

Lesson 10: Judges 15, 16 and 17 Samson and Delilah and Micha and his Mother

In Chapter 13 we read about Samson's call before he was even born. An angel proclaimed to his parents, that Samson was destined to deliver Israel "from the hand of the Philistines." **He was to live his life as a Nazarite, dedicating his life to the LORD. As a sign of his vows, no razor was to touch his head, he should not eat grapes, drink wine, or consume anything unclean and he was not to come in contact with a corpse.** In chapter 14, Samson had planned to marry a Philistine woman. But she was not honest or trustworthy and she plotted against Samson. In the end, the bride was "given to" Samson's best man instead.

1. Read Judges 15:1-8 and footnotes.

Where was Samson's "wife" living in these verses?

Why does Samson's Father-in-law not want him to see his "wife"?

What does his Father-in-law suggest Samson do instead? (See VS 2).

2. How does Samson get revenge on his Father-in-law? (Judges 15:1-8)

What is it that stirs up Samson's desire for revenge against the Philistines?

What does he do to the Philistines in vs 8. Check footnotes for this verse.

3. Reflection. Reflect on the character of Samson.

What are his strengths? What are his weaknesses?

4. Read Judges 15:9-20 and any footnotes. Share footnotes that are interesting in this section.

What weapon does Samson use to defeat the Philistines in this section?

How many men were killed?

Why does Samson cry to the LORD in vs. 15:18?

5. Read Judges 16:1-22.

Who is Delilah and what do we know about her from this text?

Does the text say she is either a wife or a lover?

How does Delilah betray Samson? What is her motivation to betray Samson?

Cutting Samson's hair broke the Nazarite vow. Was this the only time that Samson broke the vows? See also Judges 14:8-10 - ⁸ Later, when he came back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the remains of the lion, and there was a swarm of bees in the lion's carcass, and honey. ⁹ So he scooped the honey out into his hands and ate it as he went along. When he came to his father and mother, he gave them some to eat, but he did not tell them that he had scooped the honey from the lion's carcass.

6. Read Judges 16:21-27.

How did the Philistines treat Samson, once he lost his strength?

7. Read Judges 16:28-31 and footnotes. Was Samson a warrior?

How did he defeat the Philistines?

Where was he buried?

8. Reflection - Read Judges 16: 28-30. How does Samson's death point to Jesus' death and sacrifice? (i.e., how are they similar?)

9. Read Chapter 17:1-6. What do we know about Micha and his mother?

Why was it important for Micha's mother to bless her son in verse 2?

The mother is devoted to the LORD, but her practices are not quite kosher. How do we know that she has combined Jewish practices and some pagan ideas in her faith life?

10. Read Judges 17:7-13 and Numbers 18:6-7 below.

Why was it important to have a Levite for a priest?

Numbers 18:6-7 I myself have selected your fellow Levites from among the Israelites as a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD to do the work at the tent of meeting. ⁷ But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary is to be put to death."