philistines.

Content to live in this bondage!!

Deliver up one of their own countrymen to keep peace!!

-7-

v.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.

When they came up to the camp of the Philistines they immediately shouted with a shout of joy and victory as they met him.

Simultaneously with this, however, the Spirit of the Lord, who had been stirring within Samson earlier, came upon him mightily and infused him with strength and power.

★ Zechariah 4:6 says: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord."

Acts 1:8 To the early Christians He said, "You shall receive power, after that the Spirit of God is come upon you."

Here the Spirit of God came mightily upon him so that his physical strength was that beyond human expectations. The ropes that were on his arms were as flax that is burned with fire. And his bonds dropped from his hands.

v.15 And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out and took it and killed a thousand men with it.

As soon as he was relieved of his bands, he seized upon a fresh jawbone of an ~~ass~~ donkey, which he found there, and smote therewith a thousand men.

The supernatural strength with which Samson rent asunder the fetters bound upon him when the Philistines thought they had him safely in their power filled them with fear and awe, as before a superior being, so that they fled. And he pursued them, smiting one heap after another as he overtook them with an ~~ass's~~ donkey's jawbone which he found in the way. The number given--a thousand, that died as a result of this battle.

v.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."

Samson commemorates his victory by singing a little song:

"With the jawbone of a donkey,
Heaps upon heaps,
With the jawbone of a donkey
I have killed a thousand men."

v.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.

Going to do this next week & Samson is Finished!!

Jonah & whale what if He is not in heaven -- You Ask Him

Incredible At Work!!

Should have become the Battle Hymn of the Republic but they can't get the message
Main eyes have seen the glory of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.

The name Ramath-Lehi means 'the jawbone height'.

When Samson had finished speaking his poetry celebrating the victory, he threw the jawbone from his hand, and he gave the place a name that would remind him of what took place there.

This is the experience of many of the men in the Scriptures who named places because of events that took place on that location.

v.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?"

What a beautiful verse this is. As he becomes thirsty from exhaustion in the battle, he calls to the Lord. And he said, "Thou hast given this great deliverance by the hand of Thy servant". He speaks some of the greatest words that he ever spoke in his lifetime, that is, that are recorded; and that is that he attributes to the Lord this great deliverance by the hand of the servant.

We are reminded of David who went against Goliath, that giant Philistine, who went with just 5 rocks and a sling, and faced this giant with the thought that the battle is the Lord's. And as a result, the Lord gave victory.

And so here, he had given victory to Samson. And then he has a question that he asks of the Lord: "Now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"

Like father - like son → Timnah incident

From this prayer we may see that Samson was fully conscious that he was fighting for the cause of the Lord, and the Lord helped him out of this trouble.

Because of his own physical weakness and his thirst, he asks a question that is of great concern to him; and that is, Shall he die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?

Could the same Lord who gave the great deliverance over the Philistines now not be concerned about the personal needs of His servant?

v.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.

As God had often provided water for His children in the wilderness, so now He provides water for Samson. The record says, When he drank of this water that had been provided, his strength returned and he revived.

High Point

In Fellowship

Hence, he named the fountain En-hakkore, 'the crier's well', which is in Lehi to this day.

v.20 So he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

In so many of the other passages, we see the judges judging, but judging Israel, in strength and power over their enemies. But in this situation, Samson is judging Israel for 20 years, but it is in the days of the Philistines. They are still very much a force and a people to contend with. During the 20 years after this slaughter that takes place, Samson is looked upon with a great deal of respect and admiration. And no problems seem to arise that would be necessary to satisfy our continuing curiosity about the life of Samson.

Compromise

CONCLUSION:

There are a number of lessons that we can learn from this particular study:

** Standing in the way will be something to stop us. Red lights stop when we leave will*
LESSON #1: The Lord restrained Samson from consummating the relationship with the Philistine girl by the actions of the father.

LESSON #2: Samson tries by himself to liberate the nation Israel from the Philistines, through the experiences of this chapter. He should have mustered an army and received instructions from the Lord as to how this liberation should take place.

LESSON #3: The immorality and degradation of the men of Judah is seen in the statement: "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us?"

No Real respect For Samson.

LESSON #4: The Spirit of the Lord is the One who provides the power for the victory.

LESSON #5: The Lord not only provides strength for the battle, but water for the physical needs.

LESSON #6: Samson judges Israel for 20 years, but it is not in freedom; for it is in the days of the Philistines.

Best Chapter of his Adult life.

LESSON #7 *the lord still uses him even though 3 out of 4 parts of UoA are broken.*

LESSON #8 *to seek to escape suffering by sin is the surest way to bring it on us.*

"The Fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him"

Time is the great healer

Samson is still telling everyone what he's going to do

God uses the fox for a prank but I don't feel it was His perfect will