



## Lesson 86

# Samson's Revenge

### Story Elements

- **Text:** Judges 15:1-20
- **Setting:** approx. 1070 B.C. in Philistia
- **Main Characters:** God, Samson, Samson's wife and father-in-law
- **Plot:** Samson's anger over his failed marriage leads to violent retaliation.

- **Key word(s):** "smote them hip and \_\_\_\_\_" (v 8)
- **Climax:** **Judges 15:14** *And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.*

## Wrath Aflame

1. (v 1) After Samson's wedding feast turned sour (see ch. 14), he returned to his parents' house for a while.
  - a. Later, when his temper had cooled, Samson decided to patch things up with his wife, so he brought a \_\_\_\_\_ as a "peace offering" and went to consummate his marriage.
  - b. (v 2) But Samson's father-in-law intercepted Samson and announced, *I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy \_\_\_\_\_.*
  - c. (v 3) Despite the offer to marry the younger sister, Samson was enraged at the loss of his wife, and he vowed revenge on the Philistines for yet another treacherous act.

## Fields Afire

2. (vv 4-5) Samson's revenge was as creative as it was effective:
  - a. He caught \_\_\_\_\_ foxes and tied their tails together with a torch in between. One hundred fifty flaming and frightened fox couples were set loose.
  - b. Running desperately throughout the countryside, the foxes set fire to the Philistine's wheat fields, vineyards, and \_\_\_\_\_ groves.
3. (v 6) When the affected Philistines learned that Samson destroyed their crops on account of marital injustice, they captured Samson's wife and father-in-law and burned them to death.

APPLICATION → The tragic death of Samson's wife is a sad illustration of the dangers of sin. Matthew Henry explains, "She, to save herself and oblige her countrymen, betrayed her husband; and what came of it? The very thing that she feared, and sought by sin to avoid, came upon her; she and her father's house were burnt with fire, and her countrymen, whom she sought to oblige by the wrong she did to her husband, brought this evil upon her. **The mischief we seek to escape by any unlawful practices we often pull upon our own heads.** *He that will thus save his life shall \_\_\_\_\_ it.*"<sup>1</sup>

4. (vv 7-8) Samson's wrath was not appeased by the murder of his unfaithful wife, but instead he became more violent. Samson single-handedly smote the Philistines *with a great slaughter*. Afterward, he sought seclusion in a cave in \_\_\_\_\_.

## Battle Averted

5. (vv 9-10) The Philistines continued their escalation of the violence by invading Judah and encamping in Lehi. When the men of Judah parleyed with the Philistines, they were told, *To bind Samson are we come up, to*

<sup>1</sup> Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 360.

