

“saviors” Need The Savior

## Judges 15:1-2

After some days, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife with a young goat. And he said, “I will go in to my wife in the chamber.” But her father would not allow him to go in. And her father said, “I really thought that you utterly hated her, so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please take her instead.”

## Judges 15:3-5

And Samson said to them, “This time I shall be innocent in regard to the Philistines, when I do them harm.” So Samson went and caught 300 foxes and took torches. And he turned them tail to tail and put a torch between each pair of tails. And when he had set fire to the torches, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines and set fire to the stacked grain and the standing grain, as well as the olive orchards.

## Judges 15:6-8

Then the Philistines said, “Who has done this?” And they said, “Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion.” And the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire. And Samson said to them, “If this is what you do, I swear I will be avenged on you, and after that I will quit.” And he struck them hip and thigh with a great blow, and he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

## Judges 15:9-11

Then the Philistines came up and encamped in Judah and made a raid on Lehi. And the men of Judah said, “Why have you come up against us?” They said, “We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him as he did to us.” Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, “Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?” And he said to them, “As they did to me, so have I done to them.”

## Judges 15:12-13

And they said to him, “We have come down to bind you, that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines.” And Samson said to them, “Swear to me that you will not attack me yourselves.” They said to him, “No; we will only bind you and give you into their hands. We will surely not kill you.” So they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

## Judges 15:14-16

When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men. And Samson said,

Judges 15:16-17

“With the jawbone of a donkey,  
heaps upon heaps,  
with the jawbone of a donkey  
have I struck down a thousand men.”

As soon as he had finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone out of his hand. And that place was called Ramath-lehi.

## Judges 15:18-19

And he was very thirsty, and he called upon the LORD and said, “You have granted this great salvation by the hand of your servant, and shall I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?” And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore the name of it was called En-hakkore; it is at Lehi to this day.

Judges 15:20

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

Judges 15:1

After some days, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife with a **young goat**. And he said, “I will go in to my wife in the chamber.”

Judges 14:20

And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

Judges 15:2

But her father would not allow him to go in.

And her father said, “I really thought that you utterly hated her, so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please take her instead.”

## Judges 15:3-5

And Samson said to them, “This time I shall be innocent in regard to the Philistines, when I do them harm.” So Samson went and caught 300 foxes and took torches. And he turned them tail to tail and put a torch between each pair of tails. And when he had set fire to the torches, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines and set fire to the **stacked grain** and the standing grain, as well as **the olive orchards**.

Exodus 22:6

If fire breaks out and catches in thorns so that the stacked grain or the standing grain or the field is consumed, he who started the fire shall make full restitution.

Judges 15:6

Then the Philistines said, “Who has done this?”  
And they said, “Samson, the son-in-law of the  
Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given  
her to his companion.” And the Philistines came  
up and **burned her and her father with fire.**

Judges 14:15

On the fourth day they said to Samson's wife,  
“Entice your husband to tell us what the riddle  
is, **lest we burn you and your father's house  
with fire.** Have you invited us here to  
impoverish us?”

Judges 14:2-3

And Samson said to them, “If this is what you do, I swear I will be avenged on you, **and after that I will quit.**” And he struck them hip and thigh with a great blow, and he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

Many a family, clan or tribe has been wiped out, and its rivals decimated, in some of the feuds that have gone on for generations. At some point there has to be the absorption of wrong done, without retaliation, a fact illustrated supremely by Christ's death on a cross.

- Leon Morris



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Here is a people who have acquiesced to bondage, who can no longer imagine anything beyond the status quo, who see deliverance as a threat to peace, who look upon Yahweh's enemies as their rightful lords. Israel is a people who can forsake Yahweh instantly but who would not think of being faithless to the Philistines! What a pitiful question!

- Dale Ralph Davis



Judges 15:12-13

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They said to him, “No; we will only bind you and give you into their hands. We will surely not kill you.”

Judges 15:14-16

When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the **Spirit of the LORD** rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. And he found a **fresh jawbone** of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he **struck 1,000 men.**

Judges 14:5-6

And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring. Then the **Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him**, and although he had nothing in his hand, he **tore the lion in pieces** as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

If Samson is going to employ such an inferior weapon, why does he not just use his bare hands? The donkey's jawbone is meant to be viewed as a ridiculous. It clearly holds no value to Samson as he discards it as soon as the battle subsides.

– Chandler Vinson



Judges 3:31

After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.

The difference is pronounced. Shamgar saved Israel; Samson did not. Shamgar's motive was to aid Israel; Samson's motive is personal revenge.

- K. Lawson Younger



Judges 15:16

“With the jawbone of a donkey,  
**heaps** upon heaps,  
with the jawbone of a **donkey**  
have I struck down a thousand men.”

With the jawbone of an ass  
I have piled them in a mass!

Judges 15:17

As soon as he had finished speaking, he  
threw away the jawbone out of his hand.  
And that place was called Jawbone Hill

Judges 15:18

And he was **very thirsty**, and he called upon the LORD and said, “You have **granted this great salvation** by the hand of your servant, and shall I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?”

The man who had not feared when he was delivered, bound, into the camp of the enemy now shrank in fear and distrust at the prospect of death through thirst, with the probability of the Philistines returning to mutilate his corpse. The scene is so typically human.

- Leon Morris



Judges 15:19

And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore the name of it was called Caller's Spring it is at Lehi to this day.

Judges 15:20

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

The God who brings his people out of Egypt will surely fill every lesser need. Samson had to rename the place: Jawbone Hill became Caller's Spring. God's servants often do that, whenever they realize their endurance does not come from their own adrenaline but from Yahweh's refreshing grace.

- Dale Ralph Davis

