

Judges 16:22-31

1. When we left off last week, we saw that Samson's hair was shaved off, his eyes are gouged out by the Philistines, and he is thrown into prison in Gaza. But as time passes, his hair (the symbol of his Nazirite dedication) begins to grow back. This provides a glimmer of hope for Samson's restoration.

For what reasons do the lords of the Philistines assemble in verse 23?

2. The Philistines credit their god Dagon as the one who gives Samson into their hands. Dagon was a Canaanite grain deity adopted by the Philistines from the Amorites.

For what reason do they call for Samson in verse 25?

3. A Philistine temple was typically a long inner chamber with two major pillars supporting the roof. What does Samson say to the servant boy who was holding his hand (v. 26)?

How many Philistine men and women were on the roof?

4. What three things does Samson ask the Lord for in his final prayer?

5. As Samson braces himself against the two middle pillars on which the house rested, what does Samson say (v. 30)?

What happens to the house?

Previously Samson had killed at least 1030 Philistines but what is said about the number of people that Samson kills in this act?

6. We see Samson's brothers mentioned for the first time. What do they and his family do in verse 31?

7. Samson had great ability and was endowed with superhuman physical power by the Holy Spirit but he gave into his impulses several times and suffered the consequences. How does his life provide a stern warning to us?

What other lessons and truths have you learned from the story of Samson?