

**JUDGES 13-16**

THE BOOK OF



# JUDGES

**Forsaken YET Faithful**

Where have we been so far...

- Jesus is the King we desperately need (1-2)
  - Remember Him (Othniel, Ehud & Shamy)
  - Obey Him (Deborah and Barak)
  - Trust Him (Gideon)
  - Know Him (Jephthah)

Key verse - Judges 21:25

*In those days there was no king in Israel;  
everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*



Delilah

1<sup>st</sup> Wife

TIMNAH

SOREK

ZORAH

Kills 30

Born

ASKELON

Gates

Captured

HEBRON

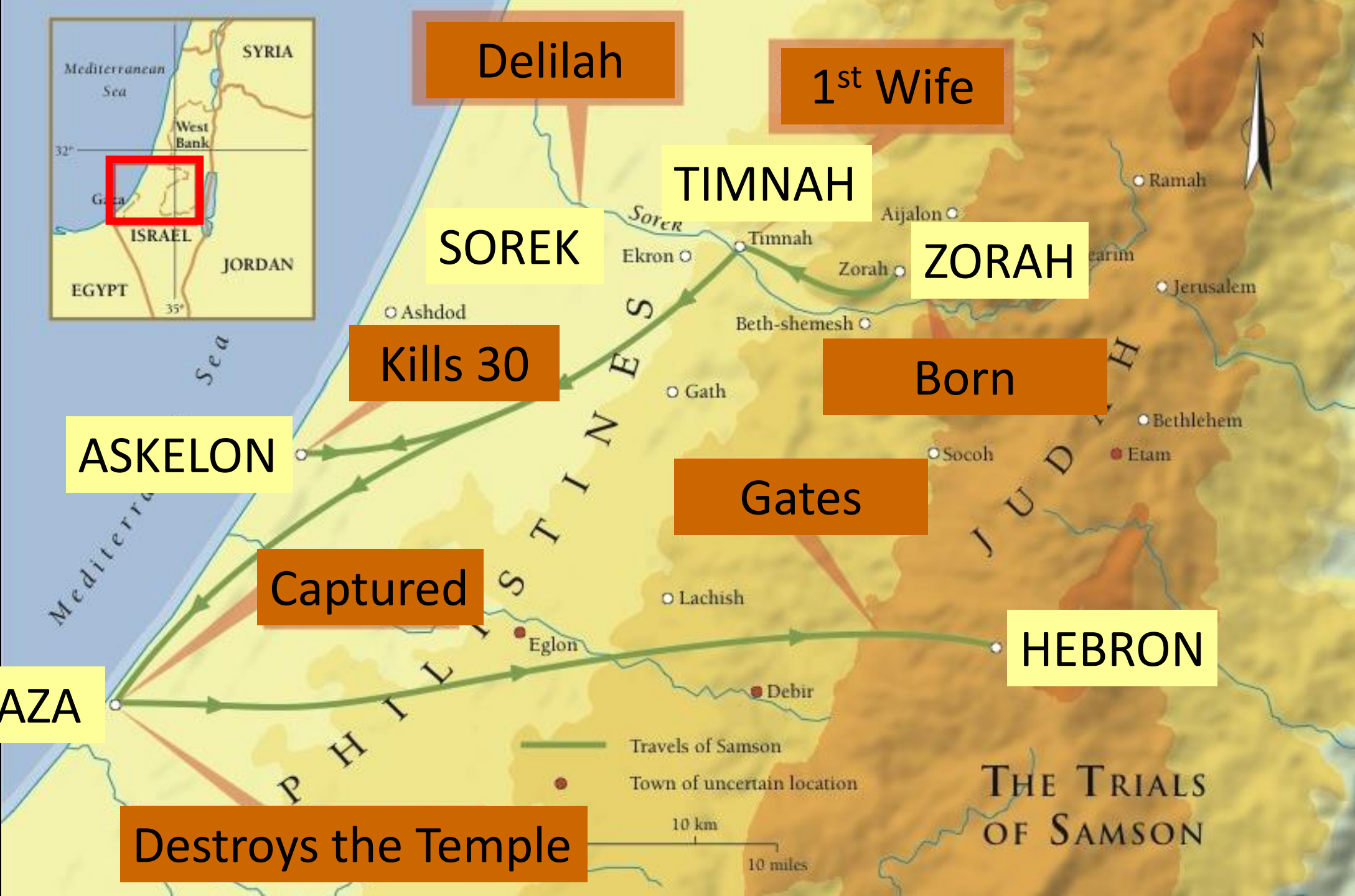
GAZA

Destroys the Temple

Travels of Samson  
Town of uncertain location

10 km  
10 miles

THE TRIALS  
OF SAMSON



(Judges 13) - Birth is miraculously foretold

- Nazirite from birth – (Num 6:1-8)
  - Consecrated for God's purpose

- God's purpose for Samson

*<sup>5</sup> he shall begin to deliver Israel from  
...the Philistines*

Judges 14:1-4 – Demands a Philistine bride

*...But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she looks good to me.”*

*You shall not intermarry with them...  
taking their daughters for your sons...*

*(Deut 7:3)*

Judges 14:5-9 – Negotiations, a Lion, returns

*...he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion...scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating*

*These will make you unclean. Whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean until evening... (Lev 11:12)*

Judges 14:10-14 – Try to bankrupt Samson

*...his father went down to the woman...  
Samson made a feast...they brought thirty  
companions...Then Samson said to them,  
“Let me now propound a riddle...”*

- Groom is responsible to pay for the food and liquor bill!



Judges 14:15-18 – Samson’s weakness

*“If you had not plowed with my heifer,  
You would not have found out my riddle.”*

- Caves into her b/c she *“pressed him hard”*

(Judges 14:19-20) – Samson's 1st revenge

*...the Spirit of the LORD came upon him...he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them...gave the changes of clothes to those who told the riddle.*

- Kills 30 men
  - God is judging murderous Philistines

Judges 15:1-3 – Samson plans his revenge

*Samson then said to them, “This time I shall be innocent in regard to the Philistines when I do them harm.”*

- He knows what he did was wrong!
  - *You shall not take vengeance* (Lev 19:18)
  - *Vengeance is mine* (Deut 32:35)

(Judges 15:4-8) – Samson’s 2nd & 3<sup>rd</sup> revenge

