



JIII OCS

Zamson:

A Wild Man Finds a Wife (?)

Hamson:

A Wedding without a Honeymoon!





Judges Resources

MOTIVATION, SOVEREIGNTY, AND PARENTING (Judges 14:1-20)

Lawson Younger

Motivated by Self-Interest. The picture of Samson that emerges from this section is anything but positive. What is morally right in Samsons life is determined by Samson himself, not by God or his Law. Samson is driven by the sensual: his instincts, his last, he appetites/his gratifications. He manifests a total disregard for human or divine attractive te she vs no regard for God's Law, for his special Nazirite status. Even Samson's last rayer in private I by self-interest and personal gratification.

In matters of motivation Samson is no officent tom the Philistic set Ae is motivated by revenge at cretaliation, and be commits murder, desputtion of private property, and so on. In any respect is Samson manufacts a number of conceteristics of the fool in the book of Proverbs P. v. 10:1, 2, 13:20; 15: 0; 7:12, 11,25; 18:6; 19:13,29:11).

And the Judahins are no better. Everyone—Philistines and Israelites—are only concerned a put that is being on has been done to them. The section seems to be nothing but reprisals and counter reprisals. The point is that God's people are working on the same principles and exhibiting the same behavior as the unbelieving, functions cist d" Philistipes. Is a possible that God's people today might be doing the same?

Ya weh's involvement. While it is unquestion only a difficult verse, 4:4 documents Ya weh's involvements in this section, as pointed out above, Yahweh's seeking "does not imply that have not "included San so, is lugged desire for the Timnite woman. Rather, it suggest that appears is full actions in vertheless accord with Yahweh's will. Thus, God rece San son is spite of his along motives and actions (cf. Gen. 50:20). The fact the Yahreh works it is will in spite of our sinul motives and actions has been demonstrated over and over grain—in the case of every cyclical judge except for Othniel. It just happens in the base of San son to a much greater extent since his sinfulness is so great.

Thus, it is abult antly clear the without God's any element behimself, Samson would never have been me involved in Loos plan for delivering Israel in fact, let to thems live, the Israelites would have been satisfied to the live with the Philistines. Hence in this context God's people seem perfectly content to maintain the status quo in relationship to unbelievers. But the Lord has other plans for his people, both then and now.

Warning. The passage is a warning to us concerning what characteristics we should not want in our lives. In Samson, Israel has a judge who determines what is right and wrong purely based on his senses. Today we are encouraged to live life in this way. We are persuaded by commercials to "just do it," that if we like something to go for it. Ads are directed to our senses—appearances are everything. If you don't have the right stuff, you're nothing. Sex is





