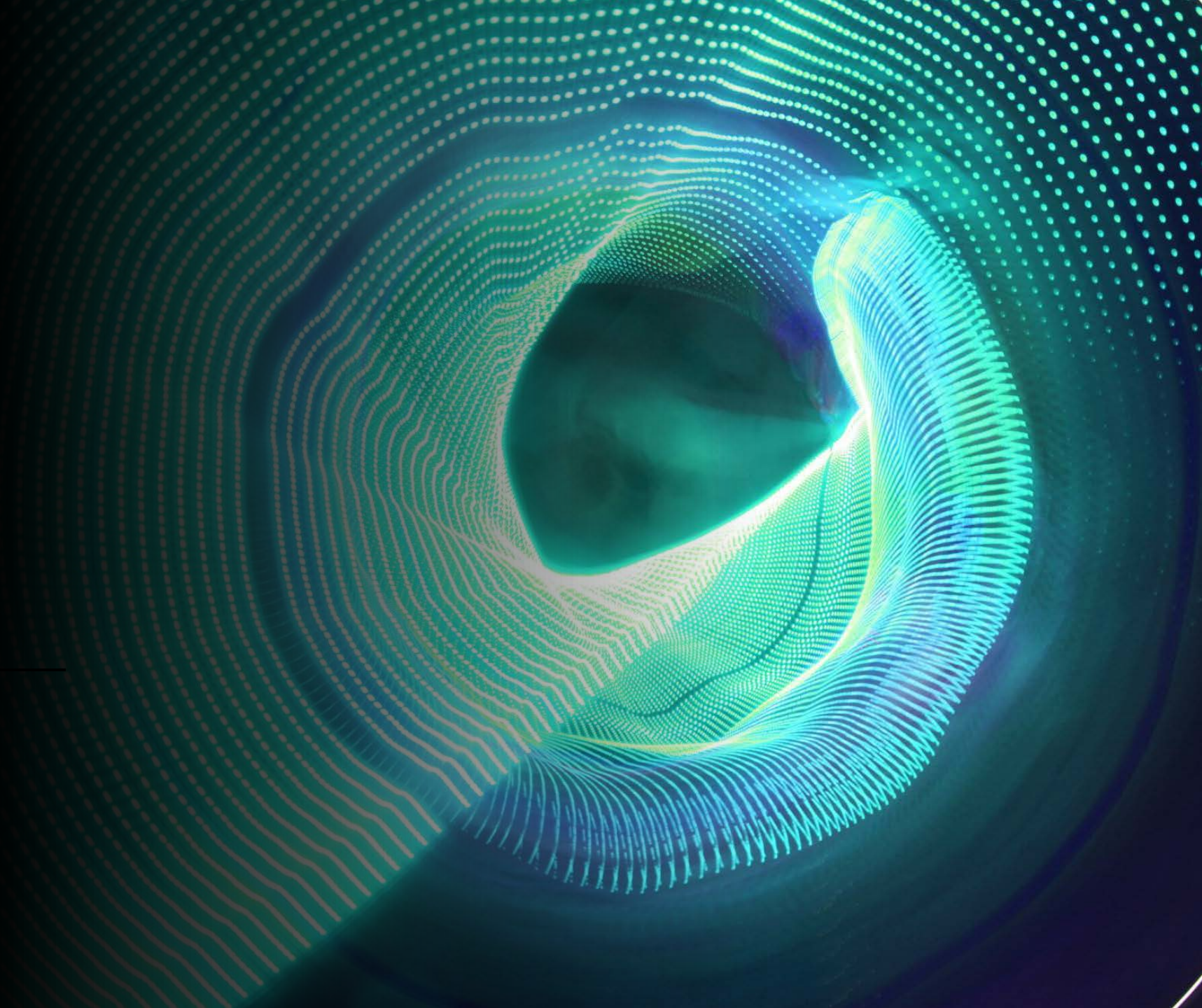




# Sleeping with the Enemy

Judges 13—16

August 13, 2023



Mrs.  
Manoah's  
Surprise  
Judges 13:1-5

## The Birth of Samson

<sup>1</sup> Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

<sup>2</sup> Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name *was* Manoah; and his wife *was* barren and had no children.

<sup>3</sup> And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

<sup>4</sup> Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or *similar* drink, and not to eat anything unclean.

