

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

JUDGES 16

Judges 16

Judges sixteen, Samson is in Gaza, which is a long way from the place of his birth and land of his heritage. Dan was in the middle of Philistine territory, but Samson was way out of his boundaries. His enemies lay in wait for him to ambush him, but Samson became aware of their plot and showed his defiance and strength by destroying the entrance to their city and humiliating the leadership. As time passed Samson found another woman in the Sorek Valley. This is in the foothills of the Judean mountains. The Hebrew word is transliterated in English "Shephelah."

It will be helpful for you to gain access to a topographical map to see the "lay of the land." The Philistines were a "Sea People" they have no connection with the modern day "Philistines or Palestinians" from where we get the word "Palestine." The Philistines were more than likely Cretans of another Mediterranean Island people. The Sorek Valley is bordered by the town of Beth Shemesh and the entire area in modern Israel is called "Samson Country" by tour guides. Delilah, the woman Samson fell in

love with, was approached by the Philistines and was offered a bribe of a great sum of money to find the secret of his strength. A series of traps were set as Samson toyed with her. Finally, she wore him down and this is how it happened. **"Then she said to him, 'How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times and have not told me where your great strength lies.' And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him so that his soul was vexed to death, that he told her all his heart, and said to her, 'No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.'"** Some of the saddest words written in the Bible are written about Samson. **"He did not know that the LORD had departed from Him."** (V.20)

Prayer and Action Steps

God help us to stay out of the places where we know we should not be and relationships we should not have, Amen.

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?
