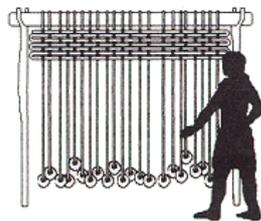


Judges 16

- v1 – Gaza (p.n.) a town in Judah, by the sea (see map)
- v1 – prostitute (n.) someone who has sex with people for payment
- v2 – ‘lay in wait’ (phrase) hide and wait for the enemy to come so that you can attack them
- v2 – dawn (n.) the time of day when the light first appears in the sky
- v3 – posts (n.) the upright pieces of wood at the sides of a door
- v3 – Hebron (p.n.) a town in Judah (see map)
- v5 – Philistines (p.n.) a people group who lived south-west of Israel, between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River.
- v5 – lure (v.) trick someone into doing something
- v5 – subdue (v.) defeat or bring under control
- v7 – bowstrings (n.) the string on a bow (see image)



- v9 – snapped (v.) broke suddenly with a sharp, cracking noise
- v10 – ‘made a fool of me’ did something that made me look silly
- v11 – securely (adv.) firmly so that it will not move out of place
- v13 – braids (n.) strands of hair that have been twisted together
- v13 – fabric loom (n.) a machine used for weaving cloth



- v17 – razor (n.) a sharp tool used for shaving
- v17 – Nazirite (p.n.) someone who voluntarily dedicated themselves to God
- v21 – seized (v.) took hold of with strong force
- v21 – gouged (v.) scooped or forced out of its position
- v21 – binding (v.) tying up so they cannot move
- v21 – bronze (n.) a kind of metal
- v21 – shackles (n.) metal rings joined by a chain which are fastened around someone’s wrists or ankles to prevent them from escaping
- v21 – grinding (v.) crushing something between two hard surfaces until it becomes a fine powder
- v21 – grain (n.) a crop that is grown for food
- v23 – assembled (v.) gathered together
- v23 – sacrifice (n.) something (often an animal) that is offered to a god as an act of worship
- v23 – delivered (v.) brought someone or something to a place

v24 – slain	(n.)	people who have been killed
v25 – pillars	(n.)	a tall solid structure that is used to support part of a building
v26 – temple	(n.)	a building used for worshipping a god
v28 – sovereign	(adj.)	in control of all things; having authority over everything
v28 – revenge	(n.)	hurting someone for the hurt they have caused you
v29 – bracing	(v.)	pushing your body against something
v31 – Zorah	(p.n.)	a city on the border of Dan and Judah
v31 – Eshtaol	(p.n.)	a town in Judah

Judges 16 (New International Reader’s Version)

¹ One day Samson went to Gaza. There he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. ² The people of Gaza were told, “Samson is here!” So they surrounded the place. They hid and waited for him at the city gate all night long. They didn’t make any move against him during the night. They said, “Let’s wait until the sun comes up. Then we’ll kill him.”

³ But Samson stayed there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up. He took hold of the doors of the city gate. He also took hold of the two doorposts. He tore them loose, together with their metal bar. He picked them up and put them on his shoulders. Then he carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

⁴ Some time later, Samson fell in love again. The woman lived in the Valley of Sorek. Her name was Delilah. ⁵ The rulers of the Philistines went to her. They said, “See if you can get him to tell you the secret of why he’s so strong. Find out how we can overpower him. Then we can tie him up. We can bring him under our control. Each of us will give you 28 pounds of silver.”

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, “Tell me the secret of why you are so strong. Tell me how you can be tied up and controlled.”

⁷ Samson answered her, “Let someone tie me up with seven new bowstrings. They must be strings that aren’t completely dry. Then I’ll become as weak as any other man.”

⁸ So the Philistine rulers brought seven new bowstrings to her. They weren’t completely dry. Delilah tied Samson up with them. ⁹ Men were hiding in the room. She called out to him, “Samson! The Philistines are attacking you!” But he snapped the bowstrings easily. They were like pieces of string that had come too close to a flame. So the secret of why he was so strong wasn’t discovered.

¹⁰ Delilah spoke to Samson again. “You have made me look foolish,” she said. “You told me a lie. Come on. Tell me how you can be tied up.”