<sup>5</sup> For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

# *The vow of the Nazirite*

## Numbers 6:1-5

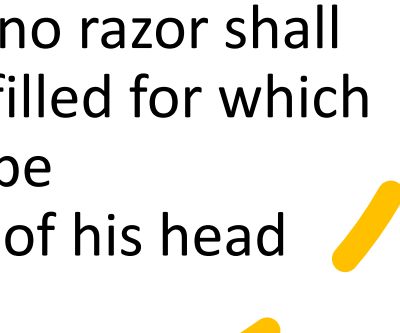
<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

<sup>2</sup> “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When either a man or woman consecrates an offering to take the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the LORD,

<sup>3</sup> he shall separate himself from wine and *similar* drink; he shall drink neither vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from *similar* drink; neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins.

<sup>4</sup> All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin.

<sup>5</sup> ‘All the days of the vow of his separation no razor shall come upon his head; until the days are fulfilled for which he separated himself to the LORD, he shall be holy. *Then* he shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.






## Mrs. Manoah's Surprise Judges 13:6-8

### The Birth of Samson

<sup>6</sup> So the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A Man of God came to me, and His countenance *was* like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He *was* from, and He did not tell me His name.

<sup>7</sup> And He said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’ ”

<sup>8</sup> Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, “O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.”



***Identity of the Visitor***  
***Judges 13:9-12***

**9** And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband *was* not with her.

**10** Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, “Look, the Man who came to me the *other* day has just now appeared to me!”

**11** So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, “Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?”

And He said, “*I am.*”

**12** Manoah said, “Now let Your words come *to pass!* What will be the boy’s rule of life, and his work?”

## Identity of the Visitor

### Judges 13:13-17

**13** So the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful.

**14** She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe.”

**15** Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, “Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You.”

**16** And the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the Lord.” (For Manoah did not know He *was* the Angel of the Lord.)

**17** Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, “What *is* Your name, that when Your words come *to pass* we may honor You?”

# Identity of the Visitor

## Judges 13:18-21



**18** And the Angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask My name, seeing it *is* wonderful?”

**19** So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on—

**20** it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground.

**21** When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He *was* the Angel of the LORD.

## Identity of the Visitor Judges 13:22-25



- 22 And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, because we have seen God!”
- 23 But his wife said to him, “If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these *things*, nor would He have told us *such things* as these at this time.”
- 24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.
- 25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.





My name is *Pele*

Hebrew → פֵּלֵא

Or

"Wonderful"



The Spirit of the LORD "strikes"  
Or  
Impels Samson

*Pa'am* → Hebrew → **פָּאָם**



***Request to his father to please him with  
an enemy  
Judges 14: 1-4***

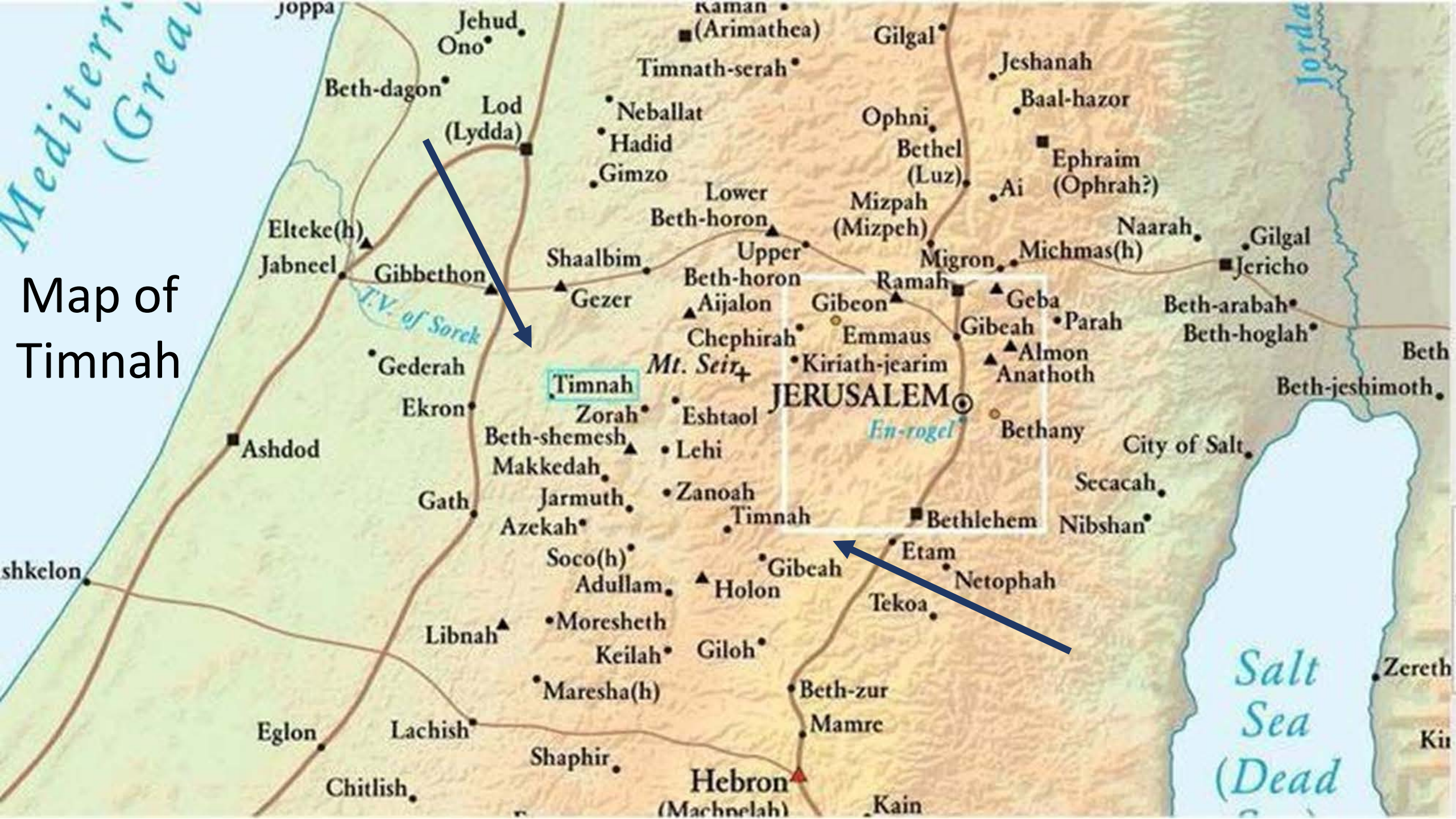
<sup>1</sup> Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines.

