

Judges 13-16

Characters: Narrator, Voice of God, Angel, Manoah, Wife, All

Based on/scripture: Judges 13

FK reading level: 3.2

NARRATOR: The Israelites again did what was evil in the Lord's sight

ALL: so the Lord handed them over to the Philistines 40 years.

NARRATOR: Manoah from Dan had a wife unable to conceive

ALL: They had no children.

NARRATOR: The Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman

ANGEL: It is true that you are unable to conceive and have no children, but you will conceive

ALL: and give birth to a son.

ANGEL: Now please be careful not to drink wine or beer, or to eat anything unclean;

ALL: for indeed, you will conceive and give birth to a son.

ANGEL: You must never cut his hair, because the boy will be a Nazirite to God from birth

ALL: and he will begin to save Israel from the power of the Philistines.

WIFE: (*amazed*) Manoah, a man of God came to me. He looked like the awe-inspiring Angel of God. I didn't ask Him where He came from, and He didn't tell me His name.

MANOAH: What did he say?

WIFE: You will conceive and give birth to a son. Therefore, do not drink wine or beer, and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite to God from birth until the day of his death.

MANOAH: (*praying*) Please Lord, let the man of God you sent come again to us and teach us what we should do for the boy who will be born.

NARRATOR: God listened to Manoah

ALL: and the Angel of God came again to the woman.

NARRATOR: She was sitting in the field, and her husband Manoah was not with her.

ALL: The woman ran quickly to her husband

WIFE: The man who came to me today has just come back!

NARRATOR: Manoah followed his wife.

MANOAH: Are You the man who spoke to my wife?

ANGEL: I am.

MANOAH: When Your words come true, what will the boy's responsibilities and mission be?

ANGEL: Your wife needs to do everything I told her. She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine or drink wine or beer. And she must not eat anything unclean. Your wife must do everything I have commanded her.

MANOAH: We will prepare a young goat for You.

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ANGEL: If I stay, I won't eat your food. But if you want to prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the Lord.

MANOAH: What is Your name, so that we may honor You when Your words come true?

ANGEL: (*somewhat amused*) Why do you ask My name since it is wonderful?

MANOAH: I took a young goat and a grain offering and offered them on a rock to the Lord

WIFE: (*awed*) He did a wonderful thing while we watched.

MANOAH: When the flame went up from the altar to the sky

WIFE: the Angel of the Lord went up in its flame.

MANOAH: When we saw this, we fell face down on the ground.

WIFE: The Angel of the Lord did not appear again.

MANOAH: Then I realized that it was the Angel of the Lord.

WIFE: I gave birth to a son and named him Samson.

MANOAH: The boy grew, and the Lord blessed him.

WIFE: Then the Spirit of the Lord began to direct Samson.

Samson's Riddle

Characters: Narrator, Samson, Father, Mother, Wife, All

Based on/scripture: Judges 14 & 15

FK reading level: 4.1

SAMSON: I have seen a young Philistine woman in Timnah. Now get her for me as a wife.

FATHER: Can't you find a young woman among your relatives or among any of our people?

MOTHER: Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines for a wife?

SAMSON: "Get her for me, because I want her.

NARRATOR: Now his father and mother did not know this was from the Lord

ALL: who was seeking an occasion against the Philistines who were ruling over Israel.

NARRATOR: As Samson went down to Timnah

ALL: a young lion came roaring at him,

SAMSON: The Spirit of the Lord took control of me

ALL: and he tore the lion apart with his bare hands.

SAMSON: I did not tell my father or mother what I had done.

NARRATOR: When he returned home he saw a swarm of bees with honey in the lion's carcass.

SAMSON: I ate some of the honey

MOTHER: and he gave us some as well.

SAMSON: I prepared a feast at Timnah, according to the custom.

FATHER: When the Philistines saw him, they brought 30 men to accompany him.

SAMSON: Let me tell you a riddle. If you can explain it to me during the seven days of the feast and figure it out, I will give you 30 linen garments

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ALL: and 30 changes of clothes.

SAMSON: But if you can't explain it to me, you must give me 30 linen garments

ALL: and 30 changes of clothes

PHILISTINE: Tell us your riddle.

ALL: Let's hear it.

SAMSON: Out of the eater came something to eat,
and out of the strong came something sweet.

FATHER: After three days, they were unable to explain the riddle.

PHILISTINE: Persuade your husband to explain the riddle to us, or we will burn you and your father's household to death. Did you invite us here to rob us?

WIFE: *(weeping)* You hate me and don't love me! You told my people the riddle, but haven't explained it to me.

SAMSON: I haven't even explained it to my father or mother, so why should I explain it to you?

WIFE: I wept the whole seven days of the feast, and at last, on the seventh day, Samson explained it to me.

SAMSON: because she had nagged me so much.

WIFE: The answer is honey in a lion's carcass.

PHILISTINE: What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?

SAMSON: If you hadn't plowed with my young cow, you wouldn't know my riddle now!

MOTHER: The Spirit of the Lord took control of Samson

FATHER: He went down to Ashkelon and killed 30 of their men.

PHILISTINE: He gave us their clothes

SAMSON: In a rage, I returned to his father's house

WIFE: I was given to one of the men who had accompanied him.

SAMSON: During the wheat harvest, I visited my wife but her father would not let me.

PHILISTINE FATHER: I was sure you hated her, so I gave her to one of the men who accompanied you. Isn't her younger sister more beautiful than she is? Why not take her instead?

SAMSON: This time I won't be responsible when I harm the Philistines.

PHILISTINE FATHER: Samson set fire to our piles of grain and the standing grain as well as the vineyards and olive groves.

PHILISTINE: *(angry)* Who did this? Why?

PHILISTINE FATHER: *(afraid)* Samson, my son-in-law, because I gave his wife to another man.

