

I. THE LORD'S SERVANT ABANDONS HIS BRIDE AND SHE IS DESTROYED (v.1-8)

II. THE LORD'S SERVANT MOCKS THE LORD'S ENEMIES (v.1-8)

- Every time the Philistines seem to gain the upper hand things quickly change and lead to their destruction!
- Dale Ralph Davis: Episode 1, 14:5–20. Upper hand=answer to riddle. Destruction=slaughter at Ashkelon. Episode 2, 15:1–6a. Upperhand=Samson gone, peace restored, girl given to best man. Destruction=flaming foxes. Episode 3, 15:6b–8. Upper hand=burn up Timnite woman and father. Destruction=slaughter by Samson (hips and thighs). Episode 4, 15:9–17. Upper hand=Samson bound, handed over. Destruction='Jawbone Hill.' There are two more episodes of this same occurrence in ch. 16.
- PSALM 2 1 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision (i.e. mockery). 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 6 "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." 7 I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." 10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

III. THE LORD'S SERVANT IS BETRAYED BY HIS COUNTRYMEN AND OFFERS HIMSELF UP WILLINGLY (v.9-13)

IV. THE LORD'S SERVANT BREAKS STRONG BANDS AND DEFEATS HIS ENEMIES (v.14-17)

- The Hebrew words for "Donkey" and "Heaps" in verse 16 sound the same. One commentator renders it like this: "With the jawbone of an ass, I have heaped a mass" (Moffat). I think that captures it well.

V. THE LORD'S SERVANT THIRSTS AND IS SATISFIED (v.18-20)

- This is the first time the writer of Judges shows us anything of Samson praying to or even acknowledging the LORD.

CONCLUSION: Q. CAN WE POSSIBLY READ THIS STORY AND NOT LONG FOR JESUS? JESUS IS THE TRUE AND BETTER SAMSON.

- I. Samson's wife reaps the consequences of her rebellion while he lives *without* her. Jesus' bride, on the other hand, reaps the benefits of his successes while he dies *for* her. *Jesus would rather burn than you burn!*
 - EPHESIANS 5:25-27 25b...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- II. Jesus, like Samson, overthrows the enemies of God and holds them in derision—He is the point of Psalm 2! *He was broken with the rod of iron; He was dashed in pieces like a potters vessel for all who take refuge in Him!*
 - Jesus is the Son we must kiss by faith. Jesus is the King in Zion that will break his enemies with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potters vessel. He is the Anointed One that blesses all who take refuge in Him alone!
- III. Jesus, like Samson, was betrayed by his countrymen—even his closest friends—yet willingly offered Himself up to death on a cross for us. *He was betrayed by His friends so he could call us friends!*
 - 1 PETER 2:22-24 22 "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness."
- IV. Jesus is the True Servant of the LORD that laid in the strong bands of death, yet burst them apart rising from the dead to be our Forever-Invincible Redeemer! *Cross=payment. Resurrection=receipt. Advocacy=Prize.*
 - Luther's Hymn, Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands "Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands...for our offenses given; but now at God's right hand he stands ... and brings us life from heaven; therefore let us joyful be...and sing to God right thankfully...loud songs of hallelujah. Hallelujah!"
- V. Jesus became a man and utterly exhausted Himself to redeem His bride—on the cross He groaned, "I thirst" and the Father soon after quenched it. *He had a deeper thirst than for water—HIS FATHER'S WILL!*
 - ISAIAH 53:10-11 10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.