

February 12
Judges 16

Gideon and Angel, c. 1651
by Constantijn van Renesse

Compromised Potential

Samson and Delilah, c. 1609
by Peter Paul Rubens

Deborah and Barak, c. 1690, Luca Giordano



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



Conquest and Challenges of Israel's Settlement

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Dec 4 | Commissioned | Joshua 1 | Lord Calls Joshua |
| 2. | Dec 11 | Conquest | Joshua 6 | Jericho Walls Down |
| 3. | Dec 18 | Savior Announced | Luke 1 | Angel Gabriel to Mary |
| 4. | Dec 25 | ... <i>Merry Christmas</i> ... | | |
| 5. | Jan 1 | Settled | Joshua 22 | Heart, Honor, Home |
| 6. | Jan 15 | Value All | Prov. 24 & Mark 10 | <i>Sanctity of Life Sunday</i> |
| 7. | Jan 22 | Rebellion's Cycle | Judges 2 | Return to God to Live |
| 8. | Jan 29 | Willing Servants | Judges 4 | Deborah Lifts Barak |
| 9. | Feb 5 | Timid Warrior | Judges 6 | Angel Charges Gideon |
| ★ | Feb 12 | Compromised Potential | Judges 16 | Samson & Delilah |
| 11. | Feb 19 | Faith Through Trials | Ruth 1 | Ruth Helps Naomi |
| 12. | Feb 13 | Redeemed & Secure | Ruth 3-4 | Noble Ruth Wins |



Lesson Author's Theme

God keeps both His promises and His warnings

Judges

- Chapter 13** **SAMSON Stirred by Spirit of the Lord**
- Chapter 14** **SAMSON's Wife & Riddle in Timnah**
- Chapter 15** **SAMSON Slays 1,000 with a Jawbone**
- 16:1-12** **Please Tell Me – Delilah Begs for Secret**
- 16:13-15** **If You Love Me – Samson Reveals His Heart**
- 16:16-20** **Philistines Are Here – Bad Hair Day**
- 16:21-31** **SAMSON Pushes Temple Pillars & Dies**



Key Verse Judges 16:20

**But he did not know that
the LORD had left him**



Alternate Title

SAMSON Loved Delilah



**Legend ... Hero ... in his own time
SAMSON means “of the Sun”
SAMSON – the STRONGEST MAN**



Samson & Lion Fountain, Saint Petersburg, Russia

SAMSON

His Story like a Greek Tragedy

SAMSON—Story of Contrasts

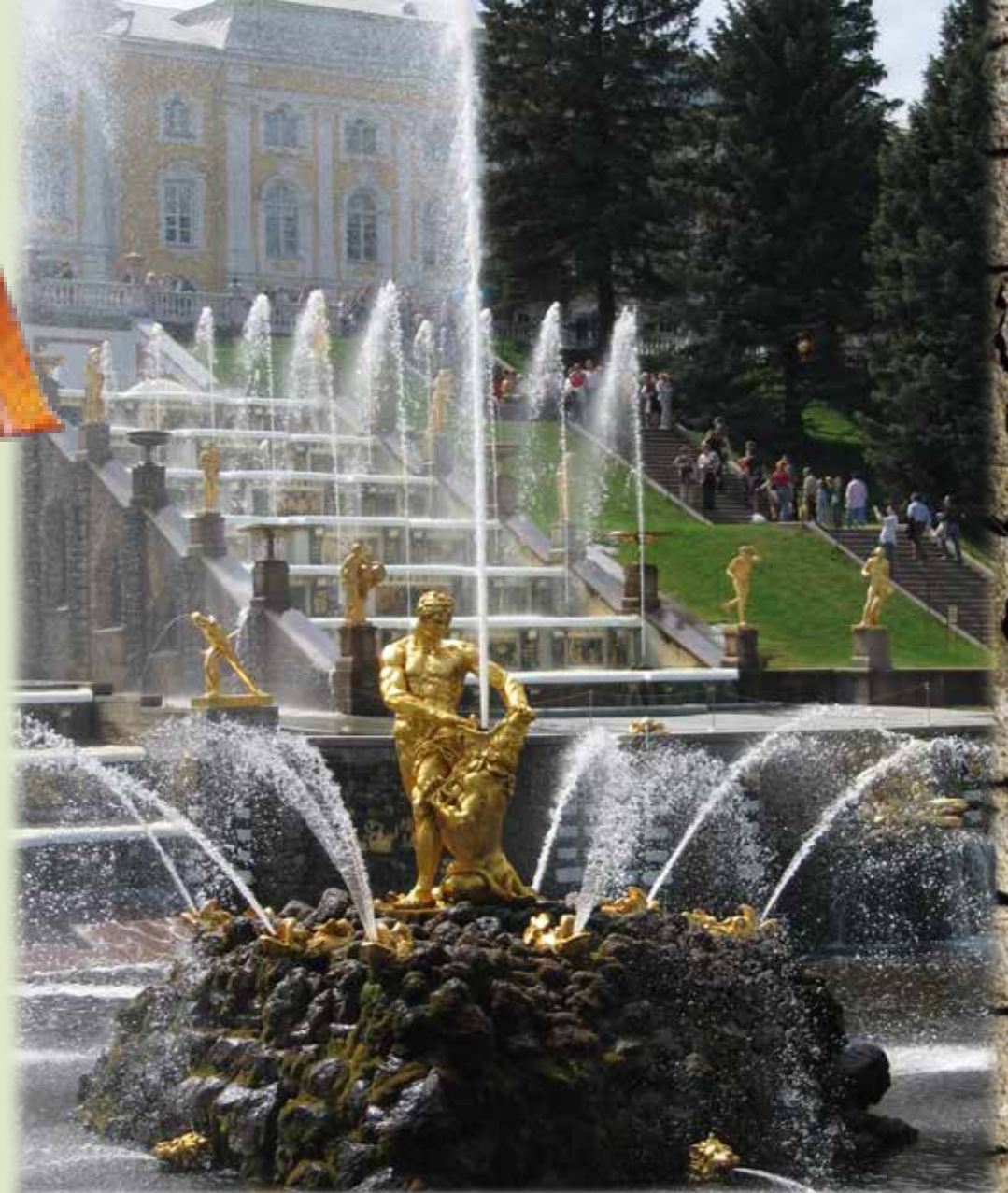
Mighty Strength – Little Self Control

Lion Killer – Few Moral Teeth

Born High – Dies Low yet Brave

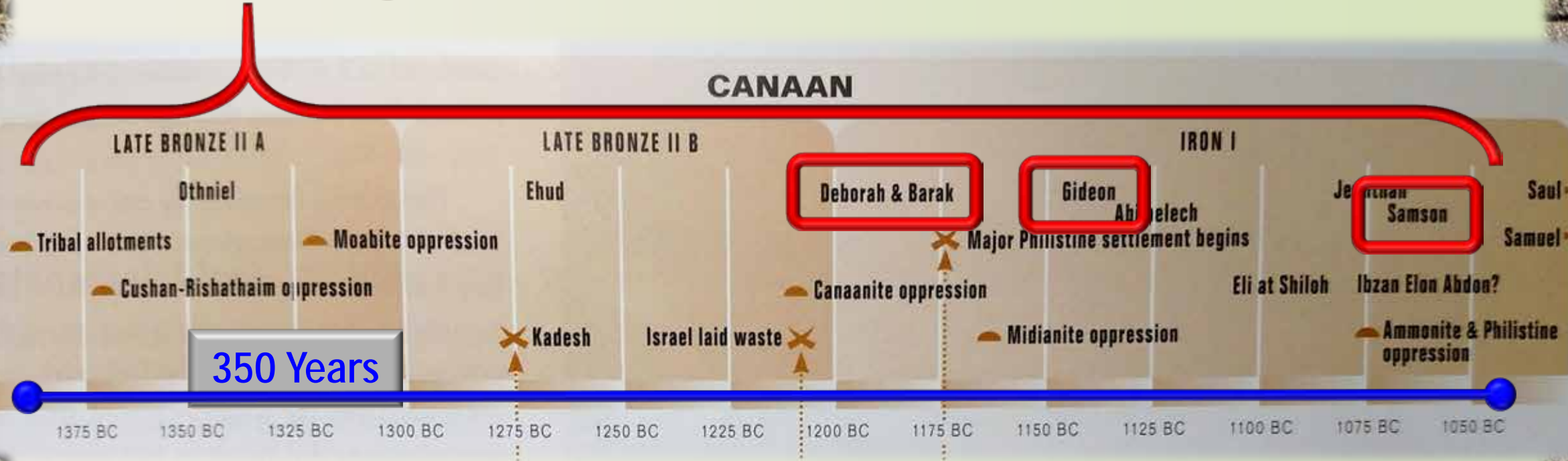
Whup Any Man – Taken by a Woman

**God Blessed – Yet ONE Prayer
after Blinded**



Samson & Lion Fountain, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Book of Judges



- ✓ **SAMSON ... follows Judges that talked to Angels & God**
- ✓ **SAMSON ... one recorded prayer ... before he dies**
- ✓ **Gideon was catered to ... SAMSON was nearly alone**
- ✓ **SAMSON ... 20 years ALONE – the **LONELIEST JUDGE****

