

## Strong Samson

There once was a man named Samson. Samson was very strong. God made him strong. Before Samson was born, God sent a messenger to tell his mother just how special her baby boy would be. The messenger told Samson's mother that he would help her people; the Israelites fight against the Philistines. The messenger told her that she must never cut Samson's hair because he would be a Nazarite unto God and live his life for God's service. Samson's strength would be in his hair. If he never cut his hair, he would always be strong.

As Samson grew, people began to notice his strength. Samson could fight many men at the same time. He even killed a lion with his bare hands. One time, Samson killed 1000 men using the jawbone of a donkey. The Philistines knew that they could not have power over the Israelites if Samson was fighting for them. They knew if they could figure out Samson's secret, they could capture him and then take over. So, they watched him very carefully.

One day Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. When the Philistines found out he was in love, they went to Delilah and asked her to help them. They told her they would give her 1100 pieces of silver if she could find out his secret and then tell them what it was. Delilah loved money more than she loved Samson, so she agreed.

She went to Samson and said, “If you really love me, you will tell me your secret.” Samson knew just how dangerous it would be to tell her his secret, so he lied. He said, “If I am wrapped up in 7 green ropes, my strength will be gone.” So, Delilah wrapped him up in 7 green ropes and then called for the Philistines to come capture him. Samson burst right through the green ropes. The Philistines knew he was still strong so they didn’t attack.

This made Delilah upset. She said, “You tricked me, if you really love me, you will tell me the truth.” This time Samson said, “If you bind me in new ropes my strength will be gone.” Delilah tried that and called the Philistines, and just like before, Samson was still strong, so they didn’t attack.

Then Delilah asked a third time. Samson told her if she braided his hair in 7 braids his strength would be gone. She tried it but he was still strong. Finally, Samson got tired of her asking and whining and he told her the truth. He told her if she cut his hair, his strength would be gone. Later when he fell asleep, she cut his hair. She called for the Philistines and Samson jumped up to fight them, but his strength was gone. The Philistines captured him, poked out his eyes, and then took him to prison.

A little while later the Philistines threw a big feast to celebrate that Samson had been captured. They decided they would bring Samson to the feast, not so he could celebrate, but so they could laugh at him. They dragged

Samson out of jail, tied him to two tall pillars that held up the roof and the people laughed and made fun of him. While Samson was stuck standing there, he prayed that God would make him strong just one more time so he could fight the Philistines so they couldn't hurt the Israelites. God gave Samson his strength. Samson pushed hard against the two pillars until they crumbled and fell, and the roof came crashing down. The building collapsed, killing lots and lots of Philistines and Samson. Samson didn't kill all of the Philistines but because of his one last bit of strength, his people, the Israelites were much safer than before.

1. What was the strong man's name?
2. What was the secret to his strength?
3. What did Samson kill with his bare hands?
4. Why did people want to capture Samson?
5. Who did Samson fall in love with?
6. What did Delilah have to do to get 1100 pieces of silver from the Philistines?
7. What did Samson tell Delilah was his secret the first time?
8. What did Samson tell Delilah was his secret the second time?
9. What did Samson tell Delilah was his secret the third time?
10. Why did Samson finally tell her the truth?
11. What happened when Delilah cut his hair?
12. What did the Philistines do to Samson?
13. Why did the Philistines bring Samson to the feast?
14. What happened when God gave Samson his strength back on last time?