

Judges 16

King James Version (KJV)

16 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. (Gaza = strong; it was one of 5 major cities of the Philistines)

² 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.

³ 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 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 of the city against enemies)

⁴ 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)

(On another note- the vow of a Nazarite was to stay away from the vine)

⁵ 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; they were looking for some kind of charm that gave Samson his strength, since they didn't believe in God)

⁶ 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)

⁷ 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)

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

⁹ 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 – burns easily) (toucheth= smells – bad translation)

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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)

¹² Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. (Meanwhile she is doing her best to kill him)

¹³ 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; Samson's arrogance and ignorance will get him in trouble)

¹⁴ 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)

¹⁵ 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. (If you loved me, you'd tell me how I can have you enslaved – unbelievable, but true)

¹⁶ 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 nagged him to death)

¹⁷ 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 – unbelievably arrogant and stupid. Samson thinks that he is invincible)

¹⁸ 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 each)

¹⁹ 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)

²⁰ 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 his sideshows and took his strength. It wasn't his hair that gave him strength, it was God)

²¹ 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 used as a punishment for prisoners)

²² Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. (Samson's hair grew back, but his strength didn't return; God doesn't accommodate fools)

²³ 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. (1Samuel-5 (Dagon was a fish god that the Philistines worshipped. God broke his statue when the Philistines placed the Arc of the Covenant by Dagon))

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ 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. (Publicly mocking him; he was blind and weak so he couldn't defend himself)

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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)

²⁸ 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 and repents for his arrogance)

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ 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)

³¹ 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) (Paul wrote of Samson in Hebrews-11:32)