

## Judges 15

### Samson Burns Philistine Crops

But after a while, in the time of wheat harvest, 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 Her father said, "I really thought that you hated her intensely; so I gave her to your companion.

Is her younger sister not more beautiful than she? Please let her be yours instead." 3 Samson then said to them, "This time I will have been blameless regarding the Philistines when I do them harm."

4 And Samson went and caught three hundred jackals, and took torches, and turned the jackals 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 jackals into the standing grain of the Philistines and set fire to both the bundled heaps and the standing grain, along with the vineyards and olive groves.

6 Then the Philistines said, "Who did this?" And some 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 to death with fire.

7 Then Samson said to them, "If this is how you act, I will certainly take revenge on you, and only after that will I stop." 8 So he struck them ruthlessly with a great slaughter; and afterward 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 So 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 three thousand 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, "Just as they did to me, so I have done to them."

12 Then they said to him, "We have come down to bind you so that we may hand you over to 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 tightly and give you into their hands; but we certainly 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 rushed upon him so that the ropes that were on his arms were like flax that has

burned with fire, and his restraints dropped from his hands. 15 Then he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out with his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.

16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey I have killed a thousand men.” 17 When he had finished speaking, 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, “You have handed this great victory over to Your servant, and now am I to 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. 20 So he judged Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

Paul’s observations and insights

1. A time passed and Samson’s anger subsided. He went to his wife to have sex with her.
2. He hadn’t left her with the idea he would return to her!
3. Her father misread the situation when Samson left. Have you ever done that?
4. He had given his daughter to Samson’s best man and she had become his wife!
5. What do you think about being told who to marry?
6. The girl’s father tries to justify his actions, with anxious persuasion of Samson taking his other beautiful daughter!
7. Samson, a man driven by appetites, reacts and decides to take revenge on the father’s actions by killing more Philistines.
8. How do you catch three hundred foxes?
9. What kind of mind does Samson have, to come up with this kind of scheme, by setting fire to the tails of the foxes?
10. The burning tails of the foxes destroy the harvest fields of the Philistines – nothing was left.
11. When the Philistines asked the question, ‘who done this’? Who were they talking to?
12. Whoever they were, the information they gave brought death to Samson’s wife and family.
13. Can you imagine being burned to death in a fire?

14. Samson is motivated again to kill more Philistines for the injustice he feels has been done to him.
15. Why did Samson say he would quit this revenge after this act?
16. Samson goes into isolation. Why do people go to the place of isolation?
17. The Philistines retaliation motivates the army of Israel to apprehend Samson, in order to protect themselves from the rulers of the land.
18. Some people would rather live with their enemies than the possibility of freedom.
19. Israel's army challenges Samson to 'tow the line', but Samson sees more opportunity to kill more Philistines.
20. Why did Israel's army tell Samson what they were going to do to him?
21. Samson is willing to go with them provided they promise they will not kill him.
22. They capture Samson and bind him because he let them. Why do people let themselves be bound by an enemy?
23. The loud shout of the Philistines motivated the Holy Spirit to come upon Samson and kill even more Philistines.
24. Samson was always finding the bones of corpses. He takes the jaw bone of a donkey ass as a weapon to kill a thousand Philistines.
25. Samson's first, having killed a thousand men, became the most important thing in his life. This is typical of his nature – a man driven by appetites!
26. The water Samson drank revived his strength and Samson judges Israel for twenty years.