

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE
JUDGES 16:21-31
LESSON: SAMSON'S FINAL VICTORY—July 5, 2020



INTRODUCTION/ SYNOPSIS:

Chapter 16:4-5, 16-20 Time passed Samson fell in love with a woman in the valley of Sorek. Her name was Delilah. *5The lords of the Philistines (5 heads of the Philistines) came to bribe Delilah into discovering the secret of Samson's strength,* *16Delilah had pressed upon him so much day after day about this; urging him to tell her, till he was so vexed (annoyed and angry) and wearied to death. 17He couldn't stand it any longer and he begins to tell her: "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man."* *18When Delilah saw the sincerity of Samson, she realized this was the inner truth from his heart. She then sent for the lord of the Philistines saying; "Come quickly for he had told me his heart."* And they probably came running when they heard this, bringing her the money in their hands. *19Delilah made Samson go to sleep on her knees while she summoned a man to shave off the seven locks of hair from his head. She began to afflict him, meaning beat upon him until he awakened; taunting and mocking him with words to control him till he began to lose strength. 20With words again she said "The Philistines be upon thee Samson."* He awoke out of his sleep saying, *"I will go out as at other times and shake myself free."* But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

LESSON: I. SAMSON'S CAPTURE AND HUMILIATION JUDGES 16:21-22

16:21 **But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.** God had patiently dealt with Samson after he touched the dead lion and drank wine at the feast, but now as the outward sign of Samson's Nazirite vow disappeared, God's patience turned to judgment and Samson was utterly powerless without the help of the Lord. The Philistines for the first time were able to rush into Delilah's chamber and take Samson and bring him down to Gaza through the very gates he had recently carried upon his shoulders. Now he's blind because they have put out his eyes and bound him with fetters of brass in humiliation, and made him grind (grain) in the prison house.

16:22 **Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.** But, his hair that was shaved off his head began to grow again.

II. SAMSON'S DEFEAT AND SHAME JUDGES 16:23-27

16:23 **Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.** The *lords of the Philistines* got together again for a great sacrifice to their god Dagon. They wanted to rejoice and praise their god for giving them the victory and deliverance over Samson their enemy into their hand. A great mistake!

16:24 **And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.** The Philistines began to give praise to the god Dagon when they saw him (a statue). And they began to chant and shout: *"Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us."* Since the Philistines had control over the Israelites, they thought their god was stronger.

16:25 **And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us**



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sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. By this time the people were half drunk for their hearts were merry, and they began to call for Samson to be brought into their midst so they can have some fun (sport) with him. So, they called for Samson out of the prison house and made fun of him placing him between the pillars.

16:26 And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them. The lad that held blind Samson by the hand, led him into the presence of the Philistines, and Samson began to plead with him to have compassion to just let him feel the (two) pillars, and rest and lean against them; the same pillars that were supporting the house (the temple).

16:27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. The house was packed full of men and women, and all the *lords of the Philistines*, and also about 3,000 men and women upon the roof of the temple structure watching Samson and making fun of him.

III.SAMSON'S SUPPLICATION AND VICTORY JUDGES 16:28-31

16:28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. Now, Samson sincerely calls upon the Lord to remember and strengthen him.

1. Samson calls upon the **LORD** (*Adonai*)—sovereign Lord, Ruler and Master.
2. He calls upon **O Lord GOD** (*Yahweh*)—Imminence, a presence that's accessible.
3. And he calls upon **O God** (*Elohim*)—speaks things into existence (the Triune nature of God); God Creator, Mighty and Strong!

He prays: *"I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."* Samson is asking God for the only thing he could do in his state of blindness. He wanted to be strengthen one more time to be avenged; that the Philistines would pay back for the loss of his two eyes gauged out by the Philistines.

16:29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. After praying Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the temple stood; that which bare it up, and he took hold and pushed against one with his right hand, and the other with his left.

16:30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life. At this point Samson says let him die with the Philistines. In spite of what Samson had done to get in this predicament, God heard his prayer, and Samson bowed himself with all his might pushing the pillars of the temple causing the temple to fall upon the *lords of the Philistines*, and all the people that were. God allowed Samson to destroy the heathen temple and its worshipers. So, the dead which he slew at his death were more than those he slew in his life. This was Samson's final victory.

16:31 Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years. After Samson died in the collapse of the temple of Dagon at Gaza with the Philistines, his brethren and all the house of his father came to get his body and bury him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying-place of Manoah his father; a hill country overlooking the valley of Sorek, for he was an only child. His father was probably deceased by this time. Samson judged Israel for 20yrs.



SUMMARY:

The Philistines captured Samson and gauged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza bound with fetters of brass in humiliation, and made him grind (grain) in the prison house. But, his hair that was shaved off began to grow again (**16:21-22**).

The *lords of the Philistines* got together and wanted to rejoice and praise their god Dagon for giving them the victory and deliverance of Samson, their enemy into their hand. A great mistake! The people gave praise to the god Dagon when they saw him (a statue) and began to chant and shout. By this time the people were half drunk, for their hearts were merry, that they began to call for Samson, so they could have some fun with him, placing him between the pillars. The lad that held blind Samson by the hand, led him into the presence of the Philistines, and Samson began to plead with him to have compassion to just let him feel the (two) pillars, and rest and lean against them; the same pillars that were supporting the house (the temple). The house was packed full of men and women, with all the lords of the Philistines, and about 3,000 men and women upon the roof of the temple structure watching Samson and making fun of him (**16:23-27**).

Samson sincerely called upon the Lord to remember and strengthen him. He wanted to be strengthened one more time to be avenged; paid back for the loss of his two eyes gauged out by the Philistines. After praying Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the temple stood; that which bare it up, and he took hold and pushed against one with his right hand, and the other with his left. At this point Samson says to let him die with the Philistines. And Samson bowed himself with all his might and the temple fell upon the lords of the Philistines, and all the people that were therein. Samson in his death destroyed more than he slew in his life. This was Samson's final victory. After he died with the Philistines in the collapse of the temple of Dagon at Gaza, his fellow countrymen came to get his body and bury him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying-place of Manoah his father. Samson had judged Israel for 20yrs (**16:28-31**).