

Rebellion, Ruin and Rescue  
**JUDGES**



The  
Samson Cycle  
(Judges 13-16)

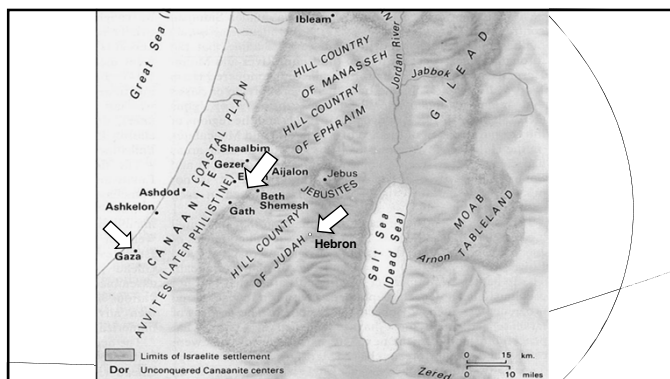
Samson (pt. 4): Tragedy and Triumph  
**Judges 16:1-31**

Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.

<sup>2</sup> When it was told to the Gazites, saying, "Samson has come here," they surrounded *the place* and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. And they kept silent all night, saying, "*Let us wait* until the morning light, then we will kill him."

<sup>3</sup> Now Samson lay until midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the city gate and the two posts and pulled them up along with the bars; then he put them on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of the mountain which is opposite Hebron.

(Judges 16:1-3)



<sup>17</sup> So he told her all *that* was in his heart and said to her, "A razor has never come on my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will leave me and I will become weak and be like any *other* man."

"...But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him."

## Samson (pt. 4)

### 1. The Tragedy of Yahweh's Forsaken Servant

- Samson completely repudiated his calling as the Lord's set apart deliverer, and thus, the Lord departed from him
- *warning* – forsaking the Lord brings disastrous consequences

*(Samson personifies the nation of Israel)*

## Samson (pt. 4)

### 2. The Triumph of Yahweh's Weak Servant

- in his weakness and death Samson achieved his greatest victory
- *hopeful* – the Lord heard the cry of His fallen, now desperate servant

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*Samson fulfilled his destiny as the Lord's deliverer!*

## Samson (pt. 4)

### God's unexpected means of deliverance:

- things are not what they appear...the occasion of the Philistine victory celebration becomes the occasion of Yahweh's great triumph
- the death of Yahweh's deliverer is His means of achieving His people's deliverance

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*Samson prefigures God's final deliverer, Jesus*