- Samson burned up grain, vineyards, groves

So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire....“Since you act like this, I will surely take revenge on you”...he struck them hip and thigh a great blow...

- Samson uses his gift for revenge

(Judges 15:9-17) – Completes his revenge

- Samson hides out in the Cleft of Etam
- Philistines invade / Judahites turn him in

*...Spirit of the Lord rushed on him...jawbone of a donkey...killed a thousand men...*

- Tally = 1,030+ Philistines and one harvest

(Judges 15:17-19) – Samson ungratefulness

*...he became very thirsty, and he called to the LORD...“shall I now die of thirst”...But God split the hollow place...so that water came out of it.*

- Is Samson thankful? More like indignant!
- But God graciously meets Samson's need

(Judges 16:1-4) – Samson’s boasting

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

- Another woman, they try to ambush him
- He escapes & hauls their gates to Hebron
  - Boasts: “*You will never catch me!*”
  - Ironically, they do & bring him right back

(Judges 16:4-22) - Delilah story

*...she pressed him daily with her words ...So he told her all that was in his heart...<sup>21</sup> And the Philistines seized him...gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza*

- But God does not abandon him

*“the hair of his head began to grow again”*



(Judges 16:23-31) – Sampson’s 4<sup>th</sup> revenge

*there were about 3,000...strengthen me just this time...that I may at once be avenged...for my two eyes.”...So the dead...were more than those whom he had killed during his life.*

- Tally approx 6000 Philistines & 1 harvest

Let's summarize

- Prophetic birth to be a Nazarite
- Violates God law at his whim
- Emotional third grader bent on revenge
- Yet, God empowers and sustains him
- Kills 6000 Philistines and burns 1 harvest
- *He begins to deliver Israel from...Philistines*

Sampson's "hamartia" (tragic flaw)

- Sampson does not honor God

- What should we learn?

God's will is done for His glory and our good...we decide on the latter.

Honor God with your...

- Time – Col 4:5
- Talents – Matt 25:14-30
- Temple – 1 Cor 6:18-20
- Treasure – Prov 3:9, 2 Cor 9:6-7
- Ticker – Prov 3:5, 4:23, 23:26

Gospel: Jesus honored God that we might too

*...Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Phil 2:5-8)*

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