

Judges 16 Samson's Weakness

Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a prostitute there, and had relations with her. 2 When it was reported 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's wait until the morning light, then we will kill him." 3 Now Samson lay asleep until midnight, and at midnight he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate and the two doorposts, 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.

4 After this it came about that he was in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. 5 So the governors of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and see where his great strength lies and how we can overpower him so that we may bind him to humble him. Then we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver." 6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you can be bound to humble you." 7 And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh animal tendons that have not been dried, then I will become weak and be like any other man."

8 Then the governors of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh animal tendons that had not been dried, and she bound him with them. 9 Now she had men prepared for an ambush in an inner room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he tore the tendons to pieces just like a thread of flax is torn apart when it comes too close to fire. So his strength was not discovered.

10 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have toyed with me and told me lies; now please tell me how you may be bound." 11 Then He said to her, "If they bind me tightly with new ropes which have not been used, then I will 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 in the ambush were waiting in the inner room. But he tore the ropes from his arms like thread.

13 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Up to now you have toyed with 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 the pin, then I will be weak like any other man." 14 So while he slept, Delilah wove the seven locks of his hair with 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.

Delilah Extracts His Secret

15 Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me?"

You have toyed with 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 will 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 word and called the governors of the Philistines, saying, “Come up once more, for he has told me all that is in his heart.” Then the governors of the Philistines came up to her and brought up 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 head. Then she began to humble him, and his strength left him. 20 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 restrained him with bronze chains, and he became a grinder in the prison. 22 However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it was shaved off. 23 Now the governors of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to celebrate, for they said, “Our god has handed Samson our enemy over to us.”

24 When the people saw him, they praised their god, for they said, “Our god has handed our enemy over to us, Even the destroyer of our country, Who has killed 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, so that I may lean against them.” 27 Now the house was full of men and women, and all the governors of the Philistines were there. And about three thousand men and women were on the roof looking on while Samson was entertaining them.

Samson Is Avenged

28 Then Samson called to the LORD and said, “Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes.” 29 Then 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 pushed outwards powerfully, so that the house fell on the governors and all the people

who were in it. And the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed during his lifetime. 31 Then his brothers and all his father's household came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. So he had judged Israel for twenty years.

Paul's observations and insights

1. Samson took the harlot to use for sex. Why did God give us sex?
2. A harlot who is someone who has many casual relationships with men.
3. The Gazites were also enemies of Israel – a Canaanite settlement.
4. The plot to capture Samson was unsuccessful by the Gazites, as he decides to walk away with the gates and the posts!
5. How can a man carry off large gates and posts and then walk up a mountain – such incredible strength!
6. For Samson to love a woman didn't count for very much, or did it?
7. Why did he go down into the valley to get a woman and not stay amongst his own people?
8. The Philistines are back on his case, through his most vulnerable attribute, women!!
9. Their plan was to make him suffer pain and to torture him.
10. Corruption is a bad thing, but corruption by the one who is supposed to protect you has to be the pits!
11. Delilah makes no attempt to resist the bribery and corruption, she is happy to accept the offer of the money.
12. Her questions to Samson are 'where did you get your strength?' and 'how can you lose your strength?'
13. Those questions alone should have been enough for Samson to hear alarm bells.
14. Instead he plays with her, do you think he knows that the Philistines have been up to messing with his heifer?
15. Gods enemies find a way to attempt the destruction of God and His will being done. Satan prowls around like a roaring lion.
16. Did Samson know he had been bound by Delilah? Though his enemy tried his enemy failed.
17. How did Delilah have the front to call Samson a liar? She tries again and again, the enemy is persistent!
18. Was Samson a deep sleeper?
19. She asked the question 'why have you deceived me three times?' when it was her being pro-activate in the deceiving.
20. Today we call this practice gas-lighting, suggesting your problem as if it were their problem.
21. Why did Samson give in? The woman's nagging just wore him down to internal anguish. He says 'his soul was annoyed to death!'
22. Eventually he tells her the truth as to the secret of his hair and all that was in his

heart.

23. Somethings are only for people you trust.

24. Was Samson's strength due to his long hair?

25. How did Delilah know Samson was telling her the truth this time?

26. How did Delilah get Samson to sleep on her knees so that his hair could be cut from his head?

27. Though she believed he had spoken from his heart, this time, before she called the Philistines, she afflicted him herself.

28. Samson's strength was gone so she called for the Philistines to come and take him, but the Lord had departed from Samson so his strength was gone. How did he not know that the Lord had departed?

29. The Philistines, having overpowered him, gouged out his eyes, he was unable to see anymore.

30. Samson only learnt to see when he became blind!

31. Why did they need to bind him with chains? Why did they not just kill him?

32. Despite all of this Samson has a new beginning and his hair began to grow.

33. The Philistines plan to exalt their god, Dagon, by humiliating Samson and his God as defeated before them.

34. They perceived that the capture of Samson was the defeat of Samson and his God, but how wrong they were!

35. When Jesus Christ hung on the cross satan must have danced a jig thinking Jesus was defeated but look how wrong he was! 'Do not gloat over me my enemy, though I have fallen I will arise!'

36. All seemed to be going as the Philistines had planned in the arena, but sadly for them it all went terribly wrong.

37. They called for Samson so as to mock him and his God, God provides a boy to lead Samson to the pillars of all evil and God provides the Son to destroy the pillars of all evil.

38. Three thousand people die in order to bring Israel freedom from her captives, this only happened because Samson was willing to sacrifice his life, he requests an anointing from God to die for Israel and his two eyes.

39. Samson has a heroes burial and the respect from his family.