SAMSON



SAMSON seems led by **PASSION**
His Strength often impelled by **ANGER**

Like the Incredible Hulk ...
Injustice **ANGERS** SAMSON

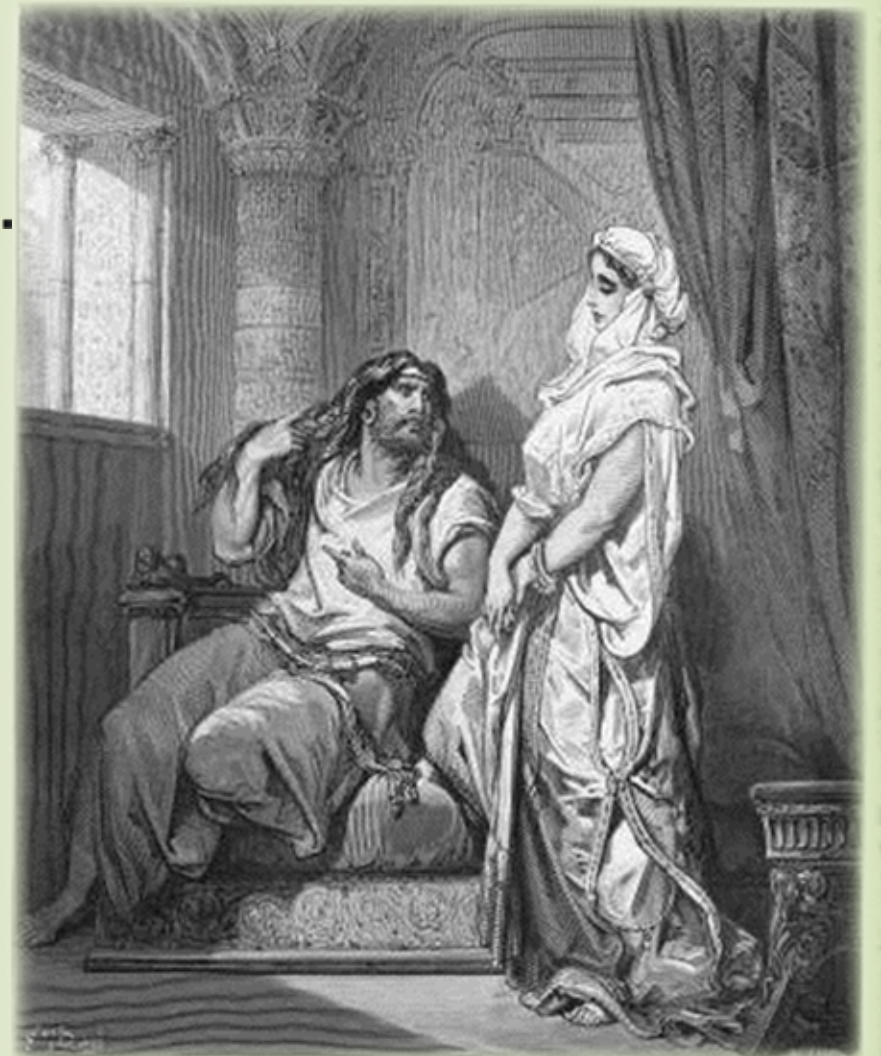
His Wit & Love for the Tease

Like Zorba the Greek ...
Loves the **RIDDLE** & Loves **LIVING** his **LIFE**



SAMSON and Delilah ...

SAMSON's life has a *multitude* of lessons ...



Samson & Delilah by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

All of you know the story ...

I do assume ...

Many lessons ... let me add this

We often see Delilah as a prostitute

Nothing in the Bible says such ...

What is important ... is that the Bible says:

SAMSON Loved Delilah

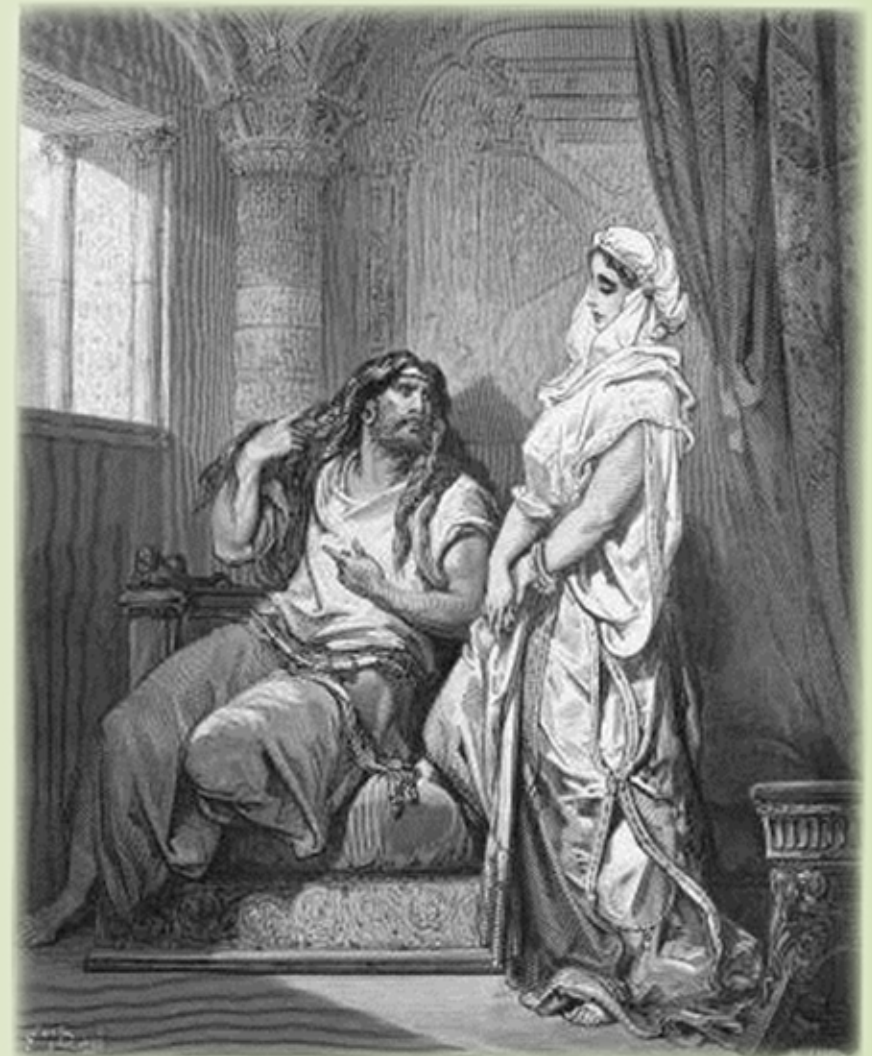
She did not **SELL** herself to SAMSON

What she did was actually worse ...

Delilah **SOLD** the man who **LOVED** her

Few betrayals can be worse ...

This is TREASON of the heart – universally despised



Samson & Delilah by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

Key Verse Judges 16:20

**But he did not know that
the LORD had left him**



SAMSON & Delilah ... betrayal in plain site

Dante Alighieri made **TREASON FAMOUS**

His epic 1555 poem, *Divine Comedy*

3 sections: **1. Inferno or Hell**
2. Purgatory
3. Paradise

Inferno-Hell has 9 Concentric Circles

Each circle going deeper & deeper
as degrees “wrongs” increase
through **9 levels of evil**

So too the punishments increase



Samson & Delilah by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

Inferno-Hell's 9 Circles – *Dante is guided down by Virgil*

1st	Limbo	5th	Wrath
2nd	Lust	6th	Heresy
3rd	Gluttony	7th	Violence
4th	Greed	8th	Fraud

9th Circle – TREACHERY

There in Hell's
lowest
CENTER
we find Satan



Samson & Delilah
by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

Satan in the Inferno
by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

9th Circle – TREACHERY has 4 regions ... increasing

1st Treachery against Kindred – named **Caina** for Cain who slew Able

2nd Treachery against Country – named **Antenora** for the Trojan the betrayed Troy

3rd Treachery against Guests – named **Ptolomaea** invited, killed his father-in-law

4th Treachery against Lords – named **Judecca** for Judas who betrayed Jesus

Center of Hell is Satan ... *chewing on Judas & two others*



Hell's deepest
parts ... are
reserved for
Traitors



Of course, while
not wholly true
Biblical Hell
is actually
WORSE

Satan in the Inferno
by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

Worst Treachery is that against those who **LOVE YOU**
lowest is Judas' Treachery against Jesus
Jesus who Loved Judas
TREACHERY—well deserving
the lowest place in Hell



Satan in the Inferno
by Gustave Doré (1832-83)



Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit of Lord STIRRED

13:1, Israel did evil again ...

13:2, Man named Manoah (“REST”) of
Zorah of the Danites with a barren wife
Zorah – aprox 20 miles from Jerusalem

Originally given to Judah, but had
since become part of Dan

Zorah is on a sharp-pointed conical hill
overlooking the Valley of Sorek

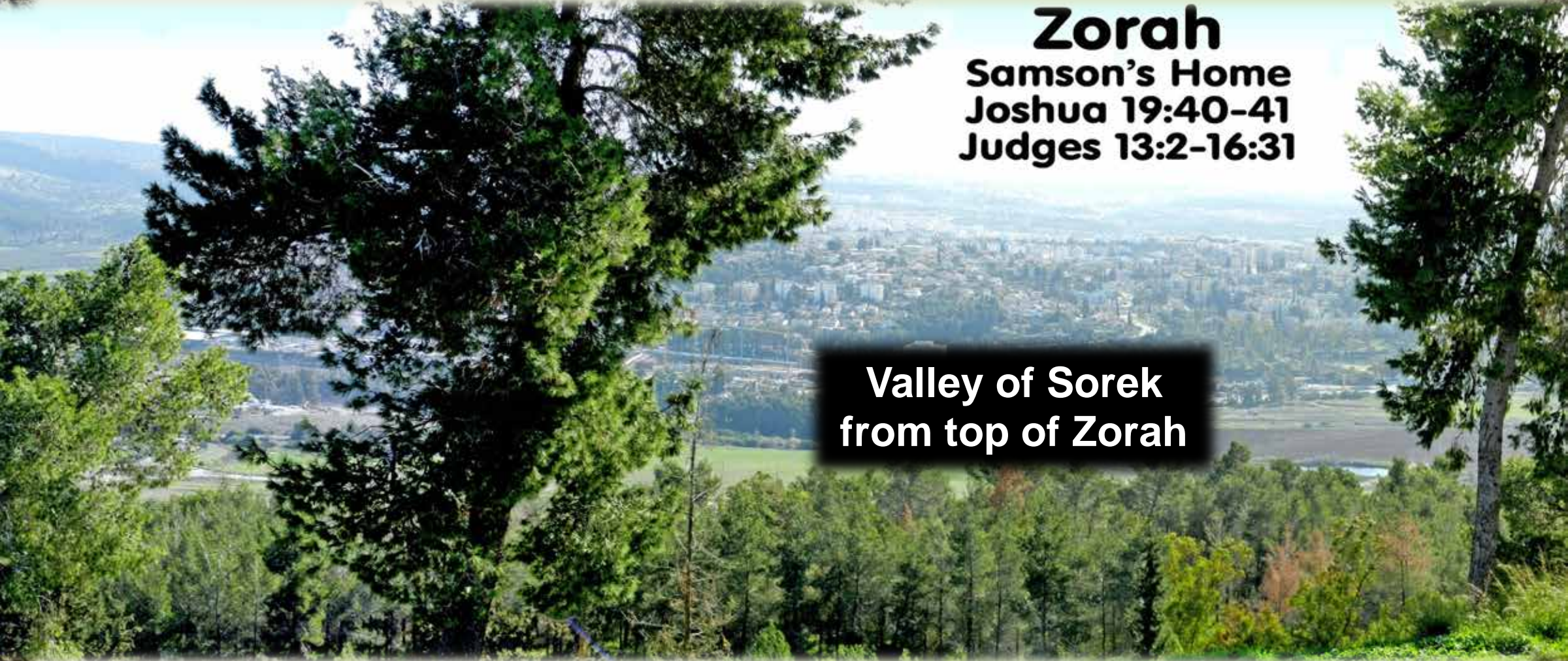
Zorah is 1,100 feet above sea level,
with a gentle slope to the northeast



Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit of Lord STIRRED

Zorah
Samson's Home
Joshua 19:40-41
Judges 13:2-16:31

Valley of Sorek
from top of Zorah



Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit of Lord STIRRED

Samson and Manoah's tomb

Tell Zorah



Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit of Lord STIRRED

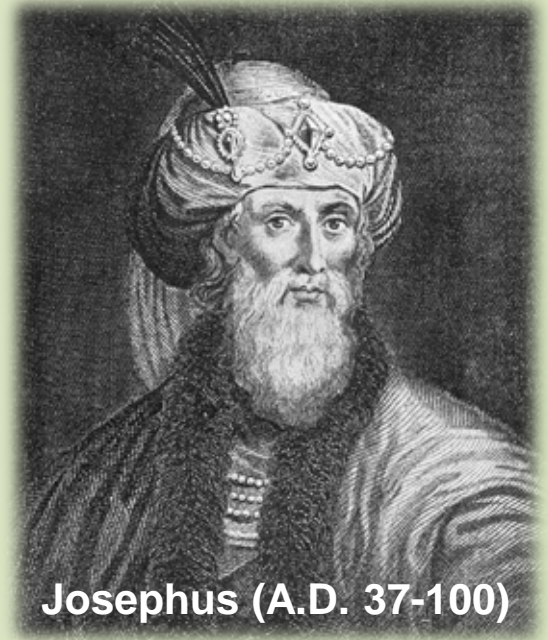
Josephus (A.D. 37-100),
a Jewish-Roman Historian said

Manoah & wife were very esteemed,
of high rank, of influence in Philistia & Israel

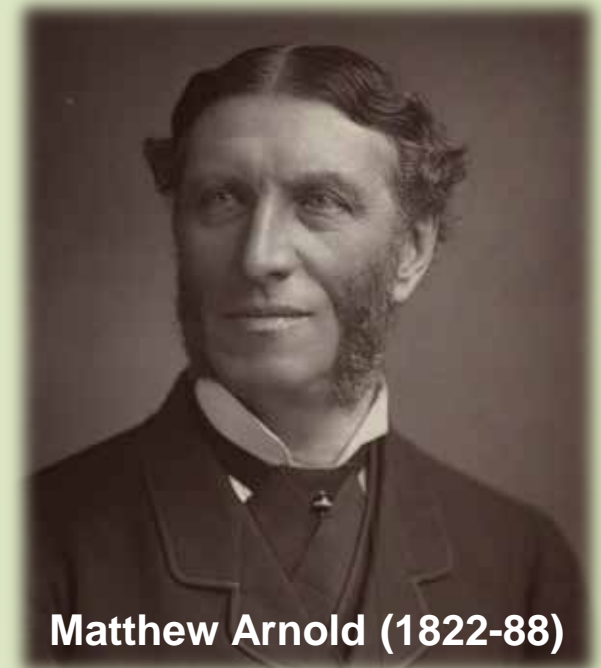
Manoah was of impeccable virtue and
his wife very beautiful

Matthew Arnold (1822-88), great literary critic,
poet and professor at Oxford, said:

**“The story of Samson, although it has no
mystery or complication to inspire, like tragic
stories of the most perfect kind, a fore boding
and anxious gloom in the mind of him who
hears it, is yet a truly dramatic and noble one.”**



Josephus (A.D. 37-100)



Matthew Arnold (1822-88)

Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit of Lord STIRRED

13:3-17, Angel comes to wife, twice,
instructs husband to listen to
instructions he had given her



Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit of Lord STIRRED

5-7, She tells husband about the
“awesome man”

They later understand as an Angel
Samson – to be a Nazirite of God from
the womb until the day of his death

First and only Nazirite to be such
all of his life



Nazirite Vow

- ✓ From “nazir” – meaning consecrated or separated
- ✓ Numbers 6:2-21 gives rules of essentially three-fold vow:
 1. No wine of any kind or even non-fermented grapes
 2. No cutting hair
 3. No contact with corpses or graves
- ✓ Made by verbal declaration: “I am a Nazirite for 1 yr” or “forever”
- ✓ Three kinds of Nazirite:
 1. **Set time**, after which one gives several offerings & shaves head
but if temple is not there, de facto permanent
 2. **Permanent** – “I am a Nazirite for life”
 3. **Like Samson** – “I am a Nazirite like Samson”



2:12-36 Eli's sons scoundrels – Samuel blessed – Eli's end

Nazirite Vow

- ✓ None before Samson in the Bible, but seems evident before Moses
- ✓ Only three in Scripture who were Nazirites
 1. **Samson** in Judges 13:4
 2. **Samuel** in 1 Samuel 1:11
 3. **John the Baptist** in Luke 1:15
- ✓ Paul took a Nazirite vow in Acts 21, as it was allowed for one to “join others” in their vow



Samson & Samuel
dedicated as such by their Mothers

Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit of Lord STIRRED

13:18-19, Angels sets Manoah's offering on fire, then *in the flame*
the Angel ascends to heaven

Strangely ...

SAMSON never gets
to see an Angel

SAMSON has no
Prophet to help him

SAMSON grows up
without much of any
guidance ...



Sacrifice of Manoah, 1661
by Salomon de Bray (1597-1664)

Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit

13:21-25, Manoah & wife SEE ... man was an ANGEL

Manoah cries, “We’re doomed to die!” he said to his wife.

“We have seen God!”

They realize they have been talking to an Angel ...

Apparently, they had not seen many angels

Long way from Texas with a church on every corner ...



Offering of Manoah, 1641, by Willem_Drost (1633-59)

Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit of Lord STIRRED

13:21-25, Manoah & wife SEE ...

²³ But his wife counters, “if so, God would not accepted offering or given instructions.”

Manoah' Wife: **on her A-Game for sure**

Manoah's Wife ... who was she?

She seems to be the calmer one

She seems to be the more alert

Manoah ... not been LISTENING

Wake Up Manoah ...

We've got a Nazirite Son Coming

It's a message of LIFE ... not DEATH



Chap. 13 – Samson, Spirit of Lord STIRRED

13:24-25, wife gave birth &
named boy Samson.

He grew

LORD blessed and the

Spirit of the LORD
began to **STIR**

Samson in Dan

between **Zorah and Eshtaol**

About 4 miles between

Below Zorah is the
Valley of Sorek



Chap. 14 – Samson Gets a Wife

14:1-20, Samson likes woman in Timnah

Timnah is aprox. 10 miles west of Zorah

Border town to Philistine Territory

Father and Mother wish not,

but Lord was working ...

SAMSON goes with Father & Mother

Near a vineyard, SAMSON meets a lion

SAMSON tears the Lion to pieces

Passages does not say merely “kill”

SAMSON tore the Lion apart ...



*Samson's Fight with the Lion, 1525,
by Lucas Cranach the Elder*

Chap. 14 – Samson Go

APPEARS to be
near the beginning
of **SAMSON's**
great deeds ...

Judges 15:20 says
SAMSON judged
Israel 20 years

Judges 16:31
REPEATS 20 years

**Very, very much has
been LEFT OUT!**

Really would like to know much, much more

Samson's Fight with Lion
by Ruben (1577-1640)



Chap. 14 – Samson

Many artists
painted, drew,
sculpted this story

Most parts of
Judges 13-16
are depicted ...

esp. after the
Christian Dark Ages
after A.D. 1000

Samson's Youth, 1891
by Léon Bonnat (1833-1922)



Chap. 14 – Samson Gets a Wife

Lions ... very vicious

David slew a lion

Daniel did NOT,
could not, but
did PRAY & God Helped

Goes without saying ...

If you can kill ... and
tear apart a LION

You one *tough* hombre

SAMSON does NOT
tell his parents ...

Maybe not to worry them?



SAMSON does so much ALONE

SAMSON doesn't much brag ... *if at all*

SAMSON just goes to work day after day
Job? = Fighting & Humiliating Philistines

Samson Lions by Erasmus Quellinus the Younger (1607–1678)

Chap. 14 – Samson Gets a Wife

Father Manoah and Mother??????

I suspect they **KNEW**
their Nazirite son was ...

DESTINED to great things

What kind of **CHILD** was he?

