

# Samson and Delilah

## *Husband Wife Interactions*

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# What We Will Learn

- Born for a mission and in covenant with God
  - “Begin to deliver Israel” from Philistines
  - Dedicated to God from conception
  - Symbolized in Nazarite status
- Loved woman that spied on him
- Violated his covenant for her love
- Died in humiliation
- But fulfilled part of his mission
- Judges 13:1–5 and Judges 16

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# What We Will Learn cont'd

- Example on intoxicating love
- Loved woman that did not love him
- Spied on him for his enemy
- Believed he could win her love
  - Give her enough to win her love
  - But not enough to lose his strength
- Violated his covenant for her love

# Born with Covenant for a Mission

- Dedicated to God from conception
- Symbolized by being a Nazarite
  - Hair on his head never to be cut or shaved
  - Mother to abstain from wine and unclean food
  - Before and during pregnancy
- To begin delivery of Israel from Philistines
- Judges 13:1–5 and 24

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## **Judges 13 (NKJV)**

1 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.

## **Judges 13 (NKJV)**

3 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean.

## **Judges 13 (NKJV)**

5 For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

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# Leader Against Philistines

- Samson's strength and leadership against Philistines gradually became apparent
  - Successful against Philistines
  - Defeated them single handed
  - Thirty in one small battle
  - More than thousand in two other battles
  - Regarding short-lived marriage to Timnah girl
- Judges 14 and 15 [Not read in session]

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# Leader Against Philistines cont'd

- Samson led Israel for twenty years
- Philistines were afraid of him
  - Extraordinary strength
  - History of success against them
- Sought opportunity to eliminate him
- Judges 15:20
- Judges 16:1–3

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## **Judges 15 (NKJV)**

20 Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

1 One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her.

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## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

2 The people of Gaza were told, “Samson is here!” So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, “At dawn we’ll kill him.”

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

3 But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

# Philistines Recruit Delilah Against Samson

- Samson loved Philistine woman, Delilah
- Delilah apparently resisted
- But Samson persevered
- Philistine rulers convinced Delilah
- To accept Samson
- To spy on him for their benefit
- Judges 16:4–5

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## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

5 The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, “See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver.”

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# “Cat and Mouse” with a Spy

- Delilah demanded Samson’s secret
  - Apparently her condition for love
  - Her interest was selfish and opposed to his
- Samson believed he could deceive Delilah
  - Win her love without losing his strength
- Deceived her three times
- Failed on the fourth
- Judges 16:6–17

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## Judges 16 (NKJV)

6 So Delilah said to Samson, “Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued.”

7 Samson answered her, “If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

8 Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them.

9 With men hidden in the room, she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

## Judges 16 (NKJV)

10 Then Delilah said to Samson, “You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied.”

11 He said, “If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

12 So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads.

## Judges 16 (NKJV)

13 Delilah then said to Samson, “All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied.”

He replied, “If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I’ll become as weak as any other man.” So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

14 and tightened it with the pin.

Again she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric.

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

15 Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.”

16 With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

17 So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”

# Samson Succumbs to Delilah

- He revealed the secret of his strength
- Thus violated covenant with God
- Delilah took advantage immediately
- Surrendered “husband” to Philistine rulers
- For cash as agreed at the beginning
- Never wanted Samson as husband
- Judges 16:18–21

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## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

18 When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands.

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

19 After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.

20 Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

# Samson Dies with Philistine Rulers

- While entertaining Philistine rulers
- He reconnected with God through prayer
- His extraordinary strength was restored
- Pulled temple down and killed everybody their including himself
- Did he accomplish his mission?
- Judges 16:25–30

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## Judges 16 (NKJV)

25 While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars,

26 Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.”

## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

27 Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform.

28 Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.”

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## **Judges 16 (NKJV)**

29 Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other,

30 Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

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# What We Learned

- Samson loved Delilah
- Delilah did not love Samson
- He knew she spied on him for Philistines
- But believed he could deceive or change her
- She lured him to break his covenant with God
- Lived last years of life in humiliation
- Repented, returned to God
- Accomplished part of his mission

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