PHILISTINE: Then you and she will die

SAMSON: "Because you did this, I swear that I won't rest until I have taken vengeance on you.

FATHER: He tore them limb from limb with a great slaughter

MOTHER: and he went down and stayed in the cave at the rock of Etam.

PHILISTINE: Let us raid Lehi.

MAN FROM JUDAH: Why have you attacked us?

PHILISTINE: We have come to arrest Samson and pay him back for what he did to us.

MAN FROM JUDAH: Samson, don't you realize that the Philistines rule over us? What have you done to us?

SAMSON: I have done to them what they did to me.

MAN FROM JUDAH: We've come to arrest you and hand you over to the Philistines.

SAMSON: Swear to me that you yourselves won't kill me.

MAN FROM JUDAH: We won't kill you, but we will tie you up securely and hand you over to them.

MOTHER: So they tied him up with two new ropes and led him away from the rock.

PHILISTINE: There he is! Get him!

MOTHER: The Spirit of the Lord took control of him

FATHER: and the ropes that were on his arms became like burnt flax.

MOTHER: and his bonds fell off his wrists.

SAMSON: I found a fresh jawbone of a donkey

FATHER and killed 1,000 men with it.

SAMSON: With the jawbone of a donkey, I have piled them in a heap.

With the jawbone of a donkey, I have killed 1,000 men.

MOTHER: Samson became very thirsty and called out to the Lord

SAMSON: Lord, You have accomplished this great victory through Your servant. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?

FATHER: God split a hollow place in the ground at Lehi, and water came out of it.

SAMSON: After I drank, my strength returned, and I revived.

ALL: Samson judged Israel 20 years in the days of the Philistines.

Samson and Delilah

Characters: Philistine leader, Delilah, Samson, All

Based on/scripture: Judges 16

FK reading level: 3.2

DELILAH: Some time later, Samson fell in love with me, Delilah.

PHILISTINE: Persuade Samson to tell you where his great strength comes from, so we can overpower him, tie him up, and make him helpless. Each of us will then give you 1,100 pieces of silver.

DELILAH: Please tell me, where does your great strength come from? How could someone tie you up and make you helpless?

SAMSON: If they tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I will become weak and be like any other man.

PHILISTINE: We brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried

DELILAH: I tied him up with them.

PHILISTINE: We had men in place in her room, ready to ambush Samson.

DELILAH: Samson, the Philistines are here!

SAMSON: I snapped the bowstrings as a strand of yarn snaps when it touches fire.

ALL: The secret of his strength remained unknown.

DELILAH: You have mocked me and told me lies! Won't you please tell me how you can be tied up?

SAMSON: If they tie me up with new ropes that have never been used, I will become weak and be like any other man.

DELILAH: I took new ropes, tied him up with them, and shouted, "Samson, the Philistines are here!"

SAMSON: I snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread.

DELILAH: You have mocked me all along and told me lies! Tell me how you can be tied up.

SAMSON: You must weave the seven braids on my head with the web of a loom

DELILAH: I did so then called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are here!"

SAMSON: I awoke and pulled out the pin, with the loom and the web.

DELILAH: How can you say, 'I love you when your heart is not with me? This is the third time you have mocked me and not told me what makes your strength so great!

SAMSON: Delilah nagged me day after day and pleaded with me until she wore me out

DELILAH: Finally, Samson told me the whole truth.

SAMSON: My hair has never been cut, because I am a Nazirite to God from birth. If I am shaved, my strength will leave me, and I will become weak and be like any other man.

DELILAH: I realized that he had told me the whole truth.

PHILISTINE: Delilah sent us this message

DELILAH: Come one more time, for he has told me the whole truth.

PHILISTINE: We came brought the money, 5,500 pieces of silver, with us.

DELILAH: I lulled him to sleep so a man could shave off the seven braids on his head.

SAMSON: She rendered me him helpless

ALL: and his strength left him.

DELILAH: Samson, the Philistines are here!

SAMSON: I thought I would escape as I did before and shake myself free.

ALL: But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

Samson's Defeat and Death

Characters: Philistine leader, Samson, Delilah, All

Based on/scripture: Judges 16

FK reading level: 5.1

SAMSON: The Philistines seized me and gouged out my eyes.

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PHILISTINE: We brought him down to Gaza, bound with bronze shackles

SAMSON: I was forced to grind grain in the prison.

ALL: But his hair began to grow back after it had been shaved.

DELILAH: Now the Philistine leaders gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon.

ALL (except for SAMSON): Our god has handed over our enemy Samson to us.

Our god has handed over to us our enemy who destroyed our land and who multiplied our dead.

PHILISTINE: Bring Samson from prison to entertain us.

SAMSON: Young man, lead me where I can feel the pillars supporting the temple, so I can lean against them.

PHILISTINE: The temple was full of men and women

DELILAH: all the leaders of the Philistines were there

PHILISTINE: About 3,000 men and women were on the roof watching Samson entertain them.

SAMSON: Lord God, please remember me. Strengthen me, God, just once more. With one act of vengeance, let me pay back the Philistines for my two eyes.

DELILAH: Samson took hold of the two middle pillars supporting the temple and leaned against them, one on his right hand and the other on his left.

SAMSON: Let me die with the Philistines.

PHILISTINE: He pushed with all his might

DELILAH: and the temple fell on the leaders and all the people in it.

PHILISTINE: And the dead he killed at his death were more than those he had killed in his life.

SAMSON: My brothers and my father's family buried me.

ALL: Samson had judged Israel 20 years.

Online review games

Samson Jumbled Phrases <http://www.quia.com/jw/286855.html>

Samson Matching <http://www.quia.com/jg/1518813.html>

Judges 1-21 rags to riches <http://www.quia.com/rr/857725.html>