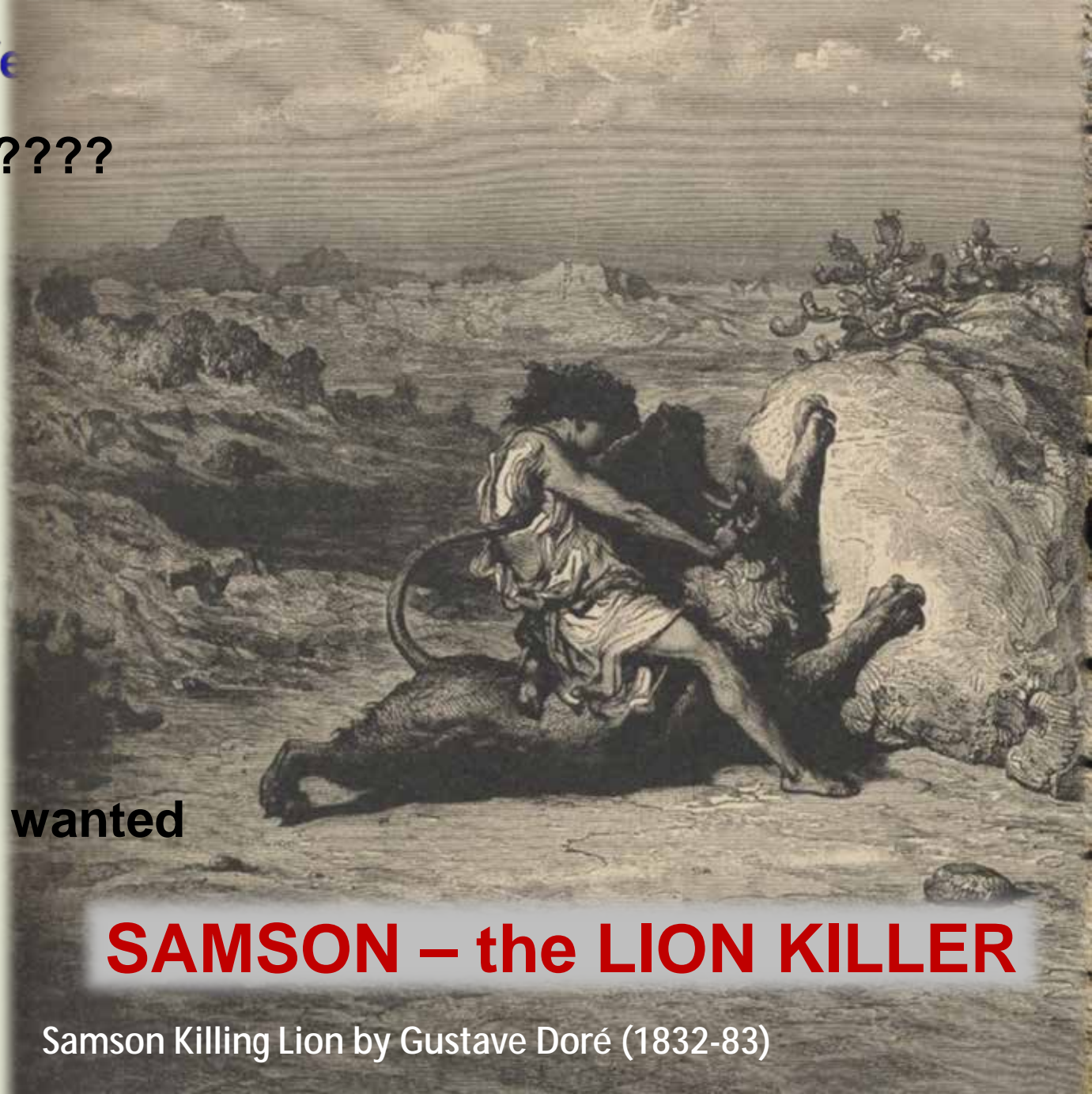
What kind of **BOY** was he?

What kind of **TEENAGER**?

In chapters 13-14, it appears

SAMSON got most of what he wanted

Still under Mom & Dad, yet ...

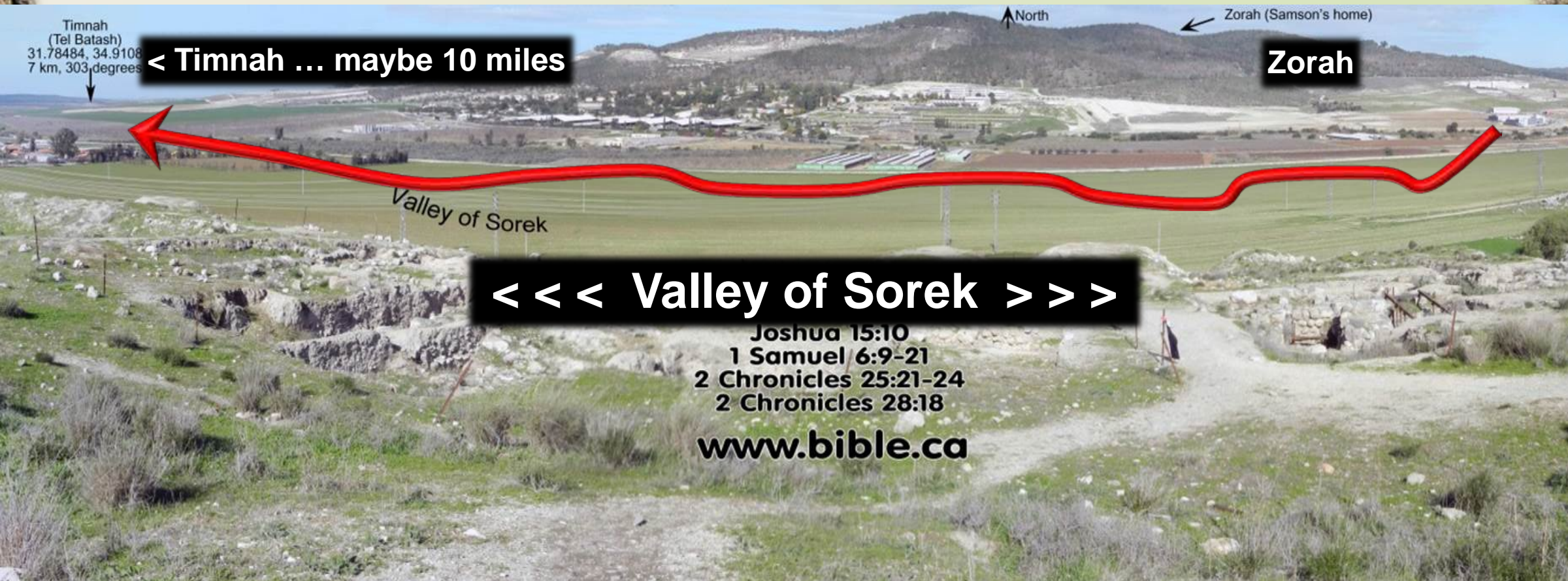


SAMSON – the LION KILLER

Samson Killing Lion by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

Chap. 14 – Samson Gets a Wife

Father, Mother and SAMSON are on their way to Timnah ...



Valley of Sorek is one of the largest and most important drainage basins in the Judean Hills.

Chap. 14 – Samson Gets a Wife in Timnah

On the way back, he sees the lion carcass
and honey ... eats honey

Shares Honey with Mom & Dad

But does NOT share where he got the honey

Not sure I would like honey from ... what?

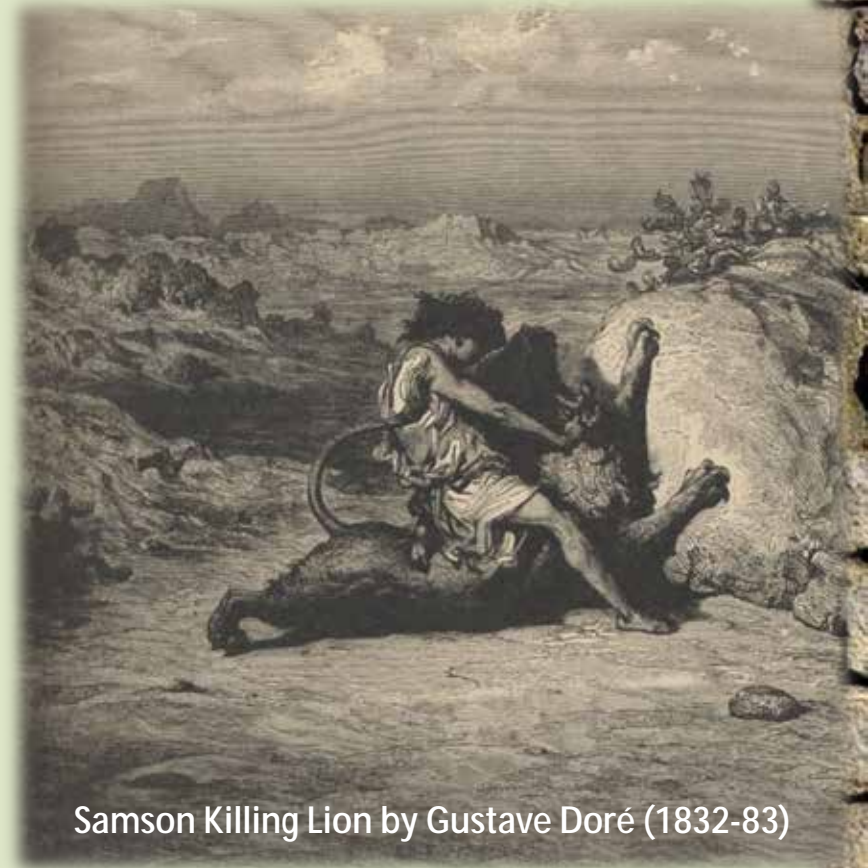
A DEAD LION's Carcass!

SAMSON ... keeping a lot of secrets

Even though so strong, he appears modest

Maybe part of the reason we know so LITTLE

Yet ... he likes to play



Samson Killing Lion by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

Chap. 14 – Samson's Riddle in Timnah

SAMSON marries
in Timnah ...

Seemingly
according to
custom

Her family
assigns 30 men
as “companions”

I suppose for a
bachelor party

SAMSON cannot
help himself ...



Wedding of Samson, 1638, by Rembrandt

Chap. 14 – Samson's Riddle in Timnah

SAMSON has to play

From the **KIND** of challenge
one gets the impression that

SAMSON's has been

CHALLENGING

All of his young life

He relishes in winning ...

Beating ...

Overcoming ...

BEING a Super Man ...



Wedding of Samson, 1638, by Rembrandt

SAMSON – the PLAYFUL!

