

## **230322-4 Judges 14, 15, Samson's Beginning, Taking a Philistine Wife—CThurman**

In the last lesson Ephraim threatened to burn down Jephthah's house upon him for not calling them to fight with the men of Gilead against the Ammonites. At this Jephthah then gathered the men of Gilead to fight against them. To prevent Ephraim from returning to their land on the other side of the Jordan River the Gileadites immediately took the fords and put everyone that desired crossing to a test. Everyone that could say Shibboleth lived to cross the river, but everyone that said Sibboleth were slain. The Ephraimites could not frame to say the 'sh' sound. 40,000 of Ephraim died at that time.

Jephthah was the eighth judge, who ruled six years, followed by Ibzan who ruled seven years, Elon who ruled ten years, and Abdon who rule eight years. Then Israel apostatized and the LORD delivered them into the oppressive hand of the Philistines over the next 40 years. The LORD would *begin* to deliver or give to Israel a measure of peace from the Philistines by the next judge, whose name shall be called Samson. He sent an angel to Zorah, to a certain man of the tribe of Dan, named Manoah, which revealed that his son would be dedicated to the service of the LORD under the vow of the Nazarite beginning from the time that he is in the womb. So, during this time the child's mother may not eat anything produced of the grape tree or defile herself by eating any unclean thing. After the child is born this vow would continue on until the day of his death. And the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter ended by saying, '*Jud 13:24b, 25 ... and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.*' The child Samson has become a young man which the LORD began to *move* or *trouble*. *To move* or *trouble* likely refers to the LORD troubling Samson at what he sees is the suffering of his people. (cf. Ex.2.11)

### **Chapter 14**

**1 ¶ And Samson went down to Timnath,  
descended**

*went down, Qal fut. of the verb יָרַד, tss. to come down, to descend, to subdue, to bring down, to run down, to put down.*

This Timnath (Timnath-serah) is not the city where Joshua was buried. This is Timnah or perhaps Thimnathah which evidently belongs to the tribe of Judah but is on the border between that Judah and Dan share, divided by a river. (cf. Jos.15.10, 20, 57; 19.40, 43) Timnah is about 5 miles west of Zorah.

***and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.***

***2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother,***  
caused to tell

*and told*, Hiphil (causative act.) fut. of the verb **טָלַן**, tss. *to tell* (vss.6, 9, 16 [three times], 17), *to show, to utter, to declare* (v.12, twice, 13, *to certainly declare [the infin. & part. combined]*), *to report, to denounce, to profess, to expound* (v.14, 15, 19), *to betray, to show forth*.

***and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.***

*get*, Qal imper. of the verb **לָקַח**, tss. *to get, to take, to marry, to reserve, to have, to fetch*. (***get*** (14.2); ***he had taken*** (14.3); ***that they brought*** (14.11); ***and took*** (14.19); ***he had taken*** (15.6))

***3 Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among***  
not

***the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she*** ***pleaseth me well.***

is pleasing in my eyes

*pleaseth*, Qal pret. of the verb **יָשַׁר**, tss. v.3, *pleaseth ... well*; v.7, *she pleased ... well*; also, *to be right, to be upright, to make straight, to direct*.

יָדַע

**4 But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he**  
(the LORD)

**sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines**  
opportunity

*sought*, Piel (intensive act.) part. of the verb שָׁקַף, tss. *to seek, to request, to inquire, to require.*

*an occasion*, תִּצְנָה, a fem. noun, only this once in the OT; the verb תִּצְנָה, is tss. *to deliver, to befall, to happen, to seek a quarrel.*

**had dominion over Israel.**

*had dominion*, Qal. part. Poel of the verb מָשַׁל, tss. *to reign, to rule, to have dominion, to have power, to be governor.*

The LORD uses Samson's love of this one woman to create the opportunity to bring His servant against the Philistines.

Israel was commanded against marrying women of the nations of Canaan.

*Deu.7.3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.*

*4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.*

Though the LORD turns the marriage into an occasion to bring Samson against the Philistines, Samson's act against the word of God concerning marrying a woman of the nations of Canaan brings its consequences. Yes, the LORD used it all for good, but Samson certainly suffers the hurt, the anger, the offenses and, the sorrow of loss, and in the end a terrible fall. But there's no denying that he was counted a man of faith. (cf. He.11.32)

Given what revelation that the LORD had given to Israel he was a faithful man.

Every faithful man, every overcomer is still a sinner among men. But they yield themselves with their imperfections to be used of the Lord to glorify Jesus Christ. Isn't this what Hebrews chapter 11 teaches us?

