

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

JUDGES 15

Judges 15

Chapter fifteen of Judges is one of the strangest of all the chapters of the Bible. It is a chapter that tells of strange customs. Samson's wife had been given away by her father to one of Samson's friends, because he felt Samson wasn't treating her rightly. Samson then wanted her back and the father tried to give Samson her younger sister. Samson, filled with anger and rage that he justified by his treatment, decided to burn the fields, vineyards, and orchards of the Philistines. This occurred during "harvest time" of the wheat, which would have been in the springtime. The wheat harvest is associated with the "Feast of Weeks, Shavuot in Hebrew, in Greek the feast is called Pentecost. When it was discovered who had burned the fields the Philistines wanted Samson arrested so they gathered a small army and approached the men of Judah, in whose land Samson had committed this revenge. The men of Judah convinced Samson to surrender, and he did, only to use his arrest to kill a thousand more Philistines when he met them. He killed these Philistines with the "jawbone of a donkey." The supernatural strength of Samson is exhibited by the description of what they bound

him with and how he so easily broke them. **"We will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands.**" (15:13-14) Ropes were generally made of leather, hair of some kind or plant fibers. One of the most common plant fibers was "flax" and the ropes being new, were at their greatest strength. By the use of the phrase, **"the ropes on his arms became as like flax that is burned with fire"** lets us know that the ropes were most likely the strong flax ropes often used. Samson had supernatural strength, **"The Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him."** (v.14)

Prayer and Action Steps

Samson's strength came from the LORD! He seemed to forget that easily. LORD, please help us to remember that YOU are our strength.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?