Chap. 14 – Samson's Riddle in Timnah

SAMSON offers a RIDDLE

30 garments for me if you
CANNOT solve the riddle

30 garments to you if you **CAN**

30 Men say, "Okey Dokey"
Maness Loose-leaf translation

The Riddle:

**"Out of the eater,
something to eat;
out of the strong,
something sweet."**



Wedding of Samson, 1638, by Rembrandt

SAMSON – the RIDDLER

Chap. 14 – Samson's Riddle in Timnah

On the 4th day of the feast

30 men coax his wife
to coax SAMSON

14:16, SAMSON's wife threw
herself on him, sobbing,
“You hate me!
You don't really love me....”

14:17, She cried the whole
seven days of the feast.

SAMSON told her ...



Wedding of Samson, 1638, by Rembrandt

SAMSON – the KIND

Chap. 14 – Samson's Riddle in Timnah

30 Men come before sundown
on the 7th day of the feast ...

**“What is sweeter than honey?
What is stronger than a lion?”**

SAMSON said,

**“If you had not plowed with
my heifer, you would not
have solved my riddle.”**

Don't believe **SAMSON** was
ignorant of wife's weakness

**You've GOT to know that
SAMSON knew a little of
the 30 crafting & plotting**



Wedding of Samson, 1638, by Rembrandt

SAMSON – the PERCEPTIVE

Chap. 14 – Samson's Riddle in Timnah

SAMSON kept secrets
from his parents ...

I suspect he **KNEW** the
pressure she was facing ...
and ...

For **HER sake** ... told her

For **HER sake** ... so she
could save face before her
people ...

Whatever ...

SAMSON was unafraid ...



Wedding of Samson, 1638, by Rembrandt

SAMSON – the GENEROUS!

Chap. 14 – Samson's Riddle in Timnah

SAMSON – Spirit of the Lord
on him

SAMSON goes down to Ashkelon

Timnah to Ashkelon about 30 miles

SAMSON struck down 30 Philistines

Gave clothes to 30 men in Timnah

SAMSON went home to Zoroah **ANGRY**

Samson's wife given to one of
his companions at the feast.

SAMSON – Man of His **WORD**



Chap. 14 – Samson's Riddle in Timnah

SAMSON returns for wife

Father ... ooops ... had given her away

SAMSON catches 300 foxes, ties them into pairs ... sets tails on fire

Looses them into grain fields, vinyards and olive groves ... burns all ...

Philistines burn Timnite father & daughter

SAMSON, "Okay," kills many *viciously*

Don't mess with SAMSON!

SAMSON goes to Cave at Rock of Etam between Bethlehem & Tekoa



SAMSON – the VENGEFUL?

or

SAMSON – the JUDGE

Chap. 15 – Samson Fights Philistines

Philistines go to men of Judah

“Why?” men of Judah ask

Philistines, “To take SAMSON prisoner!”

3,000 men of Judah go to SAMSON

Plead case ... “Don’t you know that the

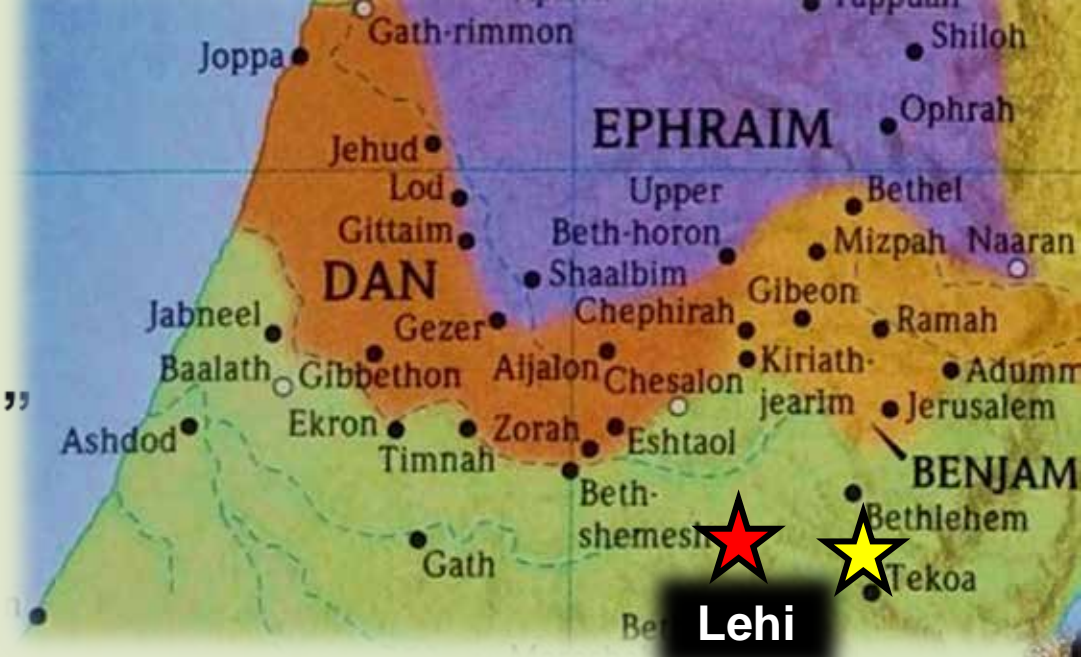
Philistines are our RULERS?”

SAMSON thought, *NOT MINE!*

SAMSON says, “Okey dokey, as long you **DON’T** kill me yourselves.”

“DEAL,” said the men of Judah

Men of Judah bind SAMSON &
escort to the rock at Lehi



SAMSON – the MERCIFUL

Just as he did with his wife,
allowing the ruse of the 30 ...

SAMSON *allowed* the men of
Judah to **BIND** him

Chap. 15 – Samson Fights Philistines

BOUND on the Rock of Lehi ... **alone**

SAMSON sees the Philistines **and waits**

Philistines shout ... *yippee!*

SAMSON breaks his bonds like flax

SAMSON finds a fresh donkey jawbone

Grabs the jawbone ... KILLS 1,000

SAMSON

the WARRIOR



Samson Slays 1000, 1860
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794-1872)

Chap. 15 – Samson Fights Philistines

SAMSON ... kills 1,000 Philistines

a spectacular victory

Unheard of in the history of warfare

Score:

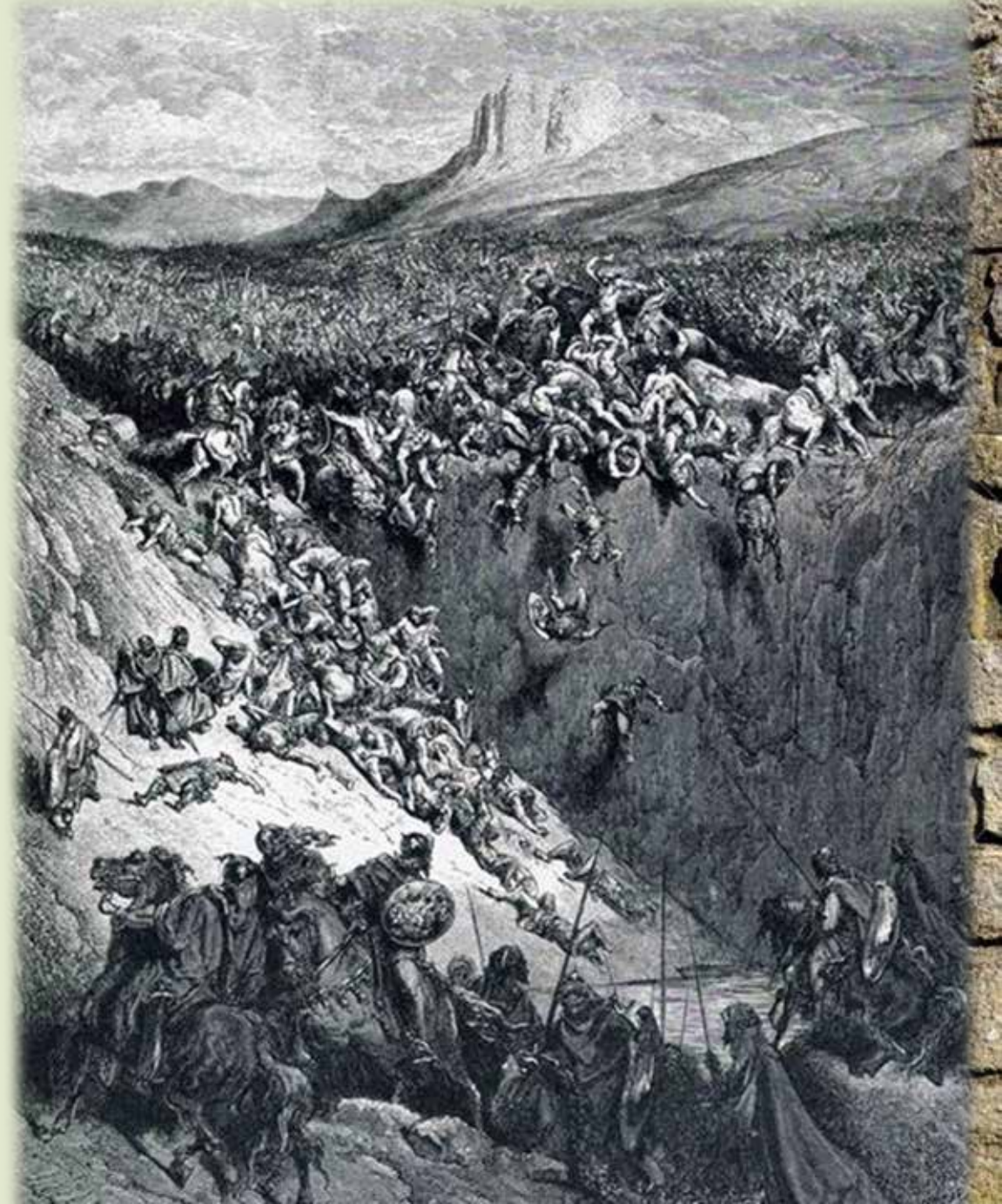
SAMSON ... 1,000

Philistines ... - 0 -

If you were Pro-SAMSON ...

This was a Super Bowl win for Israel

Samson Slays 1,000 by Gustave Doré (1832-83)



Chap. 15 – Samson Fights Philistines

SAMSON ... killed 1,000 Philistines

We understand, almost immediately that such a feat is ...