*Heb 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*

*40 God having provided (προβλέπω, foreseen) some better thing for (concerning) us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*

**5 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him.**

*young, כִּפְיֹר, a masc. noun tss. young, lion, young lion, villages.*

*lion, אֲרִי, a masc. noun tss. lion.*

**6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him,**

*came mightily, Qal fut. of the verb פָּצַח, also tss. to prosper, to go over, to come, to be good, to break out.*

**and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand:**

*and he rent him, Piel (intensive act.) fut. of the verb שָׁסַע, tss. to cleave, to rent, to stay (marg. 'cut off). Also, as he would have rent, is Piel infin.*

*a kid, גִּדָּי, a masc. noun always tss. kid. 15.1,,*

So, with only his hands he tore that lion as if it was a new-born lamb or goat.

1Sa.17.34 *And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:*

35 *And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered [it] out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught [him] by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.*

2Sa.23.20 *And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow ...*

***but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.***

Perhaps the strength that he found surprised him.

**7 *And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.***

**8 *And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion:***

*carcase, מַפְלֵת, fem. noun, tss. a carcase, a fall, the ruin.*

דְּבוֹרִים

***and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion.***  
d'boh-reem

*honey, דְּבַשׁ, a masc. noun always tss. honey.*

It's my understanding that the carcass would have been dried out by now rather than in a state of decomposition.

**9 *And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating,***  
(walking)

and he took thereof, Qal fut.; he had taken, Qal pret. of the verb  
הָרַח. tss. to take (2). the Interlinear Bible (J. P. Green, Sr.) tss.  
scraped, so perhaps Samson scooped out with his hands the honey.

**and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat:  
but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.  
10 ¶ So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast;  
for so [used] the young men to do.**

feast, מְשֻׁתָּה, a masc. noun tss. a feast, drink, banquet.

young, בְּחֹרֶר, a masc. noun tss. young man, choice young man.

**11 And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty  
companions to be with him.**

(of the Philistines)

companions, מְרֵעִ, a masc. noun tss. friends, companions.

They, the woman and her father, invited thirty companions to be with  
Samson. (comp. v.15)

**12 And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you:**

riddle, הַיְדָה, a fem. noun tss. dark speeches, riddle, hard questions,  
dark sentences, proverb.

**if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it  
out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments:**

sheets, שֵׁטֵי, a masc. noun tss. sheets (Wigram marg. 'shirts'), fine  
linen.

garments, בְּגָדִים, a masc. noun tss. raiment, clothes, garments,  
apparel.

**13 But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it.**

**14 And he said unto them, Out of the <sup>אֵצֶי</sup> eater came forth meat,**  
the consumer issued food

**and out of the strong <sup>אֵצֶי</sup> came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days**

*strong, אֵצֶי, an adj. tss. power, fierce, mighty, strong.*

*sweetness, מִתּוֹק, an adj. tss. sweetness, sweet.*

**expound the riddle.**

i.e., solve

*expound, of the verb נָגַד, tss. to tell, to shew, to declare, to report, to profess, v.19. See v.2.*

**15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle,**

Convince

*entice, Piel imper. of the verb פָּתָה, tss. to deceive, to entice, to be a silly one, to persuade.*

**lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? is it not so?**

possess

*burn, Qal fut. of the verb שָׂרַף, tss. to burn (oft), to kindle (1).*

*to take that we have, Qal infin. of the verb שָׂרַף, tss. to possess, to succeed, to enjoy, to inherit, etc.*

In other words, prove that you're inviting us to be Samson's companions was not so that he might take our possessions by getting the answer for the riddle.

**16 And Samson's wife wept before him, and said,**

*wept, of the verb בָּכַדָּ, tss. to weep, to bewail, to mourn.*

**Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle**

*hate, of the verb אִנַּשׁ, tss. to hate, to be an enemy, to be odious.*

*lovest me, of the verb אָהַב, tss. to love, to like, to be a friend, to be beloved, to be a lover.*

**unto the children of my people, and hast not told it me.**

sons

**And he said unto her, Behold, I have not told it my father nor my mother, and shall I tell it thee?**

**17 And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted:**

Evidently Samson's bride had been plying him for the answer to the riddle even before the companions came to her with threatenings.

**and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him:**

– pressed –

*she lay sore upon him, of the verb צִוָּק, tss. to lay upon, to press, to distress, to be in a strait, to oppress, to constrain.*

**and she told the riddle to the children of her people.**

sons (those of Samson's Philistine companions)

**18 And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day**

(the companions)

**before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion?**

(cf. Pv.30.30)



*Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. Ans.*

*What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion?*

***And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.***

*ye had ... plowed, of the verb שָׂרַף, tss. to plow, to ear [the act of plowing] (the ground) ...*

***19 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon,***

Ashkelon is a coastal town about 26 miles southwest of Timnath.

