### Judges

## Chapter 15

1Well, sometime later (during the wheat harvest), Samson went to visit his wife, bringing along a kid goat.  
  
And he said:  
  
 ‘I want to go in to my woman… Into her bedroom.’  
  
2But her father spoke to him and said:  
  
 ‘Because I felt that you must surely hate her, I gave her to one of your friends. Now, isn’t her sister better than her? Let her [sister] become yours instead!’  
  
3And Samson said:  
  
 ‘Well, I finally have a good reason to harm the Philistines, and no one can blame me.’  
  
4So Samson trapped 300 foxes. He paired the foxes and tied each pair’s tails together, and tied torches to their tails... 5Then he lit the torches and released the foxes into the Philistine’s grain fields, and everything that they owned (their threshing floors, their fields of grain, their vineyards, and their olive groves) was burned.  
  
6Well, when the Philistines asked:  
  
 ‘Who did this?’  
  
They were told:  
  
 ‘It was Samson, the son-in-law of the Thamnite… Because he gave [Samson’s] woman to one of his friends!’  
  
As a result, the Philistines went and burned down the house of Samson’s father-in-law, with his woman inside it.  
  
7Then Samson went to them and said:  
  
 ‘Because you did this to her, I’m going to get even… For, only then will I be satisfied!’  
  
8So he cut off all of their legs to their thighs and left… And he went down and lived in a cave in So he cut off all of their legs to their thighs and left… And he went down and lived in a cave in <span class="placename">The Rock of EtamSo he cut off all of their legs to their thighs and left… And he went down and lived in a cave in <span class="placename">The Rock of Etam</span>.  
  
  
9Well, sometime thereafter, the Philistines went into Judah and set up camp all around Lechi. 10And when the men of Judah asked why they were getting ready to attack them, the Philistines replied:  
  
 ‘We’ve come here to capture Samson; for we want to deal with him in the same way that he dealt with us!’  
  
11So, 3,000 men of Judah went down to the Hole in The Rock of Etam and said to Samson:  
  
 ‘Don’t you know that the Philistines rule this country… What have you done to us?’  
  
And Samson replied:  
  
 ‘I’ve just treated them the way that they’ve treated me.’  
  
12And they said:  
  
 ‘Well, we’ve come here to take you and hand you over to the Philistines.’  
  
Then Samson told them:  
  
 ‘Swear to me that you won’t do anything bad to me yourselves.’  
  
13And they promised:  
  
 ‘No, we’ll just tie you up and hand you over to them… We won’t kill you.’  
  
So they tied him up with two new ropes and led him away from the Rock.  
  
14Well, when they reached [the place that he later called] ‘Well, when they reached [the place that he later called] ‘<span class="placename">The JawWell, when they reached [the place that he later called] ‘<span class="placename">The Jaw</span>,’ the Philistines started shouting and they all ran to meet him. Then the Breath of Jehovah came down upon him and the ropes became like burned hemp in his arms… They just melted away!  
  
15And noticing the jawbone of a burro that had been tossed aside, he reached down and picked it up, and he [used it to] strike down 1,000 men.  
  
16Then Samson [sang this song]:  
  
 ‘With a burro’s jaw, I destroyed them…  
 A thousand men, I cut down  
 With the bone of a burro.’  
  
17Thereafter, he threw the jawbone away… And that’s when he started calling that place,  
  
 ‘Destroyed by the Jaw.’  
  
  
18Meanwhile, he’d become extremely thirsty; so he called to Jehovah and said:  
  
 ‘Although it has pleased You to use Your servant’s hands to bring about this great deliverance; must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?’  
  
19That’s when God broke open a hole in the ground [near] that jawbone, from which water started flowing! So he drank it, his spirit was renewed, and he regained his strength. Then he named that spring, ‘The Well of the Calling,’ which is still in Lechi today.  
  
20Well, after that, [Samson] Judged IsraEl for 20 years (during the period of Philistine [domination]).