- **Beyond normal men ...**
- **Quite an Olympic feat ...**

To the Philistines ... a clear message

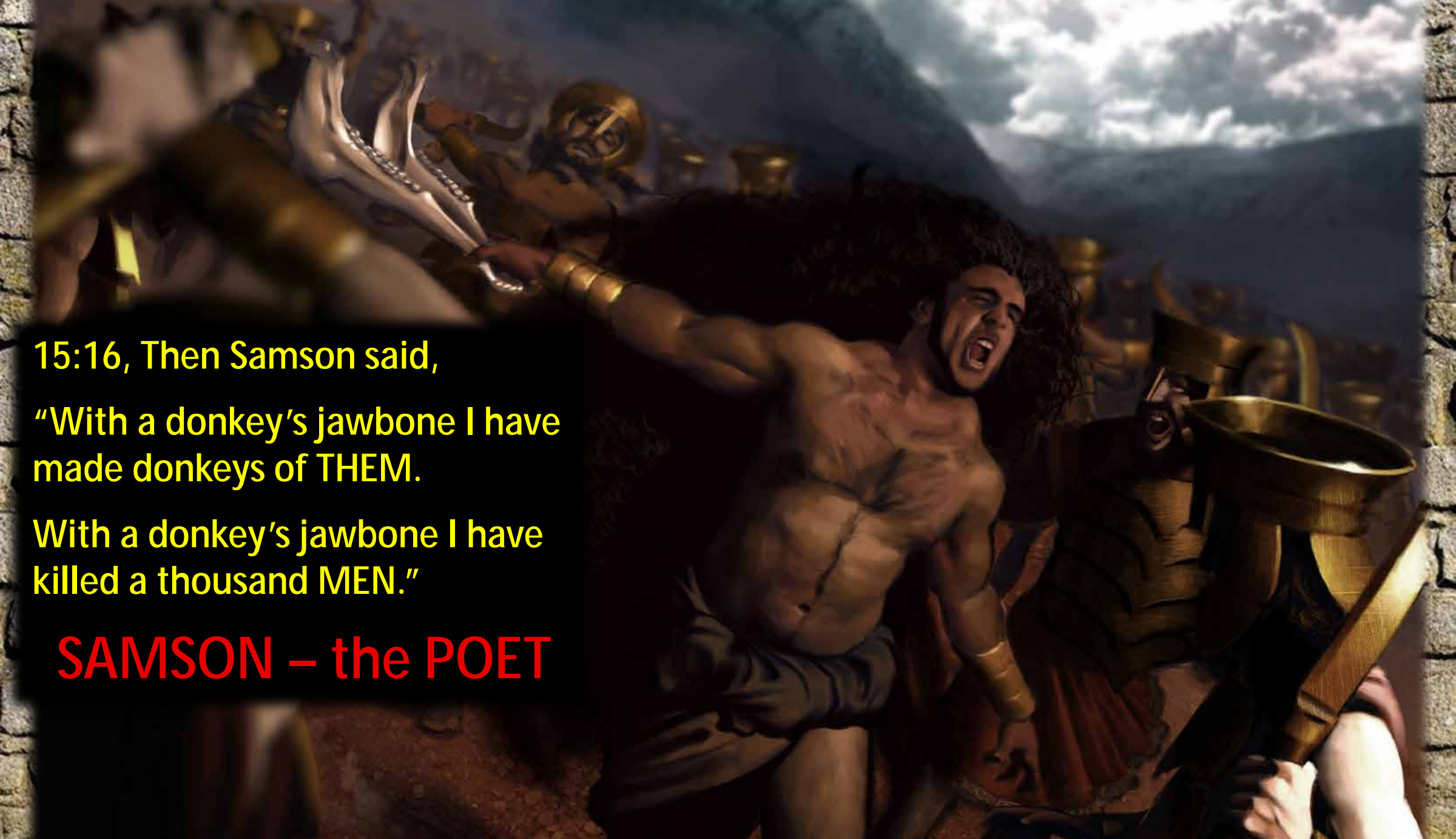
- **God is WITH SAMSON ...**

Throughout Judges 13-16, we hear:

Spirit of the Lord came on him



Marble Statue of Samson Slaying a Philistine
by Giambologna, Florence, Italy, about 1562
in Victoria and Albert Museum, London

A dramatic scene from a movie depicting Samson, a muscular man with long dark hair, fighting Philistines. He is holding a large, bleached donkey's jawbone aloft in his right hand, shouting with a determined expression. He is surrounded by Philistines in armor, some of whom are also shouting. The background shows a stone wall and a cloudy sky.

15:16, Then Samson said,
“With a donkey’s jawbone I have
made donkeys of THEM.

With a donkey’s jawbone I have
killed a thousand MEN.”

SAMSON – the POET

Chap. 15 – Samson Fights Philistines

Throws the jawbone down

Names place Ramath Lehi

Hill or Height of the Jawbone

Yes—**Jawbone Heights**

“LEHI” = Jawbone ...

Secret Zionist freedom fighters
used LEHI as a an acronym for
their Hebrew name 1940-48

**Then, so thirsty, famished,
he feared he'd be killed**

God opens a spring

SAMSON drinks ... revives

Samson Thirsty , c. 1650
by Gian Battista Langetti



Chap. 15 – Samson Fights Philistines

15:20 Samson led Israel for 20 years in the days of the Philistines.

Judges 13-15 APPEAR to be early, nearly in order ... then ...

Then 20 years LATER?

Judges 16 appears
to chronicle his end

Delilah Captivates

Appears SAMSON was
a **Lone Soldier of God**

20 years going where
he pleased JUDGING
Israel & the Philistines



Samson Thirsty , c. 1660, by Gian Battista Langetti

16 SAMSON and Delilah

Near end of 20 years of being

SAMSON – One-Man ARMY

16:1, One day Samson went to Gaza,
where he saw a prostitute. He
went in to spend the night with her

Today: Palestinian Gaza Strip

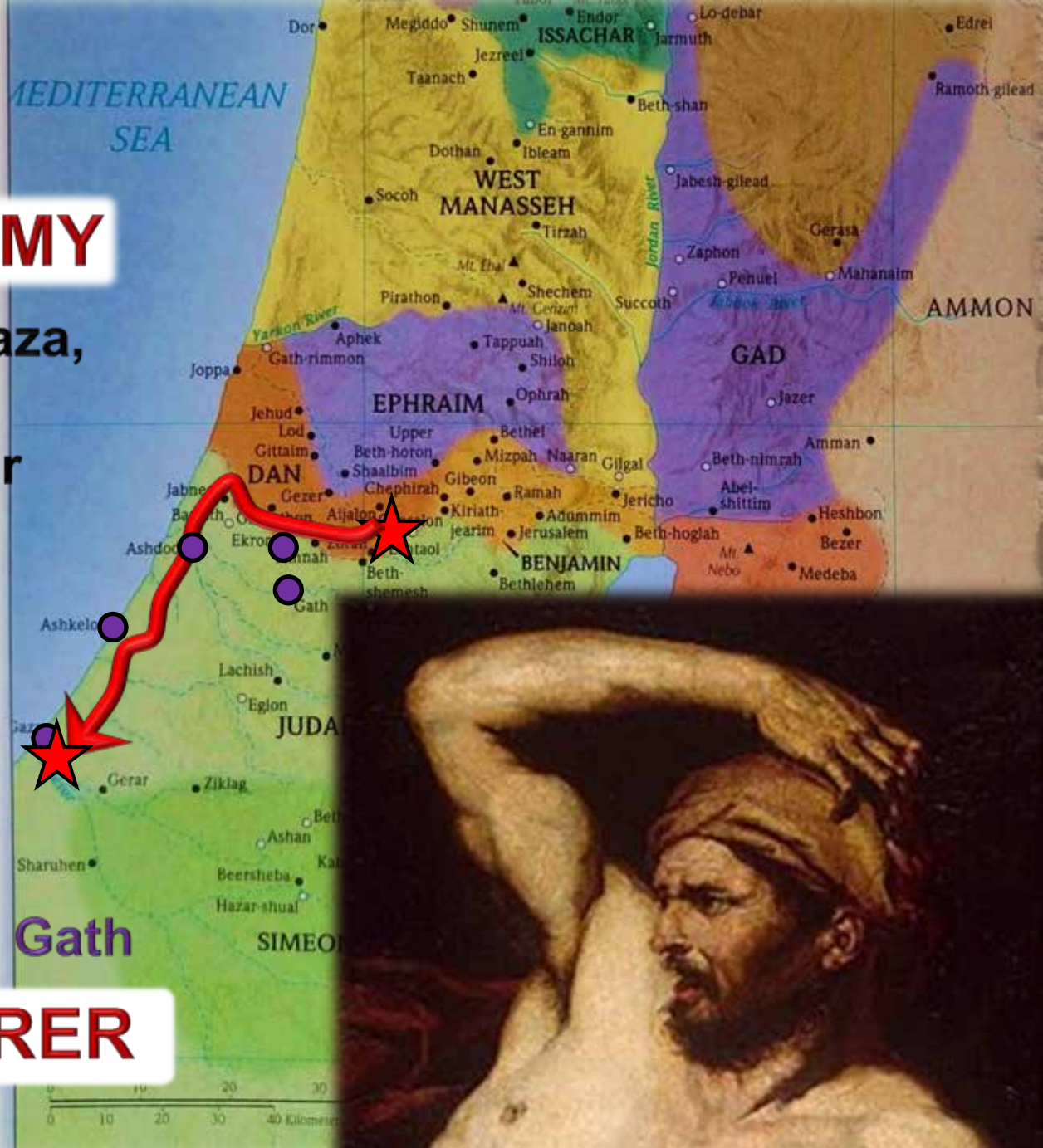
People surround home & **WAIT**

SAMSON wakes up in the
middle of the night

5 Major Philistine Cities w Kings

Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron & Gath

SAMSON – the WANDERER



16 SAMSON and Delilah

SAMSON lay still to middle of the night

Oh, how sly the city folk THINK they are ...

SAMSON, *merciful* to city people

Truly, if he can take 1,000 soldiers, how easy it would be to take out mere city folk?

16:3, SAMSON got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all.