***and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle.***

*told, declared, showed; i.e., solved*

*spoil, שָׁלַח, a fem. noun tss. spoil (1), armour (1).*

***And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.***

***20 But Samson's wife was [given] to his companion,***  
(of the Philistines)

***whom he had used as his friend.***

*he had used as his friend, Piel (intensive act.) pret. of the verb רָעָה, tss. to feed, to be a keeper, to be a shepherd, to be a companion.*

## Chapter 15

***1 ¶ But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest,***

The mention of the time of wheat harvest so that we understand the standing fields of grain.

**that Samson visited his wife with a kid;**

visited, of the verb פָּקַד, tss. *to visit, to appoint, to number, to remember, to count, etc.*

**and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in.**

give (permission)

chamber, חֶדֶר, a masc. noun tss. *a chamber, within, inner chamber, innermost parts, inward parts.*

**2 And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her;**

*De 22:13 If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her ...*

טוֹבָה

**therefore I gave her to thy companion: is not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her.**

better

**3 And Samson said concerning them,**

(His wife's father and the rest of Philistines.)

**Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure.**

an evil

*shall I be ... blameless, of the verb נָקָה, tss. to be clear, to be quit, to be free, to be guiltless, to be blameless, to be innocent, to be desolate, etc.*

**4 And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, torches**

**and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails torch**

firebrand, לִפְיֵד, a masc. noun tss. a lamp, lightning, firebrand,  
brands, burning lamps, torches.

**5 And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn**  
kindled fire on the torch stalks of wheat

standing corn, קִמָּה, a fem. noun tss. standing corn, corn, grown up,  
stalk.

**of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn,**  
stacked stalks of wheat

shocks, שִׁבְיָ, a masc. noun tss. stacks of corn (1), shocks (1), shock of  
corn (1), tomb (1).

**with the vineyards and olives.**  
oliveyards

**6 Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson,**  
**the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his**  
**companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire.**

**7 And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged**  
**of you, and after that I will cease.**

forbear, let alone

will I be avenged, of the verb נָקַם, tss. to avenge, to revenge.

I will cease, Qal fut. of the verb נָטַף, tss. to forbear, to leave, to  
unoccupy, to let alone.

**8 And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter:**

smote, of the verb נָכַח, tss. to smite, to punish, to slay, to kill, to  
strike, to beat, to give stripes.

hip, שׁוֹק, a masc. noun tss. *shoulder, leg, hip, thigh.*

thigh, יָרֵךְ, a fem. noun tss. *thigh, loins, side, body.*

slaughter, מִכָּה, a fem. noun tss. *a plague, stripes, slaughter, wound, beat, sores, blow.*

Probably literally refers to the places Samson gave severe, crippling death-blows.

‘Smiting hip and thigh is a proverbial expression for a cruel, unsparing slaughter ...’ Keil & Delitzche

***and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.***

top, רֵעֵי, a masc. noun tss. *the top, the outmost (fruitful branches), the branches, the cliffs of (the rocks).*

Etam is located in north-central Judah. Diagonally (almost 45 degrees southward, from west to east) from Bethshemesh, to Lehi, to Etam.

**9 ¶ Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves**

– \*forayed –

\*foray – a sudden, irregular invasion or attack; a raid.

Interlinear Bible, J. P. Green, Sr.

*spread themselves*, Niphal (simple pass.) fut.of the verb שָׁטַח, tss. *to lay still, to be loosed*; perhaps like ‘drawn out.

– בְּלֵחִי –

***in Lehi***

The place of the Jawbone

So to come to Lehi they came up river passing beneath Zorah, passing Bethshemesh, which is on the other side of the river, and inside Judah’s

territory to Lehi. Etam appears to be about 9 miles to the south and east of Lehi.

**10 And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.**

*to bind*, Qal infin. of the verb אָטַר, and found with reference to Samson in 15.10, 12, 13 (3 times); 16.5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 (2 times), 12, 13, 21 (2 times, see *prison*), 25, *prison*.

The Philistines have come to imprison Samson so that they might do to him as he has to them. Samson killed *them*, and they desire to *kill* Samson.

**11 Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us?**  
reigning

*rulers*, Qal part. Poel of the verb מָשַׁל, tss. *to reign, to rule, to have power, to govern, to have dominion*.

