

## **Samson and Delilah**

Judges 16

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Samson went to a Philistine city and spent the night with a prostitute. Threatened by some men, he tore the city gate out of its place and carried it to the top a hill.

Later, Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. Some Philistine officials promised her a huge amount of money if she would help them capture Samson.

Delilah asked Samson, "What is the secret of your great strength?"

Samson gave her several different answers, none of which, when she tried them, had any effect. "Tie me up with seven new bowstrings and I'll be as weak as any other man." "Tie me up with new ropes." "Braid my hair into your loom." He was just toying with her.

Delilah pouted. "How can you say you love me when you don't confide in me?" She nagged him until he finally told her the truth.

"My hair has never been cut. If my head were shaved, my strength would be gone."

That night the Philistines came, bringing the money they had promised. Delilah lulled Samson to sleep and shaved off his hair. When he woke up, his strength was gone because the Lord had left him. The Philistines captured Samson, gouged out his eyes, chained him, and forced him to push a heavy millstone. But before long his hair started to grow back.

During a festival in the temple of the Philistine god, Samson was brought out so the people could taunt him. He was made to stand between the two pillars that supported the roof. Samson prayed, "Lord, give me strength one more time." He put his hands on the pillars and pushed against them with all his might. The pillars fell and the temple collapsed. Samson killed over three thousand Philistines that day and died with them.