<sup>2</sup> So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, “I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.”

<sup>3</sup> Then his father and mother said to him, “*Is there* no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?”

And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she pleases me well.”

<sup>4</sup> But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.



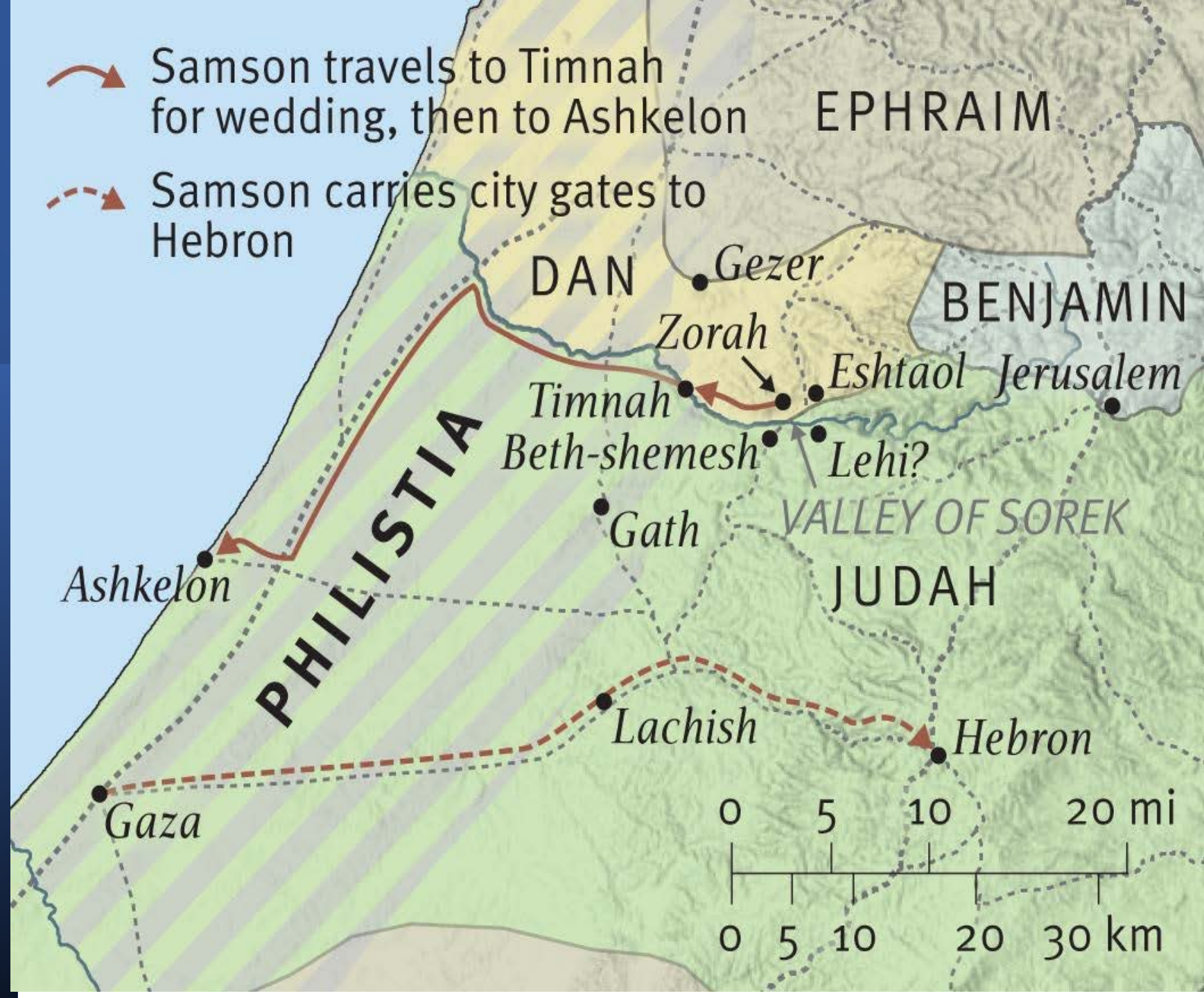
Map of  
Timnah

Timnah

JERUSALEM

Salt  
Sea  
(Dead)

# Map of Timnah



# Map of Timna





## Samson Defeats a Lion *Judges 14: 1-4*

<sup>5</sup> So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah.

Now *to his* surprise, a young lion *came* roaring against him.

<sup>6</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though *he had* nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.



- Samson's Riddle
  - Judges 14:12-14
- Philistines "plow with his heffer"
- Samson kills thirty at Ashkelon
- 2 Chronicles 16:9
  - For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."



## Samson Indomitable Judges 15:4, 15

<sup>4</sup> Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned *the foxes* tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails.

<sup>15</sup> He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.





## Samson Overcame Gazites Judges 16:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.

<sup>2</sup> *When* the Gazites were told, “Samson has come here!” they surrounded *the place* and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, “In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him.”

<sup>3</sup> And Samson lay *low* till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put *them* on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

***Oh, Delilah!***  
***Judges 16:4-7***



<sup>4</sup> Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name *was* Delilah.

<sup>5</sup> And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, “Entice him, and find out where his great strength *lies*, and by what *means* we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred *pieces* of silver.”

<sup>6</sup> So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength *lies*, and with what you may be bound to afflict you.”

<sup>7</sup> And Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.”

# Oh, Delilah!

## Judges 16:8-12

<sup>8</sup> So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them.

<sup>9</sup> Now *men were* lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

<sup>10</sup> Then Delilah said to Samson, “Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with.”

<sup>11</sup> So he said to her, “If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.”

<sup>12</sup> Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” And *men were* lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread.



## ***Oh, Delilah!*** ***Judges 16:13-15***

<sup>13</sup> Delilah said to Samson, “Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with.”