He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

Some hill above Gaza facing Hebron

SAMSON – the BIG MULE



16 **SAMSON** and

SAMSON

Amazing ...

Strong ...

Mighty ...

Without Equal ...

**does what he
thinks is right**

**Merciful to city
folk in Gaza**



Samson Taking City Gates by Gustave Doré (1832-83)



16 SAMSON and Delilah

So much for crafty city folk of Gaza

We are back home near Zorah

Somewhere in the Valley of Sorek

16:5, "Some time later, he
FELL IN LOVE with a woman
in the Valley of Sorek whose
name was **Delilah**."

SAMSON ... finally ...

... his long lost love ...



16 SAMSON and Delilah

Robert Southwell wrote:

**“Her little sweet hath many sours,
Short haps immortal harms;**

**Her loving looks are murdering darts,
Her songs bewitching charms”**

Delilah, “languishing” or “weakened”

Because of SAMSON’s previous
visits to a prostitute ...

Common to assume Delilah was too

But ... not necessarily

SAMSON did fall in LOVE ...



Samson & Delilah, by Rembrandt 1630

16 SAMSON and

Proverbs vii. 24-27.

"Now, therefore, my
sons, hearken unto me

Let not thine heart
decline to her ways ...

For she hath cast down
many wounded: yea,
all her slain are a
mighty host.

Her house is the way to
Sheol, going down to
the chamber of death."



Samson and Delilah by Guercino (1591-1666)

16 SAMSON and Delilah

SAMSON fell in LOVE with Delilah

Philistines began working on Delilah

There's a case that SAMSON had good, tender feelings for the weak

Delilah's name DOES mean

“languishing” or “weakened”

What we ALL dislike is TREACHERY

So very, very little of 20 years



Samson and Delilah, c. 1609, by Peter Paul Rubens

16 SAMSON and Delilah

Obvious to all—Delilah didn't
love SAMSON as we expect

She DID SELL him out ...

Remember, Delilah “the weak”
this was a time when
Women were *GIVEN* away

Headstrong women—**RARE!**

I believe SAMSON a wise Judge

I think Delilah had some **GENUINE**
affection for him & he **FELT** that



Samson and Delilah, c. 1609, by Peter Paul Rubens

**What SAMSON missed
she had a GREATER
affection for silver!**

Understand the **PRESSURE** on her
Five Frantic Philistine Kings
offer 1,100 pieces of silver **EACH**

Herbert Wolf est. 1,100 pieces @ 140 lbs

- 5,500 pieces of silver = **700 lbs**
- today's \$17.60 an oz. = **\$197,120**

K. L. Younger said it was *THEN* an
“**absurdly fantastic amount**”
550x above aver. annual wage

Meaning, if aver. is \$25,000 today

Meaning, the Frantic Philistine Kings
offered Delilah **\$2,500,000!**

What would YOU do for \$2,500,000?



Samson and Delilah, c. 1609, by Peter Paul Rubens

KA-CHING



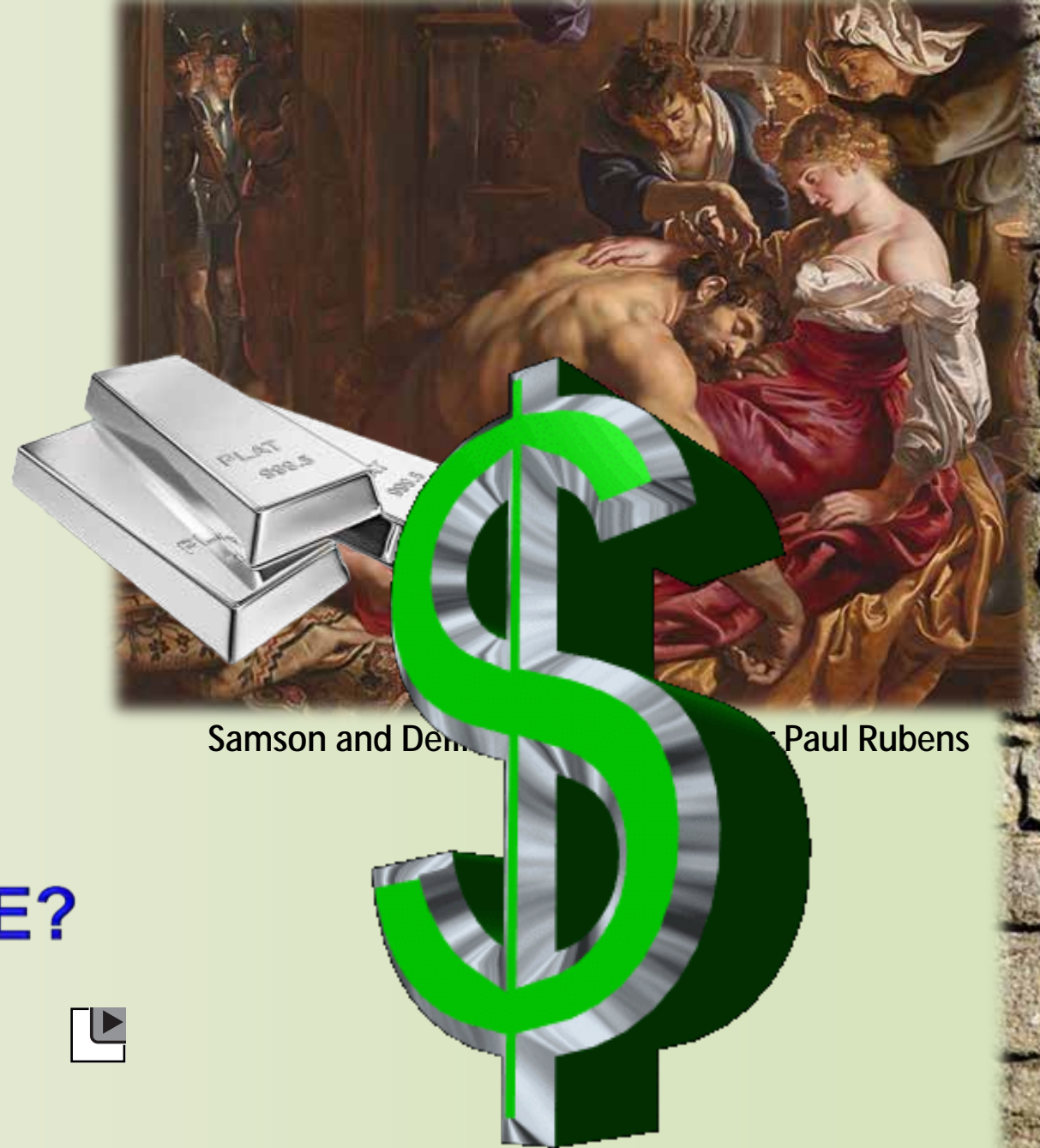
That's why I don't believe
Delilah was a prostitute
IF she was a REAL prostitute
They'd have **BOUGHT** her
for a **LOT LESS**

Yet ... **FACT** ...

Delilah was **STILL** bought

Do YOU have a PRICE?

If so ...



Samson and Delilah by Paul Rubens

Get SAMSON to tell the secret ...
Understand the PRESSURE on her
SAMSON plays them ... tie me with
7 new animal sinews



Samson and Delilah, c. 1609, by Peter Paul Rubens

Samson Breaks His Cords
by J James Tissot (1836-1902)



Delilah calls in the Philistines

SAMSON breaks them easily

1st, BIND me w 7 new animal sinews

2nd, BIND me w 7 new ropes ...

3rd, WEAVE my hair into a loom

3x – THREE Times SAMSON tricked and slept!

Because the text is so CLIPPED,
it is likely this was over several days

**EACH time—each time,
the Philistines HID in the next room!**

EACH time, SAMSON went to sleep!

Says a LOT about SAMSON's **courage,**
fearlessness & utter CONFIDENCE

He STILL slept the 2nd & 3rd times!

They were AFRAID of him **ASLEEP**



Samson and Delilah, c. 1609, by Peter Paul Rubens

SAMSON
the FEARLESS

4th, TRUTH ... cut my hair

WHY? ...

WHY? ... he KNEW Delilah was **WEAK**

SAMSON ... he KNEW enemies hid

SAMSON ... he KNEW ... **and STILL he slept!**

WHY? ... Delilah cried, whined ...
and whined day after day ...

WHY? ... why STAY when you KNOW?