¹¹ Samson said, “Let someone tie me tightly with new ropes. They must be ropes that have never been used. Then I’ll become as weak as any other man.”

¹² So Delilah got some new ropes. She tied him up with them. Men were hiding in the room. She called out to him, “Samson! The Philistines are attacking you!” But he snapped the ropes off his arms. They fell off just as if they were threads.

¹³ Delilah spoke to Samson again. “All this time you have been making me look foolish,” she said. “You have been telling me lies. This time really tell me how you can be tied up.”

He replied, “Weave the seven braids of my hair into the cloth on a loom. Then tighten the cloth with a pin. If you do, I’ll become as weak as any other man.” So while Samson was sleeping, Delilah took hold of the seven braids of his hair. She wove them into the cloth on a loom. ¹⁴ Then she tightened the cloth with a pin.



Again she called out to him, "Samson! The Philistines are attacking you!" He woke up from his sleep. He pulled up the pin and the loom, together with the cloth.

¹⁵ Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you'? You won't even share your secret with me. This is the third time you have made me look foolish. And you still haven't told me the secret of why you are so strong." ¹⁶ She continued to pester him day after day. She nagged him until he was sick and tired of it.

¹⁷ So he told her everything. He said, "My hair has never been cut. That's because I've been a Nazirite since the day I was born. A Nazirite is set apart to God. If you shave my head, I won't be strong anymore. I'll become as weak as any other man."

¹⁸ Delilah realized he had told her everything. So she sent a message to the Philistine rulers. She said, "Come back one more time. He has told me everything." So the rulers returned. They brought the silver with them. ¹⁹ Delilah got Samson to go to sleep on her lap. Then she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair. That's how she began to bring Samson under her control. And he wasn't strong anymore.

²⁰ She called out, "Samson! The Philistines are attacking you!"

He woke up from his sleep. He thought, "I'll go out just as I did before. I'll shake myself free." But he didn't know that the LORD had left him.

²¹ Then the Philistines grabbed him. They poked his eyes out. They took him down to Gaza. They put bronze chains around him. Then they made him grind grain in the prison. ²² His head had been shaved. But the hair on it began to grow again.

²³ The rulers of the Philistines gathered together. They were going to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon. They were going to celebrate. They said, "Our god has handed our enemy Samson over to us."

²⁴ When the people saw Samson, they praised their god. They said,

"Our god has handed our enemy over to us.
Our enemy has destroyed our land.
He has killed large numbers of our people."

²⁵ After they had drunk a lot of wine, they shouted, "Bring Samson out. Let him put on a show for us." So they called Samson out of the prison. He put on a show for them.

They had him stand near the temple pillars. ²⁶ Then he spoke to the servant who was holding his hand. He said, "Put me where I can feel the pillars. I'm talking about the ones that hold up the temple. I want to lean against them." ²⁷ The temple was crowded with men and women. All the Philistine rulers were there. About 3,000 men and women were on the roof. They were watching Samson put on a show. ²⁸ Then he prayed to the LORD. Samson said, "LORD and King, show me that you still have concern for me. Please, God, make me strong just one more time. Let me pay the Philistines back for what they did to my two eyes. Let me do it with only one blow." ²⁹ Then Samson reached toward the two pillars that were in the middle of the temple. They were the ones that held up the temple. He put his right hand on one of them. He put his left hand on the other. He leaned hard against them. ³⁰ Samson said, "Let me die together with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might. The temple came down on the rulers. It fell on all the people in it. So Samson killed many more Philistines when he died than he did while he lived.

³¹ Then his brothers went down to get him. So did his father's whole family. All of them brought Samson back home. They buried him in the tomb of his father Manoah. It's between Zorah and Eshtaol. Samson had led Israel for 20 years.

Hebrews 11:32-33

v32 – prophets (n.) people who spoke God's word to God's people

v33 – faith (n.) trust in God, dependence on God

v33 – conquered (v.) took control over

v33 – 'administered justice' ensured that the law is upheld

Hebrews 11:32-33 (New International Reader's Version)

³² What more can I say? I don't have time to tell about all the others. I don't have time to talk about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah. I don't have time to tell about David and Samuel and the prophets. ³³ Because of their faith they took over kingdoms. They ruled fairly. They received the blessings God had promised. They shut the mouths of lions.