

Samson The Strong Man

Samson was a very very strong Man. When he lived about three thousand years ago he was like Mister Universe. He was the strongest man in the whole country where he lived. No one could beat him.

Lots of people wondered where his great strength came from. Samson could fight lions and bears with his bare hands. He could fight twenty other men all at the same time and he never seemed to get a scratch on him. People came from miles and miles around to try and fight Samson but he always beat everyone, even the strongest men from the neighbouring countries.

"It's amazing!" people said, "there must be something very special about him!"

And they were right . There was something very special about Samson. He was so amazingly strong because God had made him so strong.

It was a bit like, when Samson went to pick up a massive rock to show how strong his muscles were. God would put his invisible hand under the rock and give Samson a hand.

It was a bit like, if twenty big men came along to try and fight Samson, God would knock over eighteen or nineteen of them and leave only one or two for Samson to have to sort out himself!

Now, while Samson was doing what God wanted him to do, things went very well. While Samson remembered about God, and prayed to him, and used his great strength to do all the good things that God wanted him to do, things just got better and better for Samson. Samson was strong and popular. Everyone wanted to meet him and some people even wanted to make him the king.

But something happened. Samson became a bit too big for his boots and he began to think that his great strength came from him and not from God.

One day Samson thought he would play a few games with the people who wanted to beat him.

A woman called Delilah came to Samson.

"Why are you so strong?" Delilah asked him.

"I may be strong," said Samson, "but if you tie me up with seven pieces of new rope that have never been used for anything else, then I will not be strong at all. I'll be as weak as a little kitten."

In the middle of the night while Samson was asleep, Delilah quietly tied him up with new pieces of rope that had never been used. Then she woke him expecting him to be as weak as a little kitten. But Samson leaped up from his bed, broke the ropes like string. He wasn't weak at all, but just as strong as before.

Samson thought that this was a great joke. He laughed and laughed: "Ha, ha, ha!"

So a few days later Delilah asked him again: "Samson, why are you so strong?" "I may be strong now," said Samson, "but if you tie my hair into a weaving loom I will not be strong any more. I'll be as weak as a little kitten."

So quietly in the middle of the night, while Samson was asleep, Delilah tied Samson's hair into a weaving loom, he had very very long hair by the way. Then she woke him up expecting him to be as weak as a little kitten.

But you can probably guess, Samson was still strong. He pulled his hair away and was soon free again. He thought this was a great joke and he laughed and laughed: "Ha, ha, ha!"

So Delilah asked him again: "Samson, why are you so strong?" But Then Samson said something very silly, you see he just got too big for his boots.

"I may be strong now," he said, "but if you cut all my hair off then I will be weak, just like a little kitten."

So in the middle of the night, while Samson was asleep, Delilah quietly cut off all of Samson's long hair. Then she called in a group of strong men and woke him up. Samson jumped up and started to try and chase the men away, but to Samson's amazement this time he found that he was really weak just as he had said. He really was as weak as a little kitten. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't run fast and he couldn't fight any more.

The men tied him up and dragged him away. Samson was put into prison and he felt very sorry for himself. But after a while he remembered about God and started to pray. He said sorry to God for being so silly and using his strength to play jokes on people and show off. He reached up and touched the top of his head and could feel that the hair was beginning to grow again. Suddenly he felt his great strength flooding back into his arms and legs.

His enemies had taken him to a great banquet where they made fun of him. Samson was tied to a great pillar in the middle of the King's palace. When everyone had arrived for the banquet Samson suddenly gave the pillar the greatest push he had ever given anything. The pillar started to move. He pushed and pushed and eventually the whole palace came crashing down to the ground.

Samson's enemies were killed that day, but Samson died as well. But he died trusting God and knowing that with God he could be forgiven and be the strongest man once again.

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