Some suggest he was TIRED of all
and just wanted to live a normal life

Be a regular Joe w the woman he loved

WHY? ... was he seduced? ... not really

WHY? ... one reason ... hard to see



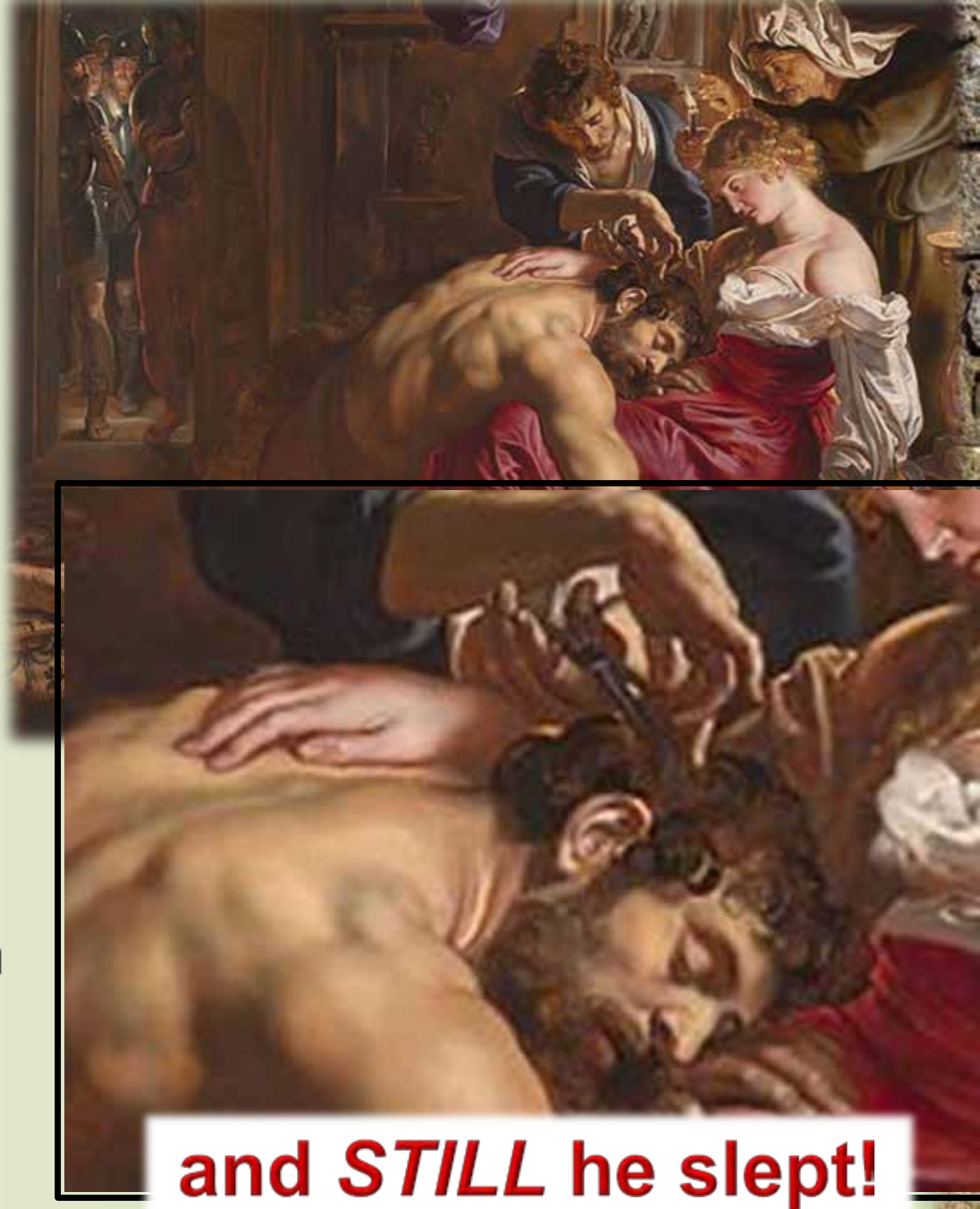
Rubens

WHY? ... we do not know for sure
God knows ... but we can scratch a bit
In all the Bible ... we have no indication

- ✓ IF Israel EVER truly appreciated
- ✓ IF ANYONE ever said “thank you”
- ✓ IF ANYONE ever really “LIKED” him
- ✓ IF ANYONE ever TRULY, honestly,
with their heart of hearts ...

Truly LOVED SAMSON

He loved ... his parents & Israel & God
Perhaps he loved his 1st wife in Timnah
Cared a bit for weak city folk in GAZA
who knew NOT how merciful he was
when he took their gate, not their lives



and **STILL** he slept!

And SAMSON loved Delilah ...
Delilah, whose name meant “WEAK”
For 20 years, there is NO indication
That ISRAEL had any REAL problems
He PLACED his LIFE in Delilah’s hand
And then he ... **went to SLEEP**

Selah ...

Delilah yelled ... the Philistines came
He thought he could ... but could not ...
The LORD had left SAMSON

SAMSON – the UNLOVED



Philistines arrest SAMSON, who loved Delilah ...

Delilah the weak ... sold her friend

Delilah ... who likely never found love again ... whose name
recorded in Holy Writ, has now for millennia become
synonymous with TREACHERY

Arrest of Samson, 1638, by Sir Anthony van Dyck (1599-1641)

Philistines came ...

They gouged OUT his eyes

Took him to the prison at GAZA

Tasked SAMSON to grind wheat

The Philistines praised DAGON

The LORD had left SAMSON

As a driver walked slowly behind,
WHIPPING the back of SAMSON

Perhaps Samson said in a loud voice.

“Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani?”*

which is translated,

**“My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?”**



Samson Grinding at Prison in Gaza
by William Brassey Hole (1846-1917)

SAMSON – the GRINDER

*Mark 15:34, see also Matthew 27:46

SAMSON, who had spared GAZA
and taken only their city gates ...
Now a mule grinding in their prison



Samson Grinding in Prison, woodcut
by Edward Armitage (1817-96)

To the Dagon temple ...

Philistines paraded SAMSON

Philistines humiliated SAMSON

Children threw food at him

Old soldiers spit on him

They laughed ... ate ... drank

God was watching ...

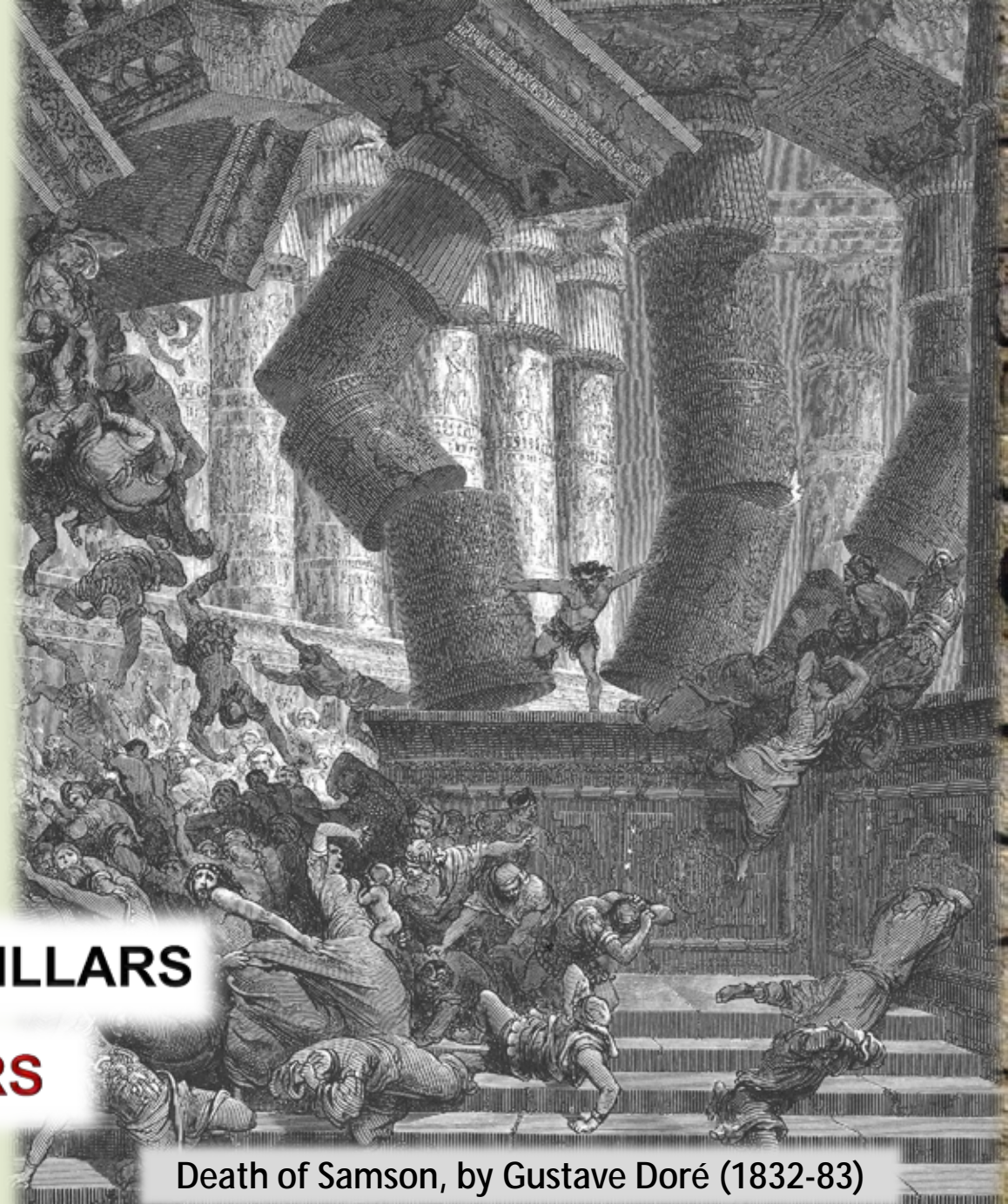
Nothing, nothing God hates more

Than ANYONE worshipping idols

God watched ... and watched ...

SAMSON asked for help to find the **PILLARS**

He would like to LEAN on the PILLARS



Death of Samson, by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

**SAMSON ... prayed for the first time
That he would be given strength
SAMSON shoved with all his might
His last words,**

“Let me die with the Philistines.”

So it was ...

**His brothers & father's whole house
came and took SAMSON home.**

Buried with his father, Manoah

His great life remembered in the N.T.

In the Great Hall of Faith, Hebrews 11

Now there was a life ...



Death of Samson, by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

SAMSON ... 20 years a Judge

**Israel free from attack as long as SAMSON
roamed & judged the country**

SAMSON ... the

- the STRONGEST MAN
- the LION KILLER
- the PLAYFUL
- the RIDDLER
- the KIND
- the PERCEPTIVE
- the GENEROUS
- Man of His WORD
- the VENGEFUL
- the MERCIFUL
- the WARRIOR
- the POET
- the ONE-MAN ARMY
- the WANDERER
- the BIG MULE
- the FEARLESS
- the UNLOVED
- the GRINDER



SAMSON
Loneliest
JUDGE

Whatever, remember, Israel was
not attacked for 20 years

However imperfectly, **SAMSON** did his job

Why did he yield, surrender to Delilah?

We will never know for certain ...

But that 4th time ... was **NOT** merely
because of HER persuasions ...

SAMSON was tired and could **NOT** ...

SAMSON could not leave her ...

- ❖ No matter how **TRAITORUS** the betrayal
- ❖ No matter how **BAD** the consequences



Of all SAMSON's strengths
To the very end ... no matter
Delilah, *the weak*, no matter how
much she **MAY** have liked him

SAMSON ... could NOT

SAMSON ... would NOT

Deny His LOVE

He would NOT Give Up on LOVE



**very, very
much like
CHRIST
with us**

You, too, may find the way hard
Oh, be like SAMSON
Don't Give Up on LOVE
God Never Gave Up on You

View from Mt. Nebo



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS

