

# Samson and Delilah



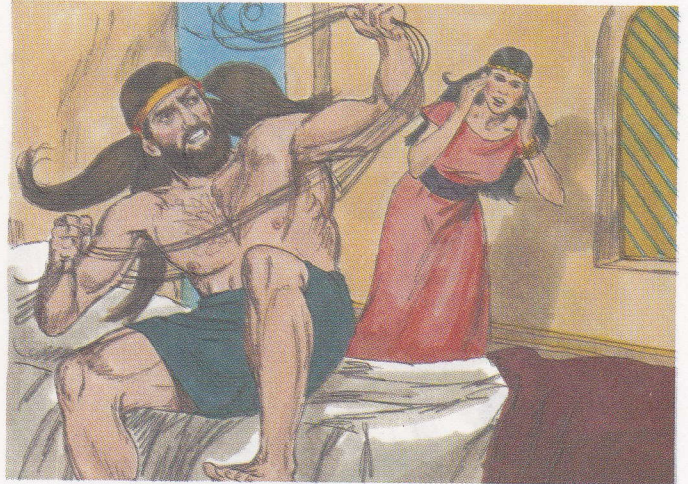
**1** Delilah was a Philistine woman from the valley of Sorek. Samson loved her, though the Philistines were his enemies.



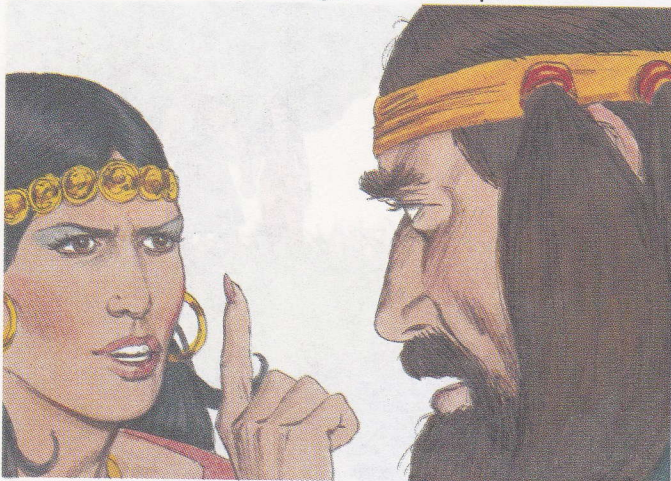
**2** One day five Philistine kings came to her and said, "Get Samson to tell why he is so strong and how we can overpower him. Each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver if you do."



**3** So Delilah said to Samson, "What makes you so strong? If someone wanted to make you helpless, how could he do it?" He replied, "If I were tied up with seven new bowstrings, I'd be helpless."



**4** So she tied Samson with seven new bowstrings and then shouted, "Samson! The Philistines are coming!" Samson jumped up and broke the bowstrings just as if they were thread.

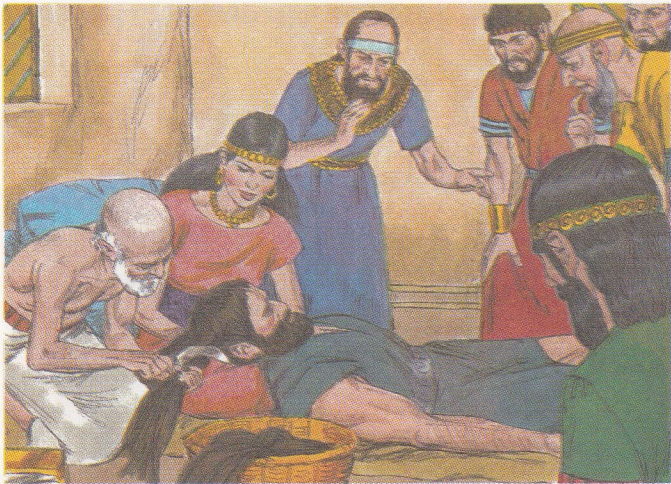


**5** Delilah was angry. "You're making a fool of me!" she said. "Now tell me the truth." But each time he gave her an answer, she found out when she tested it that he had not told her the truth.