And he said to her, “If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom” —

<sup>14</sup> So she wove *it* tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom.

<sup>15</sup> Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart *is* not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength *lies*.”

# Samson's Humiliation

## Judges 16:16-18

<sup>16</sup> And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death,

<sup>17</sup> that he told her all his heart, and said to her, “No razor has ever come upon my head, for I *have been* a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.”

<sup>18</sup> When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.” So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.

# Samson's Humiliation

## Judges 16:19-22

<sup>19</sup> Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

<sup>20</sup> And she said, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

<sup>21</sup> Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

<sup>22</sup> However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.

# Samson's Concluding Victory

## Judges 16:23-31

### Samson Dies with the Philistines

**23** Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said:

“Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!”

**24** When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said:

“Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy,  
The destroyer of our land,  
And the one who multiplied our dead.”

**25** So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said, “Call for Samson, that he may perform for us.” So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them. And they stationed him between the pillars.

**26** Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, “Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them.”





## ***Samson's Concluding Victory*** ***Judges 16:23-31***

<sup>27</sup> Now the temple was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines *were* there—about three thousand men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed.

<sup>28</sup> Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, “O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one *blow* take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!”

<sup>29</sup> And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left.

<sup>30</sup> Then Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” And he pushed with *all his* might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who *were* in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.

<sup>31</sup> And his brothers and all his father’s household came down and took him, and brought *him* up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. He had judged Israel twenty years.



## ***Samson's Life***

- A chosen life of promise
- A carnal life of pleasure
- A cratered life of pain