

Samson**Judges 16**

Characters: Narrator, Delilah, Samson, Philistines

Narrator: After Gideon's leadership, Samson led the Israelites against the Philistines, and became the new judge appointed by God. He had led the Israelites for 20 years. Word of his awesome strength spread throughout the land—for it was God's power working through Samson. In his twentieth year of his rule, Samson went to visit a prostitute in Gaza, at which point, the Philistines tried to kill him.

Philistines: Come, let us kill Samson! We will kill him in the middle of the night, for he is with a prostitute right now.

Narrator: Although Samson was sinning, God did not want Samson to be killed. He woke Samson up in the middle of the night for his escape.

Samson: I must get out of the city at once!

Narrator: Samson came to the city gates, which were locked—he was trapped inside the city. But Samson took the city gates, and with his mighty strength, ripped them off the hinges, and escaped from the Philistines. This made the Philistines very upset.

Philistines: We must kill Samson! He escaped our last attempt, and ruined our city's defenses in the process. Let us go to his lover, Delilah, and bribe her with silver, so that she may tell us how to capture Samson.

Narrator: The Philistines went to see Delilah, who Samson was in love with. They tried bribing her with silver.

Philistines: We will pay you each 1100 pieces of silver if you find out how we can capture Samson. He must have some weakness.

Delilah: I will find out Samson's weakness, and tell you it tonight.

Narrator: That night, Delilah and Samson were alone together. Delilah then asked what Samson's weakness was.

Delilah: Samson, every man has a weakness. What is yours?

Samson: If I am tied up with 7 wet bowstrings, I will become extremely weak. Then I can be captured.

Narrator: In the middle of the night, while Samson slept, Delilah tied up Samson with 7 wet bowstrings, and called the Philistines into her apartment.

Delilah: Samson! Wake up! You have been tied up! The Philistines are upon you!

Narrator: But Samson woke up, and ripped through the bowstrings. He had killed a group of the Philistines that were trying to kill him. Delilah was humiliated. The next night, she asked the same question.

Delilah: Tell me Samson, what is your true weakness? You lied to me once.

Samson: If I am tied up with rope that has never been used, my strength will leave me.

Narrator: Again, in the middle of the night, Delilah tied Samson up with new rope, and invited the Philistines into her house.

Delilah: Samson! The Philistines are upon you! You have been tied up!

Narrator: But again, Samson ripped through the rope, and killed another group of the Philistine attackers. Delilah was again humiliated. The Philistines were getting very upset. The next night, Delilah asked Samson again.

Delilah: Samson, you lied to me again! Don't you love me? Please tell me your weakness!

Samson: If someone braids my hair into 7 braids and ties it to a loom, I will become weak.

Narrator: That night, Delilah braided Samson's hair to her loom. She again invited the Philistines into her house, and woke up Samson.

Delilah: Samson! The Philistines are upon you! They have tied your hair to a loom!

Narrator: But Samson got up, untied his hair, and again killed the Philistine attackers. Delilah was getting very frustrated that Samson kept on lying to her. Finally, the next night, she asked Samson again what his weakness was.

Delilah: Samson! Tell me, what is your weakness? You keep on lying to me.

Samson: Ugh! I am so sick of you asking me that question. My hair on my head gives me my strength. If it is ever cut off, then my strength will leave me.

Narrator: In the middle of the night, Delilah cut all of Samson's hair off. She then invited the Philistines back into her house, and woke up Samson. Because the strength of the Lord had left Samson, the Philistines captured him, threw him in prison, and blinded him.

One day, the Philistines were having a party, and wanted to see Samson make a fool of himself since he could not see.

Philistines: Let's bring up Samson from prison! He will crawl around, since he can no longer see. It will be really funny.

Narrator: So, the Philistines brought up Samson from prison, and placed him near two columns that held up the building. Samson felt the columns, and knew he was standing near the supports of the building. Samson prayed to God:

Samson: God, please give me my strength one last time, so I can free the Israelites from the Philistine rule.

Narrator: God gave Samson his strength once again. Samson took the pillars, and pushed them apart, shattering them. The building began to collapse, killing all of the Philistines, as well as Samson himself.