A large party of the tribe of Judah go up to Samson.

**what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them.**  
(so much evil) (the same)

Instead of seeing that the LORD was with Samson as their judge and deliverer the men of the tribe of Judah blame Samson for bringing the Philistines against them to battle. Their purpose is clear ...

**12 And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves.**

light, meet, meaning *kill*. v.13

swear, of the verb שָׁבַע, tss. to swear, to charge, to charge with an oath, to adjure.

ye will ... fall, of the verb פָּגַע, tss. to light, to meet, to fall upon, to intreat, to meet together, to come, to reach.

**13 And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast,**  
binding we will bind you,

נָתַן  
**and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee.**  
give

**And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock.**  
ropes

cords, עֲבֹת, a common noun tss. wreathen (work), cord (vss., 13, 14), rope (vss. 11, 12), band, thick branch.

קָרָא  
**14 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him:**  
caused a cry to meet him

shouted, Hiphil (causative act.) pret. of the verb קָרַע, tss. to smart, to destroy, to shout, to blow an alarm, to cry an alarm, a joyful noise, to cry aloud, to sound an alarm, to cry out, to triumph.

**and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords**  
prospered ropes

and ... came mightily, Qal fut. of the verb צָלַח, tss. to come, to come over, to prosper, to profit, to break out, to come mightily.

**that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands**

flax, פִּשְׁתָּהּ, a masc. noun tss. linen, flax.

**loosed from off his hands.**  
melted on

*loosed*, of the verb מָטַט, tss. *to faint, to melt, to refuse, to melt away, to loose, to discourage.*

– שָׁח –  
**15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand,**  
to stretch, send

*new*, טָרֵי, an adj. tss. *new, putrifying*; the Interlinear Bible has ‘*fresh.*’

*jawbone*, לָחֵי, a masc. noun tss. *two cheeks, jawbone, jaw, cheek bone.*

*ass*, חֲמֹר, a masc. noun always tss. *ass, heaps*; and *upon heaps*, the fem. dual number, חֲמֹרֵתַיִם.

A new jawbone as opposed to one that might be dry and brittle.

**and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.**  
with it

**16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps,**

*heaps*, חֲמֹר, a masc. noun tss. *mortar, heap, homer, clay, mire.*  
(Wigram, *Englishman’s Hebrew Concordance* errs on this word.)

**with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.**

**17 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi.**

The Place of the Lifting up  
of the Jawbone, or, The  
High Place of the Jawbone

*Ramath*, רַמְתָּה, a fem. noun tss. *Ramath, high place*; Wigram marg.  
‘*The lifting up of the Jawbone, or, casting away of the jawbone.*’

**18 ¶ And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said,**  
exceeding

נָתַן

**Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now**

See how Samson attributed the victory to the LORD. He became aware that the LORD would use him as a judge in Israel to give relief to the nation from some of the oppression they suffered under the hand of the Philistines.

נָפַל

**shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?**

*and he was sore athirst, of the verb אָצַמָּה, to thirst, to be athirst; the adj., אָצַמָּה, is tss. thirsty; the fem. noun אָצַמָּה, is only once & tss. thirst.*

**19 But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw,**  
broke [open] lit. the hollow place which is in Lehi

*clave, of the verb בָּקַע, tss. to divide, to hatch, to rend, to rip, to cleave (Is. 48.21, see below), to break, to make a breach.*

*hollow place, מַכְתֵּשׁ, a masc. noun found once more in the OT, in a mortar (Pv.27.22); perhaps something of a cave.*

Perhaps the idea is that God broke open a hollow place, a cavern near to where Samson had picked up the jawbone.

*Ex.17.5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.*

*6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. (And later, in Nu.20.7-11; also, Deu.8.15; Ne.9.15)*



*Isa 48:21 And they thirsted not [when] he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave (בָּקַע) the rock also, and the waters gushed out.*

***and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof En-hak-kor'-ē, of it (that place)***

*Enhakkore, עֵיַן הַקּוֹרֵא, The Spring, Fountain, Well of Him that Calleth.*

*עַיִן, common noun eye, fountain, sight, well, etc.*

*קָרָא, verb, to call, to proclaim, to name, etc.*

***which is in Lehi unto this day.***

***which*** (well, spring, fountain) ***is in Lehi unto this day*** – not referring to the new jawbone, but either to the *hollow place* (cavern) or to the spring of water.

***20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.***

That is, during this next period of twenty years with the Philistines Samson began to judge Israel. There was the first forty years of Philistine oppression followed by twenty in which the LORD by Samson gave to Israel a measure of relief from their oppressor.