

The Book of
JUDGES

Testing the Heart of God's Children



Missing the Point

Judges 15:1-20
Lesson 15

Introduction

Samson, the "deliverer,"- never leads his people out in battle or to a military victory. Samson, God's leader - never fights a battle for God's honor but only for his own revenge, bringing Philistine retaliation as the consequence of his own actions. Samson, God's agent - never publicly gives praise to the Lord or even prays publicly. He was a man of appetites and impulses. His code of life was "If it feels right do it."

Samson was the only one who stood between Israel and peace with their enemy. Where there is no conflict is it because the world has taken over. Israel is in such spiritual decline that they no longer serve God or recognize His judge. Even Samson doesn't accept his responsibility, but carries out his own vendetta. In spite of their spiritual condition, God's purpose won't be thwarted. God begins to rescue His people by prompting conflict with their physical and spiritual masters.

Being confident of this very thing, He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; Phil. 1:6-7



Looking for Gold - What does it say?

The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Setting the scene: Read Is. 41:8-20 for added insight. Use an atlas or other sources to place the cities in the appropriate place on your map. Pay attention to who's inheritance they are occupying.

Judges 15:1-8

1 After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, "Let me go in to my wife, into her room." But her father would not permit him to go in.

2 Her father said, "I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead."

3 And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!" 4 Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. 5 When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves.

6 Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?"

And they answered, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.

7 Samson said to them, "Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease." 8 So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam.



Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

Judges 15:9-17

9 Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi. **10** And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?"

So they answered, "We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us." **11** Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them."

12 But they said to him, "We have come down to arrest you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines." Then Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves."

13 So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

14 When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. **15** He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it. **16** Then Samson said: "With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!"

17 And so it was, when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi.

Judges 15:18-20

18 Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to the Lord and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

19 So God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

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



Boiling it Down – What does it mean?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Judges 15:1-8 _____

Judges 15:9-17 _____

Judges 15:18-20 _____



Refined as Gold - How can I apply it?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Judges 15:1-8 _____

Judges 15:9-17 _____

Judges 15:18-20 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Storing up Your Treasure . . .

What did God say? Judges 13:4-5

What was Samson's motive for destroying the Philistine crops?

What is Israel's spiritual condition? v 11-12

How did God use Samson's captivity to further His purposes?

What words or phrases are repeated?

Checking for Clarity: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Judges 15:1-8 _____

Judges 15:9-17 _____

Judges 15:18-20 _____

Bars of Gold: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles: Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?



Hide Your Treasure in your Heart

Being confident of this very thing, He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ Phil. 1:6-7

Radiating His Truth . . .

Samson missed the point . . . His wasn't to be a personal vendetta but a God given mission. – Gary Inrig

