

## Judges 16

King James Version (KJV)

**16** Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. (Gaza = strong, a stronghold; it was one of 5 major regions of the Philistines. It included the city of Gaza and the surrounding towns and countryside)

NOTE: (God put Samson and the Philistines on a collision course. Samson would continue to menace them until he brought their palace down on their heads. God punished the Philistines for all the abuse that they put upon Israel)

<sup>2</sup>And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. (They are setting up an ambush, while Samson was with the harlot)

<sup>3</sup>And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron. (The gates of the city were closed for the night. Samson broke the gates with the posts and carried them away whole upon his shoulders. Those gates were for the protection for the city against enemies. The city was now vulnerable to attack)

<sup>4</sup>And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. (Sorek = a vine; it can also be translated - red)

NOTE: (On another level - the vow of a Nazarite was to stay away from the vine. Here Samson goes to Sorek <the vine> for a Philistine woman)

<sup>5</sup>And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver. (Heathen people; they were looking for some kind of charm that gave Samson his strength, because they didn't believe in God)

NOTE: (Ignorant Christian preachers will tell people that that charm was Samson's hair. His strength came from the Spirit of God, not from his hair)

<sup>6</sup>And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. (She's not even being deceptive about it. She's asking plainly – How can I bind you so that the Philistines can harm you?)

<sup>7</sup>And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. (Samson is playing them. His ego is out of control. This is human nature. He believes that he is invincible)

<sup>8</sup>Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

<sup>9</sup>Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. (tow – flax or hemp – it's used in lanterns. It burns easily) (toucheth = smells – bad translation)

(So his strength was not known = By God's grace, Samson's strength became immeasurable. He broke the bonds as if they were not there)

(The enemy was right there, hiding in Delilah's chambers. She is doing her best to destroy Samson, and he's allowing it)

<sup>10</sup>And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. (Is she kidding? I don't understand why Samson isn't getting it. He's playing with fire. God says – be wiser than the serpent. Samson is failing miserably)

<sup>11</sup>And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. (Samson is playing games with her. He thinks he is invincible – his arrogance will get the best of him. The lesson is - don't play games with the enemy)

<sup>12</sup>Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liars

in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. (Meanwhile she is doing her best to get him killed)

<sup>13</sup> And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web. (God doesn't put on sideshows. I doubt God appreciates Samson's arrogance. His arrogance and ignorance will get him killed)

<sup>14</sup> And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web. (His hair was woven into a cloth on the weaver's beam – the web)

(Samson's long hair was a part of his vow as a Nazarite. Now he is making a mockery of it)

<sup>15</sup> And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. (Delilah is saying - If you loved me, you'd tell me how I can have you enslaved or murdered by the Philistines. This is unbelievable, but true. Samson is an idiot)

<sup>16</sup> And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; (She badgered him to the point where he finally told her what she wanted to know)

<sup>17</sup> That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man. (He is actually telling her how the Philistines can take him and kill him. He has become unbelievably arrogant and stupid. Samson thinks that he is invincible. God is about to teach Samson a lesson)

NOTE: (Samson's hair didn't give him his strength, God did that. But His long hair was a part of his vow as a Nazarite. If he breaks that vow, God might remove his gift of strength)

<sup>18</sup> And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. (The payment for her treachery – 1100 pieces of silver from each of these Philistine lords)

<sup>19</sup> And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. (Afflict – mental abuse and abasement)

<sup>20</sup> And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. (God was tired of Samson's sideshows and took his strength away. It wasn't his hair that gave him strength, it was God. By telling her to cut his hair, he violated his vow of a Nazarite and insulted God)

NOTE: (When God gives you a gift, do not turn it into a sideshow. God will leave you, just as He left Samson)

<sup>21</sup> But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house. (Prison = to yoke or hitch. He was bound to a grinding wheel that was used to grind grain into meal. This was done as a punishment for prisoners – hard labor)

NOTE: (Samson is blind and doing the job of a mule. He is pulling a grinding wheel around in a circle. His arrogance destroyed him. He abused God's gift and acted like an ass. And now he is living like one)

<sup>22</sup> Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. (After a while, Samson's hair grew back, but his strength didn't return. God doesn't accommodate fools. Samson's strength came from God, not from his hair)

<sup>23</sup> Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. (Dagon was a fish god that the Philistines worshipped. Now the Philistines are saying that Dagon has defeated Yahoveh. God won't let that stand)

NOTE: (Years later, God broke the statue of Dagon when the Philistines placed the Ark of the Covenant in their temple right by Dagon) see 1Samuel-5

<sup>24</sup> And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us. (They thought that Dagon had saved them. In truth, it was God that took away Samson's strength.)

God gave Samson a great gift; and he used that gift to put on shows to feed his ego)

<sup>25</sup> And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. (They were publicly mocking him. He was blind and weak so he couldn't defend himself)

<sup>26</sup> And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them. (Suffer me = Allow me)

<sup>27</sup> Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. (The pillars were supporting all the upper floors of the palace. The palace was full with the upper class and the rulers of the Philistines. This is a good opportunity to destroy them, all in one place)

<sup>28</sup> And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. (Finally, Samson humbles himself before Almighty God and repents for his arrogance. God forgave Samson and returned his strength to him)

<sup>29</sup> And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. (He used one pillar to anchor himself while he pushed on the other)

<sup>30</sup> And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life. (He took out the rulers and all of the spectators of the Philistines that were there)

(Samson gave up his life to save the people of Israel from the oppression of the Philistines. At that one time, he acted as a type for Jesus who gave up His life to save us)

<sup>31</sup> Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying place of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel

twenty years. (Approx. 1080 BC) (Samson's final act must have really shaken the Philistines. The Israelites just walked in and took Samson's body from the rubble of the palace; in order to bury him back at home)

(Paul wrote of Samson in Hebrews-11:32)

NOTE: (Samson abused God's gift as a young man. He was inexperienced and foolish. He finally saw the light and repented. God forgave him and blessed him by returning his strength. Samson ended up doing what God had sent him to do. He freed Israel from the Philistines)