

15-16 (222). Lord, this story is all too real. Temptations to invest in the trivial surround us. You have given us everything to glorify you. May we live our lives worthy of eternity. May we not be frivolous w/the things of Θ . May we live for the One who died for us. Amen.

GA: *Well, if they were my brothers, I'd want revenge too. Holiday No. Make no mistake. It's not revenge he's after. It's a reckoning.*

SI: Like a bad motorcycle w/the devil in the seat—Doin' 90 miles an hour down a dead-end street.

SUM: Each time Philistines find an answer 2 Samson—causes it to fail:

- Answer to a riddle—slaughter of 30 at Ashkelon **14:5-20**.
- Fiancé/best man—300 foxes fire – burns harvest **15:1-6a**.
- Burn up fiancé/father—slaughter by Samson **15:6b-8**.
- Samson bound, handed over—1000 at 'Jawbone Hill' **15:9-17**.
- Ambush playboy (harlot)—2½ ton gates 40 m. 3000 ft. **16:1-3**.
- 7 bowstrings **16:6-9**; new ropes **16:10-12**; loom **16:13-14**.

CXT: Lived his life accountable to no one. Content—contentiousness. Righteous—enraged. Θ's champion is broken—all the king's/all the king's men, couldn't put Samson... In the end Θ delivers him & turns tragedy into triumph. Θ turns a life of self into a final self-sacrifice.

ORT: **Js 1:14-16** *But each person is tempted when they are drawn away/enticed by their own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin & when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.*

CIS: Sin will always lead to disappointment, destruction & death.

PNP: 3 ways in which sin will destroy your life.

Way #1: Sin will dilute your power.

¹⁶ Because she nagged him day after day/pleaded w/him until she wore him out, ¹⁷ he told her *the whole truth* & said to her, "My hair has never been cut, because *I am a Nazirite* to Θ from birth. If I am shaved, my strength will leave me & I will become weak/be like any other man."

- **v17** Samson told Delilah that if she were to cut off his hair, then he would be weak like other men.
 - His hair was the one thing he had left of his Nazarite vow.
 - This shows the patience of Θ.

¹⁸ When Delilah realized that he had told her *the whole truth*, she sent the message to the Philistine leaders: SILVER \$150,000. ¹⁹ Then she let him fall asleep on her lap & called a man to shave off the 7 braids on his head. In this way, she made him *helpless*, & his strength left him. ²⁰ Then she cried, “Samson, the Philistines are here!” When he awoke from his sleep, he said, “*I will* escape as I did before & shake myself free.” **But he did not know that the LORD had left him.**

- **vv19-20** Samson’s strength was gone—she began to taunt him.
 - Strength wasn’t in his hair but in **HS** of Θ & the **S** was gone.
 - He was just like other men—but he DID NOT KNOW!
 - **H**ave you moved away from Θ? **A**re you far away even now?
 - **H**ave you compromised that power thru sin/apathy?
 - **I**s the power of Θ gone? **D**o you even know it?
 - Θ’s anointing power—**F**an may b-blowing but furnace out!
 - **W**hen Satan, the roaring lion—he will tear you apart.
 - **Y**ou’ll take the jawbone to fight world—defeat!
 - **W**hen you attempt to rip up the gates of the flesh—fall.

Way #2: Sin will disgrace your position.

²¹ The Philistines **seized him** & gouged out his eyes. They brought him down to Gaza/**bound him** w/bronze shackles, & he was forced to grind grain **in the prison**... ²³ Now the Philistine leaders gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to their god **Dagon**. They rejoiced & ²⁴ praised their god & said: **Our god** has handed over our enemy Samson to us.

- **v21** Took mighty man of Θ down while **S** of Θ was gone.
 - Depth of sin & depravity—binds, blinds, grinds.
 - **P**ut him in shackles—bound/enslaved by sin long before!
 - **G**ouged out his eyes—spiritually blind long before this!
 - **T**reated him like an animal & tied him to a post at the mill—grinding at the devil’s mill long before this!
- **vv23-24** The Philistines laughed & ridiculed him.
 - He gave the enemy opportunity to blaspheme. **P**aper.
 - He becomes a shame & a reproach to the people of Θ.

Way #3: Sin will diminish your potential.

²² But his hair began to grow back after it had been shaved.

- **v22** Phrase *his hair began to grow again* is a literary device.
 - **L**ike the Prodigal in the pigpen—Samson began to think.

- He began to pray to ☉—He began to repent.
- Brought so low that finally his eyes began to open spiritually.
- He asked for one more chance—☉ is a ☉ of mercy/forgiveness.

²⁵ took Samson from prison & he entertained them. They had him stand between the pillars. ²⁶ Samson said to the young man who was leading him by the hand, Lead me where I can feel the pillars bracing the temple, so I can lean against them.” ²⁷ The temple was full of men & women; all the leaders of the Philistines were there & about 3000 men & women were on the roof watching Samson entertain them. ²⁸ He called out to the LORD, “Lord ☉, please remember me. Strengthen me, ☉, just once more. W/one act of vengeance, let me pay back the Philistines for my 2 eyes.” ²⁹ Samson took hold of the 2 middle pillars supporting the temple & leaned against them, one on his right hand & the other on his left. ³⁰ Samson said, “Let me die w/Philistines.” He pushed w/all his might, & the temple fell on the leaders & all the people in it. & those he killed at his death were more than those he had killed in his life.

- **vv25-30** In Heaven – think of what he should/could have been.
 - Gold, silver, precious stones/**pile of wood, hay, & stubble.**

CIS: Sin will always lead to disappointment, destruction & death.

CEP: **Prov 25:28** *Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, w/o walls.*

- 1) **S** Self-control is not simply a fruit of the **S**—it is the Xian life (food, drink, speech, body).
- 2) **D** Don’t flirt w/temptation.
- 3) **M** Minimize sin – you don’t understand sin or the blood Sav. Salv.
- 4) **R** Remember we are at war w/an infernal enemy.
- 5) **P** Prioritize regular fellowship w/☉’s people.
- 6) **D** Don’t confuse the **S**’s presence w/His power!
- 7) **☉** gifts are not toys to play/with—they are tools to build/with.
- 8) **H** Honor the Lord’s name in all things.
- 9) **R** Repentance is an option until your last breath.
- 10) **☉** is as near as our cry.

Ps 50:15 *Call on me in a day of trouble; I will rescue you, & you will honor me.*

J loves me, this I know, for the **B** tells me so. Little ones to Him belong; they are **weak**, but He is strong—**J** loves me! Loves me still, tho’ I’m very **weak** & ill; that I might from sin be free— bled/died upon the tree.