

JUDGES 15:9-20

LESSON: SAMSON AGAINST THE PHILISTINES

June 28, 2020

INTRODUCTION/SYNOPSIS:

14:10-20 Samson is about to get married to a Philistine girl, but during the party which last for seven days, Samson proposed a riddle for the 30 Philistine men and they were to declare its meaning within seven days. If they didn't, Samson wins (30 sheets and 30 change of garments). If they did get it right, they would win (the same from Samson). So the riddle goes: *"Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness."* On the seventh day the men didn't know the answer and pressured; well, blackmailed his wife to find out the answer, or they would burn down her and her father's house. So, Samson's wife goes to him sobbing and saying you don't love me or else you would have told me the riddle. So, he tells her and she told the men. Then the men of the city tell the answer to Samson: *"What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?"* Samson goes right in on them and says: *"If you hadn't plowed with my heifer, you wouldn't have found the answer to my riddle!"* Samson was aware of the source. He was saying, *"If you hadn't manipulated my wife, you wouldn't have learned the answer to the riddle."* And at that point the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson (enabling him) and he went to the city of Ashkelon and killed thirty men, took their clothing in payment to give to the young men who had told him the answer to his riddle. He was furious about it and abandoned his wife and went back home to live with his father and mother. And Samson's wife was given in marriage (by her father) instead to the man who was the best man at Samson's wedding.

15:1-8 At the time of wheat harvest, Samson visited his wife bringing a young goat as an offering and desiring to go into her chamber to sleep with her. Samson had never consummated the marriage and so he probably thought he was legally married to her, he was not. So, her father prohibited him to her. The father thought he utterly hated her, so he gave her in marriage to the best man in Samson's wedding. And now in turn the father offers him her younger sister who is prettier than her. *'Marry her instead'* he says. Now, Samson was furious and tells him *"You can't blame me for whatever happens now."* Samson went out and caught 300 hundred foxes and tied their tails together in pairs with a torch between each pair. Then he lit the torches and let the foxes run through the fields of the Philistines, burning the grain to the ground along with all the sheaves and shocks of grain, and destroying the olive trees. The Philistines wanted to know who had done this and they told them Samson had did it, and all the other details. And the Philistines took the girl and her father and burned them alive. Well, this didn't sit well with Samson, and he avenged and wouldn't quit until he's done. He tore into them ripping out the hip and thigh killing many of them in a huge slaughter. Then he went to live in a cave in the rock of Etam.

LESSON: I. SAMSON'S PLEA FOR LIFE JUDGES 15:9-13

15:9 Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. The Philistines in turn sent a huge posse invading into Judah and raided Lehi after what Samson had done.

15:10 And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us. Now, the men of Judah are wondering why the Philistines are coming up against them, and they were told that they wanted to capture Samson and do to him what he's done to them.

15:11 Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them. So, they knew where Samson was (in a cave in the rock of Etam), and 3000 men of Judah went to the rock of Etam inquiring of what he had done because it was affecting them

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



(Judah). Why so many men of Judah go? Well, Judah wanted to be prepared. They asked if he knew that the Philistines ruled them. Samson's reply was that he only did to them what has been done to him.

15:12 And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves. The spokesperson of the 3000 men of Judah lets Samson know that they have only come to bind him up and deliver him into the hand of the Philistines. Samson wants them to promise *"that they will not fall upon him themselves"*, meaning Judah won't kill him themselves.

15:13 And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock. Judah promised that they themselves would not kill him, but they were only there to bind him up and deliver him into the hand of the Philistines. Samson allowed them to bind him with two new cords and they brought him down from the rock.

II. SAMSON'S POWER ON DISPLAY JUDGE 15:14-17

15:14 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. This just amazes me. The Philistine men thought they had won and began shouting against Samson when Judah brought him down to Lehi. His spider antennas came up, for *"the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him."* God is still using him to get rid of the Philistines, and the cords broke that bound him and fell off his arms and became like fiery burnt strands of flax. The bands just melted loose from off his hands.

15:15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. With a new donkey's jawbone lying on the ground, Samson killed 1000 men.

15:16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men. This seems like a chant or song. Samson says that with a single jawbone of an ass he killed 1000 men and he's piled them in heaps on top of heaps.

15:17 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi. When Samson finished speaking, he threw the jawbone out of his hand and called the place Ramathlehi which means *"Jawbone Hill."*

III. SAMSON'S PRAYER FOR WATER JUDGES 15:18-20

15:18 And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?— Samson had gotten so thirsty that his need for water led him to question as he called upon the Lord: *"Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"*

15:19 But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day. God opened up a mortar or socket of a tooth (a hollow place) that was in the jaw (jawbone), and water came out of it. When Samson drank the water that had gushed out, he became strong again and his spirit was revived, so he called the spring of water Enhakkore which means *"Caller's Spring or Praying Well"* which is in Lehi unto this day.



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



15:20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years. Samson was Israel's leader for 20yrs during the Philistine period.

SUMMARY:

The Philistines sent a huge posse to invade Judah and raided Lehi after Samson had burned and destroyed their grain using 300 foxes tying their tails together in pairs with a lit torch between each pair. The men of Judah are wondering why the Philistines are coming up against them. The Philistines tells them that they wanted to capture Samson and do to him what he's done to them. (3000 men of Judah went to the rock of Etam inquiring of him of what has he done because it was affecting them (Judah). They asked if he knew that the Philistines ruled them. His reply was that he only did to them what has been done to him. So Judah lets him know that they have only come to bind him up and deliver him into the hand of the Philistines. Samson wants them to promise that they (Judah) will not kill him themselves. And Judah promised that they themselves wouldn't kill him, but they were only there to bind him up and deliver him into the hand of the Philistines. Samson allowed them to bind him with two new cords, and they brought him down from the rock (**15:9-13**).

The Philistine men were shouting against Samson when they saw him in Lehi, and *"the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon Samson."* The cords broke that bound him, and fell off his arms and became like fiery burnt strands of flax. The bands melted loose from off his hands. There was a new donkey's jawbone lying on the ground with which Samson took and killed 1000 men. He piled them in heaps. When Samson finished speaking, he threw the jawbone out of his hand and called the place Ramathlehi which means *"Jawbone Hill"* (**15:14-17**).

Samson had gotten so thirsty that his need for water led him to question as he called upon the Lord: *"Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"* God opened up a mortar or socket of a tooth (n hollow place) that was in the jaw (jawbone), and water came out of it. When Samson drank the water that had gushed out, he became strong again and his spirit was revived, so he called the spring of water Enhakkore (which means *"Caller's Spring or Praying Well"* which is in Lehi unto this day. Samson was Israel's leader for 20yrs during the Philistine period (**15:18-20**).

