

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

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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 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 hads 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 h vowed revenge on the Philistines for yet another treacherous act.
Fi	lds 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 fift flaming and frightened fox couples were set loose. b. Running desperately throughout the countryside, the foxes set fire to the Philistine's wheat field vineyards, and groves.
3.	v 6) When the affected Philistines learned that Samson destroyed their crops on account of marital injustice hey captured Samson's wife and father-in-law and burned them to death.
ex thi fire up	LICATION→ The tragic death of Samson's wife is a sad illustration of the dangers of sin. Matthew Henrains, "She, to save herself and oblige her countrymen, betrayed her husband; and what came of it? The verge that she feared, and sought by sin to avoid, came upon her; she and her father's house were burnt with and her countrymen, whom she sought to oblige by the wrong she did to her husband, brought this even her. The mischief we seek to escape by any unlawful practices we often pull upon our own heads. He will thus save his life shall it."
4.	vv 7-8) Samson's wrath was not appeased by the murder of his unfaithful wife, but instead he became mor violent. Samson single-handedly smote the Philistines with a great slaughter. Afterward, he sought seclusion a cave in
	1 4 1

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*

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

do to him as he hath done to us.	
him over to the Philistines. Samson agreed	took men to capture Samson and hand to be bound and delivered so long as his fellow countrymen
would not kill him themselves.	
	a mighty warrior for their champion, but they would rather ith Samson. Our flesh gives us the same attitude against sin, ruptions with the help of our Champion.
Colossians 3:5 therefore your inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and coveto	members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, ousness, which is idolatry:
 b. (v 14) Once in Philistine custody, the Spirit of the broke the ropes that held him. 	of the LORD came mightily upon Samson a second time, and
c. (v 15) With a donkey's	as his only weapon, Samson commenced combat with the
Thirst Assuaged	
6. (vv 17-18) Casting his skeletal weapon aside, Sa a. (v 19) God answered Samson's prayer by ca	mson complained to God of his overwhelming thirst. using water to stream forth from a hollow in the jawbone. ² ore, which means "the well of him that"
·	answered with water from a jawbone, so we can call and ho, like Samson's jawbone, is both a healing
for our spirits and a mighty ag	gainst our enemy.
	
Answer Kev: Key word(s): thigh • 1. a. kid: c. companion • 2.	a. 300; b. olive • 3. → lose • 4. Etam • 5. a. 3,000; → mortify; c.

² Many modern translations use the proper noun *Lehi* instead of the common noun *jaw* (which are the same word in Hebrew). I prefer the KJV translation here because it coincides with the detail of Samson casting the jawbone aside in verse 17.

jawbone • 6. b. called; → spring, weapon