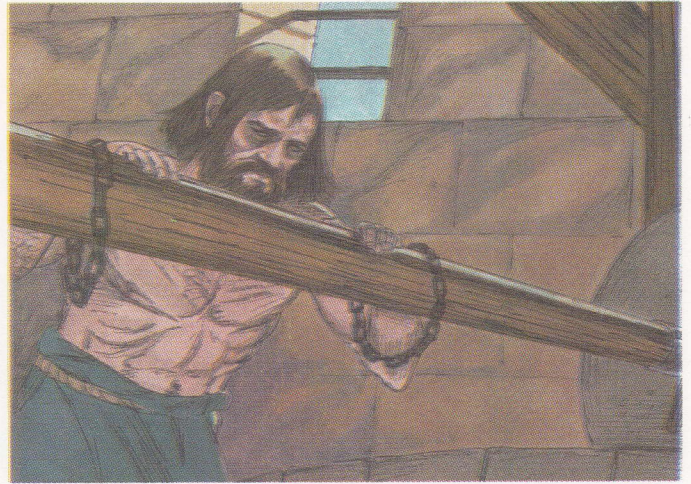


**6** Day after day she kept asking, "Why are you so strong?" Finally Samson told her the truth. "I am a Nazirite," he said. "If my hair is ever cut, I will lose my strength."

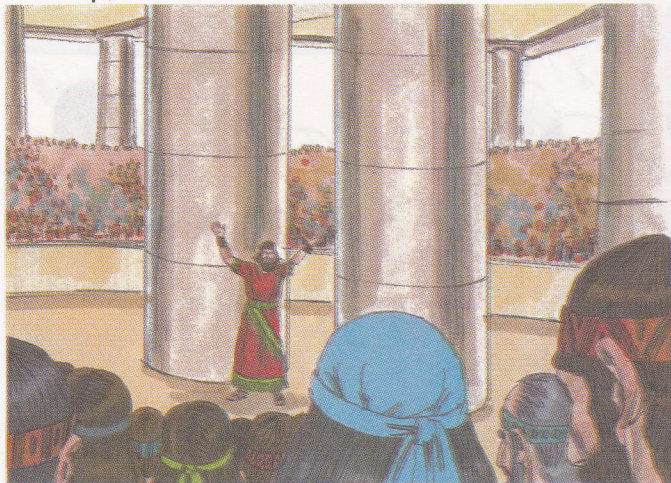




**7** Delilah got Samson to go to sleep in her lap. Then a man came in and cut off Samson's hair. This time Samson was unable to escape when he woke up, for the Lord had left him.



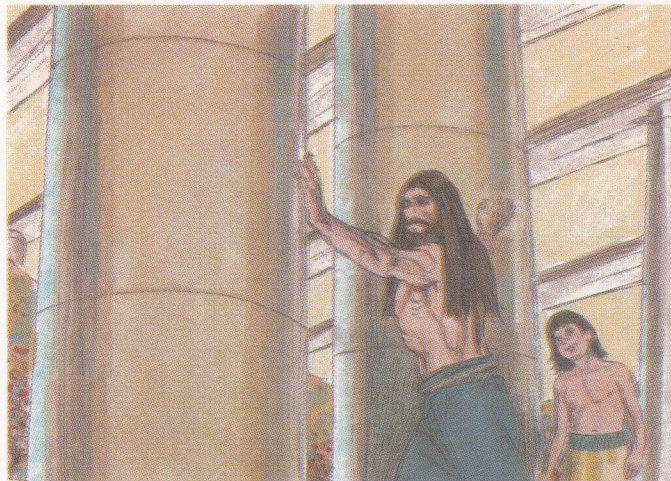
**8** The Philistines tied up Samson with chains and put out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where they put him to work grinding grain at a mill. During this time, Samson's hair began to grow back.



**9** The Philistine kings held a celebration to offer a sacrifice to Dagon, their god, for giving them victory over Samson. The temple was packed with about 3,000 men and women.



**10** When the now blind Samson was brought in to entertain them, the Philistines sang: "Dagon has given us victory over our enemy, who ruined our land and killed many of our people."



**11** Samson told the boy who was leading him to take him to the main columns that held up the temple. Then he prayed, "Lord, give me my strength so that I can get even with the Philistines."



**12** Samson pushed against the columns with all his might and the building fell down on everyone. Samson died with them, but he killed more Philistines that day than he had in all his life.