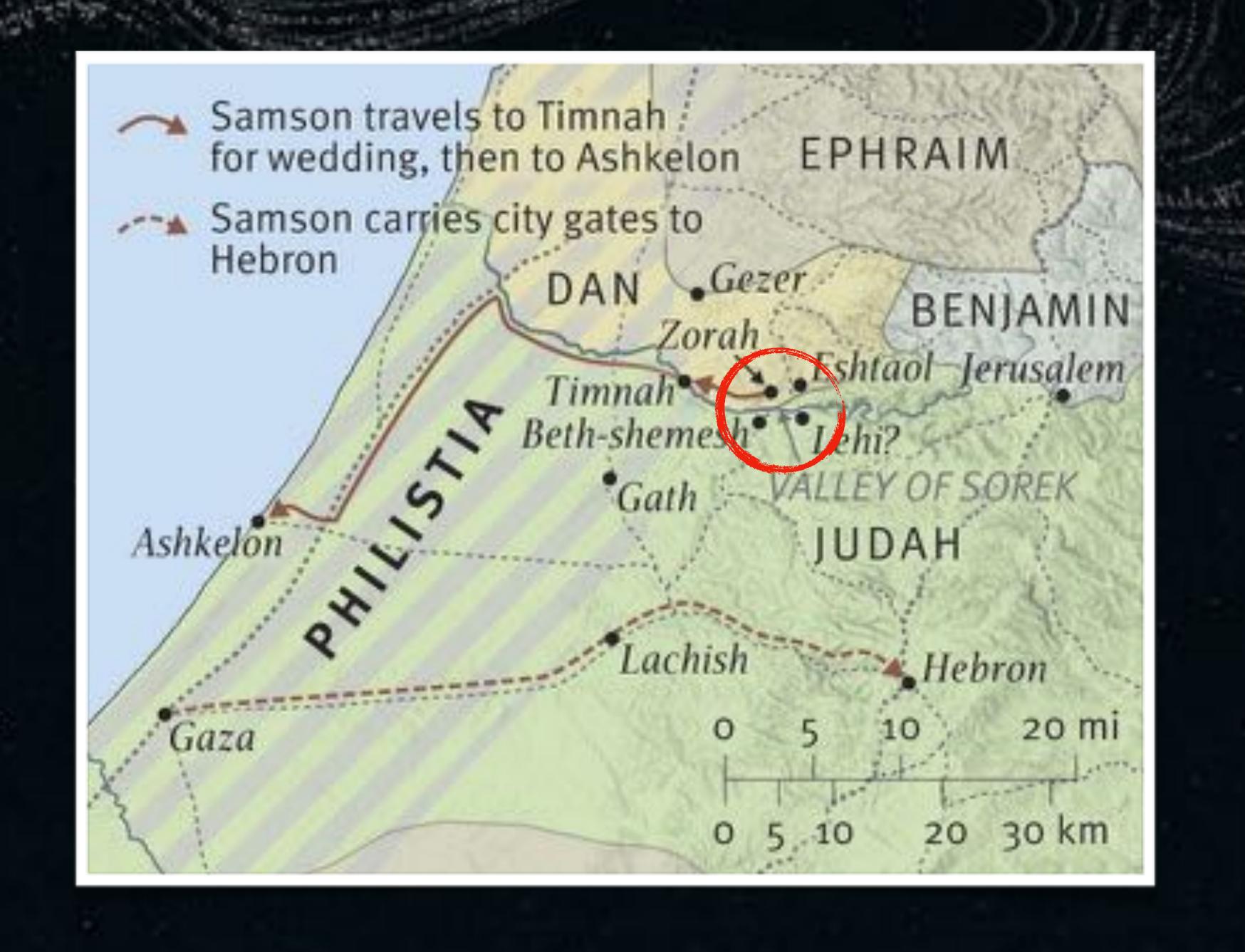


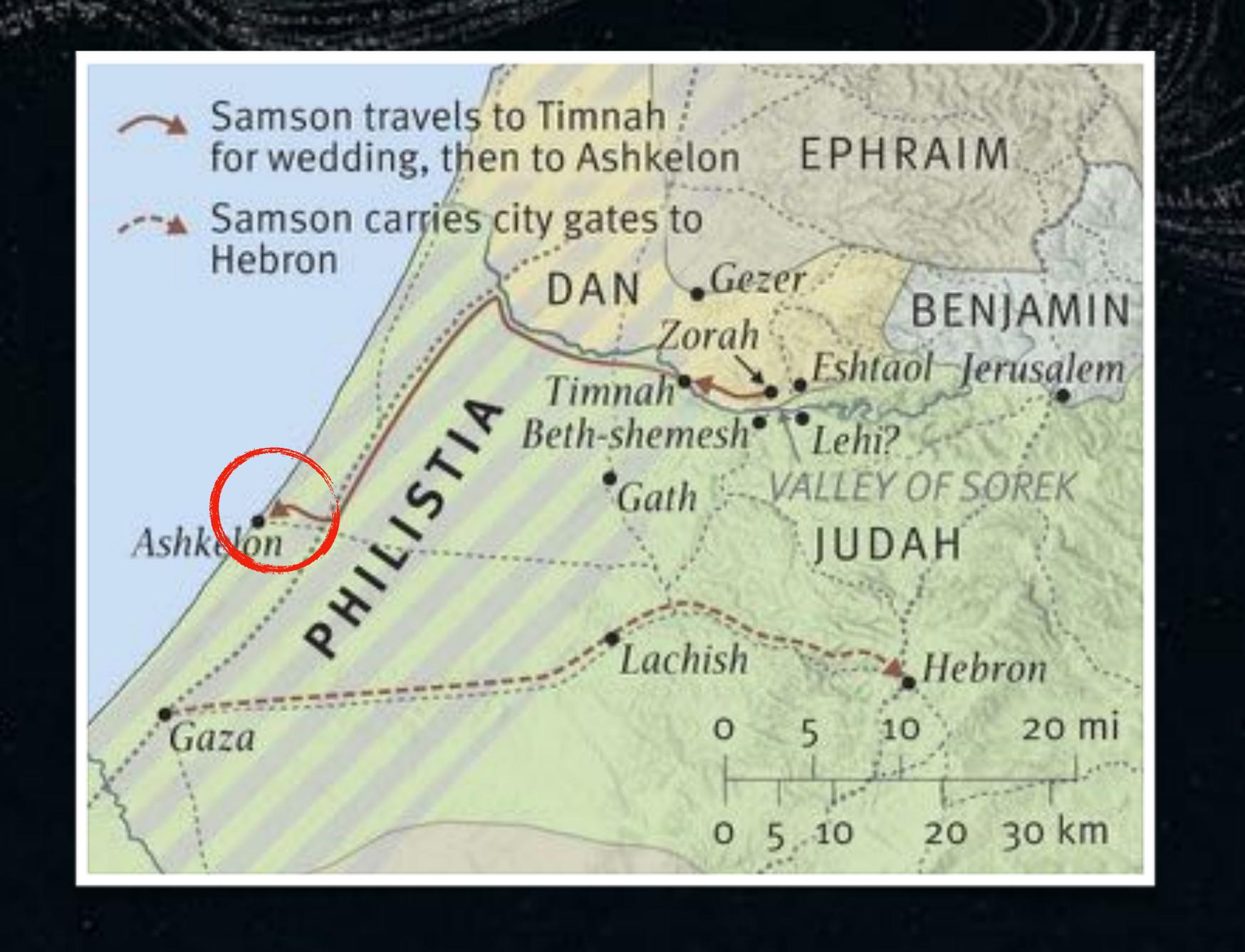


Samson and the Greeks

Samson	Achilles & Hercules
Judges 13-16	Homer's Iliad: Achilles (Books 2-22) Hercules (Book 8)
Divinely Ordained Birth: Angel of the Lord Announcement	Divinely Ordained Birth: Sons god (Zeus) and goddess (Thetis)
Champion Warrior: Fighting Alone	Champion Warrior: Fighting Alone - (Goliath as well)
Strong Temper: Expressed in Vengeance	Strong Temper: Expressed in Vengeance
Special Powers: The Spirit of Yahweh	Special Powers: Given by the "gods"
Deadly Weakness: Deceived by Women	Deadly Weakness: Achilles Heel (wound that kills)
Special Provisions: Water from Rock	Special Provisions: Nectar and Ambrosia
Foreign Women: 1st Wife, 2nd Wife, Delilah	Foreign Women: Briseis and Mophale, Deianira, and a mistress
Risk Takers: Kills 3000 at His Death	Risk Takers: Kill many including giants and in death
Begins to Deliver Israel (13:5) as part of YHWH's plan (14:4)	"The will of Zues is accomplished"







Zamson:

A Wild Man Finds a Wife (?)

Previous accounts might have led readers to expect an account of military conflict to be introduced at this point, but the reality is far from that. The rest of the Samson narratives consist of a series of stories relating primarily to Samson's sex life and his revenge on those whom he sees as acting against his interests in this area.

Mary Evans

God can accomplish his plans even through people who are self-absorbed, disobedient, and disengaged from God.

Kenneth Way

"Then the Spirit began to disturb him...and he went down." It was to be the first of a series of downward movements as he moved further and further away from the lifestyle expected of him as a Nazirite (1:5, 7, 19; 15:8, 11).

Barry G. Webb

Judges 14

I4:I-4	Samson goes down to Timnah and sees a woman.	YHWH's Secret Purpose
I4:5-6	Samson (with Mom and Dad, goes down to Timnah.	Secret Slaying of a Lion
I4:7-9	Samson goes down and talks with the woman.	Secret of the Honey
I4:I0-I8	Samson's father goes down to talk to the woman.	Secret in the Riddle
I4:I9-20	Samson goes down to Ashkelon And kills 30 Philistines.	Secret Power of Samson

How Biblical Narratives Work

- A. Historical and Canonical Context
- B. Narrator

The narrator's voice is the authority in the narrative world. Trust the narrator and watch for interpretive cues.

- 1. Omniscient
- 2. Trustworthy
- 3. Interpretive/Evaluative



Michelle Knight

Entitlec

Even though God's grace can be misused and turned into entitlement God is always at work accomplishing His purposes.



Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife."

