

DELILAH JUDGES 16

SAMSON WAS THE JUDGE (DELIVERER) OF ISRAEL FOR 20 YEARS.

--- He was a Levite with a Nazarite vow and his mission was to free the people of Israel from the oppression of the Philistines.

--- He was an immoral man, but he was used by God to overcome the Philistines.

---Judges 16:4-6, "After this it came to pass that he fell in love with a woman in the valley of Sorec, whose name was Delilah." Commentators say she was a Philistine. But the text doesn't say it. Sorech was a valley between Judah and the Philistine territory.

- Nor does the text say that Samson and Delilah were married. There is nothing about "taking her home." And it says nothing about an intimate relationship.
- The text does not say that Delilah loved Samson. All her conduct indicated that he was a mere puppet manipulated by her for her carnal purposes. It is reasonable to conclude that the Philistine princes knew that Delilah did not love Samson and that she would be willing to cooperate with them because they paid her a small fortune to do so.

---⁵And the princes of the Philistines came to her, and said to her, persuade him and inform yourself in what his great strength consists, and how we might overcome him, that we may bind him and master him;

... There was no doubt as to the purpose of the Philistines. They explained clearly what they wanted to do with Samson *and she cooperated with them.*

- Very curious and strange behavior! Encourage a woman to betray this man who was so in love with her?
- It is obvious that these princes knew Delilah and believed that they could take advantage of Samson's love (sensual infatuation) to discover the secret of his physical strength.
- **--- and each of us will give you one thousand one hundred shekels of silver. "** (about \$3000).
- If Delilah had been a Philistine, probably the princes would have ordered her to do what they proposed to help their people and not even mention a reward.
- But it is obvious that with that wealth she tormented Samson until he relented.
- **⁶And Delilah said to Samson, "I beg you to declare to me what your great strength consists of, and how you can be bound to be dominated (LBLA afflicted)."**
- --- What she asks for is language of a person who has become irrational. She wanted to know how Samson could be dominated (punished, afflicted? And Samson was madly in love with such a woman? Unbelievable!
- And he didn't ask her why she wanted to afflict or dominate him?

- Samson turned Delilah's request into a game that makes his behavior even more senseless. Samson tells her outright lies, as if mocking her for asking for his secret. --- Why didn't he ask her why she was so interested in his physical strength? How did she intend to use that knowledge if she achieved her purpose?
--- **Judges 16:10, "You have deceived me and told me lies." She became very impatient with Samson because he did not want to cooperate with her to destroy him.**
---Hearing that complaint from her he just repeats the game. What did he expect from her after treating her that way?
- -- This raises doubts about Samson's sanity. Obviously, it was in his interest to flee from that woman as Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife.

Judges 16:16, "¹⁶And it came to pass that, when she pressed him every day with her words and urged him, his soul was distressed unto death."

- Instead of rebuking her Samson simply let that woman reduce him "to mortal anguish".
- **Judges 16:17, "Therefore all his heart discovered him, and said to him, 'Never came a knife upon my head; because I am a Nazarite of God from my mother's womb. If I be shaved, my strength will depart from me, and I will weaken and be like all men.'**
- -- We are surprised to observe the man who is the strongest man in the world physically, but totally weak mentally and morally.
- Delilah was adept at manipulating this man who so despised his miraculous gift from God and his sacred Nazarite vow.
- **Judges 16:18, "Delilah seeing that he had discovered all her heart to her, she sent to call the chiefs of the Philistines, saying, Come this time, for he has discovered all his heart to me. And the chiefs of the Philistines came to her, bringing money in their hand. "**
- Delilah sold Samson for a fortune of money. She became rich and Samson was blinded and enslaved.
- **Judges 16:19, "And she caused him to fall asleep on her knees (how naïve can a man get?), and called a man, who shaved the seven trenzas from his head; and she began to afflict him, for his strength departed from him.**
²⁰**And she said unto him, Samson, the Philistines upon you! And after he awoke from his sleep, he said to himself: This time I will go out like the others and I will escape. But he did not know that Jehovah had already departed from him."**
- **What did Delilah think of Samson's heroic and final act?** Would it have been possible for her to be among those who perished in the collapse of the temple?