

JUDGES CHAPTER 15

¹ And it came to pass after a time, in the days of wheat harvest, that Sampson visited his wife with a young goat, and said, "I will go in to my wife even into the chamber." But her father did not allow him to go in. ² And her father spoke, saying, "I said that you surely did hate her, and I gave her to one of your friends: is not her younger sister better than she? Let her be to you instead of her." ³ And Sampson said to them, "Even for once am I guiltless with regard to the Philistines, in that I do mischief among them." ⁴ And Sampson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned *the foxes* tail to tail, and put a torch between two tails, and fastened it. ⁵ And he set fire to the torches, and sent *the foxes* into the grain of the Philistines; and everything was burnt from the threshing floor to the standing grain, and even to the vineyard and olives. ⁶ And the Philistines said, "Who *has done* these things?" And they said, "Sampson the son in law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife, and given her to one of his friends." And the Philistines went up, and burned her and her father's house with fire.

⁷ And Sampson said to them, "Though you may have dealt thus with her, verily I will be avenged of you, and afterwards I will cease." ⁸ And he struck them, leg on thigh, *with* a great overthrow; and went down and dwelt in a cave of the rock of Etam.

⁹ And the Philistines went up, and encamped in Judah, and spread themselves abroad in Lehi. ¹⁰ And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" And the Philistines said, "We have come up to bind Sampson, and to do to him as he has done to us." ¹¹ And the three thousand men of Judah went down to the hole of the rock Etam, and they said to Sampson, "Don't you know that the Philistines rule over us? And what *is* this *that* you have done to us?" And Sampson said to them, "As they did to me, so have I done to them." ¹² And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you, to deliver you into the hand of the Philistines." And Sampson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not fall upon me yourselves." ¹³ And they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will only bind you securely, and deliver you into their hand, and will by no means kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes, and brought him from that rock.

¹⁴ And they came to Lehi. And the Philistines shouted, and ran to meet him. And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the ropes that were upon his arms became as flax which is burned with fire; and his bonds were consumed from off his hands. ¹⁵ And he found the jawbone of a donkey that had been cast away, and he put forth his hand and took it, and he struck down a thousand men with it. ¹⁶ And Sampson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey I have utterly destroyed them, for with the jawbone of a donkey I have struck down a thousand men." ¹⁷ And it came to pass when he ceased speaking, that he cast the jawbone out of his hand; and he called that place the Lifting of the Jawbone.

¹⁸ And he was very thirsty, and wept before the Lord, and said, "You have been well pleased to grant 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 And God broke open a hollow place in the jaw, and there came out water, and he

drank; and his spirit returned and he revived. Therefore the name of the fountain was called The Well of the Invoker, which is in Lehi, to this day. ²⁰ And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.