Had Samson been an American he would have said: "Let me tell you, I saw a woman W-O-M-A-N in Timnah!



His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?"

When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you— and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally.

Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.

Deuteronomy 7:2-4

But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me.
She's the right one for me."
[literally: she is right in my eyes]

(His parents did not know that this was from the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.)

God is the one who is really orchestrating the events in the story. The narrator explains that the parents did not know that Samson's demand "was from the Lord" and that God was seeking an occasion/ opportunity against the Philistines.

Kenneth Way

At no stage do we see [Samson] expressing any concern for, or interest in, what might be Yahweh's purposes for him, not even the wellbeing of Israel as a whole. He is never pictured as consciously acting in the interest of his people.

The text seems to go out of its way to portray Samson as entirely concerned for himself, the exact opposite of the commitment to Yahweh the Nazirite vow was supposed to express.

Mary Evans

Clearly, the unusual developments are providentially prompted by God.

Kenneth Way

Empowered

God's power is the true source of every triumph.



Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat.

Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her.

intrigued

Subtle disobedience is significant and often has an impact on others around you.



Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass, and in it he saw a swarm of bees and some honey. He scooped out the honey with his hands and ate as he went along.

When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass.

Samson & Genesis 3

Eve saw, took, and ate the Fruit.	Samson saw, took, and ate the Honey.
Eve gave it to another (Adam), who then ate.	Samson gave it to another (Parents), who then ate.
Eve's <i>bad choices</i> lead to deliverance (clothing).	Samson's <i>bad choices</i> lead to deliverance (Philistines).
God's Sovereignty is highlighted.	God's Sovereignty is highlighted.
God's Grace is highlighted.	God's Grace is highlighted.

Application

God's Sovereignty and Grace

Our selfish choices reveal our inability to rule our own lives and highlights God's gracious work to deliver us from the very predicaments we get ourselves into.



Entertained

When our own self-interest and amusement dominate our world-view chaotic consequences are a frequent result.



Now his father went down to see the woman. And there Samson held a feast, as was customary for young men. When the people saw him, they chose thirty men to be his companions.

"Let me tell you a riddle," Samson said to them. "If you can give me the answer within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. If you can't tell me the answer, you must give me thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes."

As it is likely that most men would have had only one linen undergarment and only one good set of outer clothes, the cost of failing to solve the riddle would have been high.

Mary Evans

"Tell us your riddle," they said. "Let's hear it."

He replied,

"Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet."

For three days they could not give the answer.



A Giant and a Sicilian

Samson seems to possess great cunning, but he overlooked two important facts—the Philistines' ingenuity and, more importantly, his own vulnerability to female charm.

Robert Chisholm

On the fourth day, they said to Samson's wife, "Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us, or we will burn you and your father's household to death. Did you invite us here to steal our property?"

Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really love me. You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer."

"I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?"

She cried the whole seven[th] days of the feast. So on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people.

Judges 14:16-17

Before sunset on the seventh day the men of the town said to him,

"What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?"

Samson said to them,

"If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle."

His reference to her as a heifer was almost certainly meant to be an impolite as it comes across in English and illustrate Samson's facility with words and lack of true respect tor women.

Mary Evans

Enraged

God will always accomplish His purpose while we will reap what we sow.



Then the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of everything and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he returned to his father's home.

The text is clear: what we are dealing with is not Samson's temper but the Spirits power. If this seems brutal, we must simply live with it. We have already seen that when Yahweh delivers his people he does not always dip his saving acts in Clorox and sprinkle them with perfume. To deliver from evil will frequently be messy.

Dale Ralph Davis

And Samson's wife was given to one of his companions who had attended him at the feast.



The grace of God allows Him to use us for His purposes in spite of our shortcomings (but not without consequences).

Good can even use our failures to do something he wants to be done. Of course, that doesn't give us any credit. That is to our shame. In spite of us, if somebody comes to faith that is the grace of God.



Next Steps

Truth:

God's sovereign purpose will always be accomplished—often in spite of us.

Warning:

Our selfish entitlement and petulant preoccupation with entertainment will eventually come home to roost.

Challenge:

Align yourself with the purposes of God.



If you get mixed up with the world, the way the world thinks, there's nothing but disaster ahead for you. This is not idolatry per se it's just beginning to think the way the world around you thinks with yourself at the center of everything you do.

Allen Ross