

# **Judges 16**

## **Judges 16.1-3**

**V1** – Gaza = southernmost of the 5 Philistine cities

-Samson went there and spent the night with a prostitute

**V2** – **Attitude of the men of Gaza?** "Here is Public Enemy #1 – let us kill him when he comes out from the prostitute (at sunrise)"

**V3** – **What did Samson do?** Came out at midnight and took the city gates and posts to a nearby mountain

## **Judges 16.4-9**

**V4** – **Whom did Samson fall in love with?** A Philistine woman named Delilah

-this is a very uncommon name today because of the story associated with this woman

**V5** – **What did the Philistines do?** Offered her 1100 pieces of silver to find out the secret of Samson's strength

**V6** – She started nagging him to tell her the source of his strength

**V7** – **His answer?** Bind me with 7 fresh cords (maybe bow strings)

**V8** – The Philistines brought her 7 fresh cords

**V9** – **Result?** He broke loose from the cords

## **Judges 16.10-12**

**V10** – The nagging started again

**V11** – **Samson's answer?** New ropes which have never been used

**V12** – **Did this work?** No

## **Judges 16.13-14**

**V13** – **Samson's next answer?** Weave 7 locks of my hair together

-Notice: *V 13b-14* are found only in the Septuagint translation

**V14** – **Result?** He still had his strength

## **Judges 16.15-17**

**V 15** – Same line that his first wife used: "If you love, you will do what I tell you...."

**V 16** – **How did she finally succeed?** By nagging him every day

**V 17** – **What was his secret?** The length of his hair (remember: he had been a Nazarite from conception)

## **Judges 16.18-22**

**V 18** – **How was Delilah rewarded?** The Philistines gave her money

**V 19** – **How did she "set-up" Samson?** He went to sleep with his head in her lap  
-Then she had his head shaved

**V 20** – One of the saddest verses in the book of *Judges*  
-**What did Samson not know?** That the Lord had left him  
-**Why had God left Samson?** He had broken the covenant of the Nazarite Vow and had comprised with the enemy

**V 21** – **What did the Philistines do?** Gouged out his eyes and made him a "grinder" (turning a grindstone)

**V 22** – **What did the Philistines fail to notice over time?** That his hair was growing back

## **Judges 16.23-27**

**V 23** – Dagon = maybe half-human and half-fish god, but no-one knows for sure today  
-Believed to be the father of Baal - the national God of the Philistines  
-**What were the Philistines doing?** Worshipping Dagon

**V 24** – **Reaction of the people when they saw Samson?** Praised Dagon

**V 25** – They made fun of Samson and made him entertain them

**V 26** – **What did Samson ask of the little boy who was leading him around?** To show him the pillars holding up the temple roof  
-What a pitiful sight: A judge of Israel had been blinded by the enemies of the Israelites and was being led around by a little boy in a Philistine city

**V 27** – **How many people were there?** 3000 on the roof, plus many more inside the temple

## **Judges 16.28-31**

**V 28** – **The prayer of Samson?** For vengeance against the Philistines

**V 29** – **What did Samson do?** Braced himself against the two pillars supporting the building

**V 30** – **Result?** More Philistines were killed that day than he had killed in the rest of his entire life

**V 31** – His relatives came and got his body and buried him

Conclusions about the life of Samson:

1. He had much potential, but compromised with the enemy.
2. He repented, and God gave him his strength back.
3. A violent life usually does not end well.

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