



WEAKENED THROUGH TEMPTATION

MARCH 18, 2024

JUDGES 16:11 NKJV – (11) So he said to her, “If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.”

Samson was a Nazirite unto God from the womb, as were the prophet Samuel and John the Baptist. Samson would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines, a work brought further by Samuel, Saul, and King David. Samson was a judge, perhaps the last before Samuel. He was a man of prodigious strength, a giant and a gymnast--the Hebrew Hercules. He intensely hated the Philistines who had oppressed Israel for some 40 years (**Judges 13:1**) and was willing to fight them alone.

Delilah is the woman who betrayed Samson to the Philistines (**Judges 16**). She was presumably a Philistine, though that is not explicitly stated. The Philistines paid her an extremely high price for her services. She was quite a remarkable woman, a woman to be respected for some qualities, while she is to be utterly disapproved for her deception and ill-intent.

"After a tryst with a prostitute (**16:1**), Samson begins a sexual relationship with another Gentile woman, Delilah. Samson's love for her for a time proved stronger than his call from God to deliver Israel (**13:5**) and brought him down (**16:15-17**). The means of repentance for the breaking of these vows had been set out in **Numbers 6**, and Samson has ignored them. Further, he knows that his source of strength, the Spirit, will depart from him if he breaks the one vow so far unbroken, that regarding his hair. Even being blinded and held prisoner does not bring Samson to repentance.

Believe it or not, this same story happened to Solomon in **1 Kings 11:1-13**. Destruction! All because we act out on what the flesh wants. The answer, repent!!!!!!!!!! Regardless of who you are, “Repent!!!”

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Opportunity may knock only once but temptation leans on the doorknob.