

SAMSON THE NAZARITE

- Samson's parents objected to his desire to marry a Philistine girl
- Samson's riddle at his marriage ceremony set the stage for another violent incident
- 30 innocent Philistine men were killed by Samson so that he could pay off his wage
- The father of the bride gave her to Samson's best man, because the marriage ceremony was never completed



WAS SAMSON MARRIED OR NOT?



- Wheat harvest season arrived, the time of Shavuot
- Samson felt some “ownership” of the Philistine girl, but her father felt otherwise
- Young goat was probably NOT a gift of reconciliation
- ***Sadika*** = a marriage of lesser status, wife lives with parents
- ***Joz musarrib*** = visiting husband
- Girl’s father offers a younger daughter in exchange for peace

COLLECTIVE REVENGE



- Samson lumped all the Philistines together; what one did represented the whole group
- No evidence Samson was responding to a Divine impulse, he was acting on his own evil inclination
- Ties the tales of *Shu'al* (jackals) together and attaches a flaming torch



COMMON FOLKS WERE TARGETED

- Bible prescribes that animals are to be treated with kindness
- Samson was cruel to these *Shu'al*
- Wheat crop and Olive Trees were burned up
- No reference to the Ruach directing Samson to do this
- Yet, the Lord's purposes of ending the ungodly peace between Israel and Philistines were being achieved!

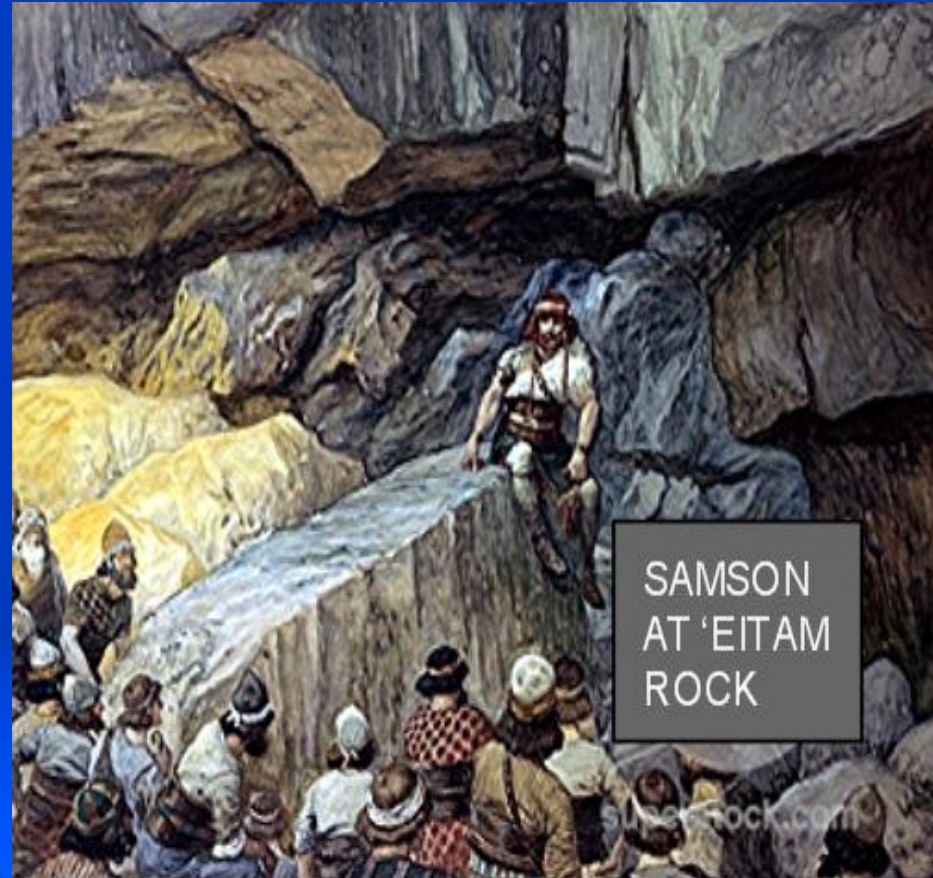
PHILISTINE FARMERS TAKE REVENGE



- Mob burns down Samson's bride's house with her and her father still inside
- Samson decides he will kill MORE Philistines in retribution
- Blame America What have we done to so upset the Muslims as to attack us?
- Blame Israel Israel upsets the Muslim world so causes the terrorism?
- Blame the victim because it's easier and safer than going after the perpetrators

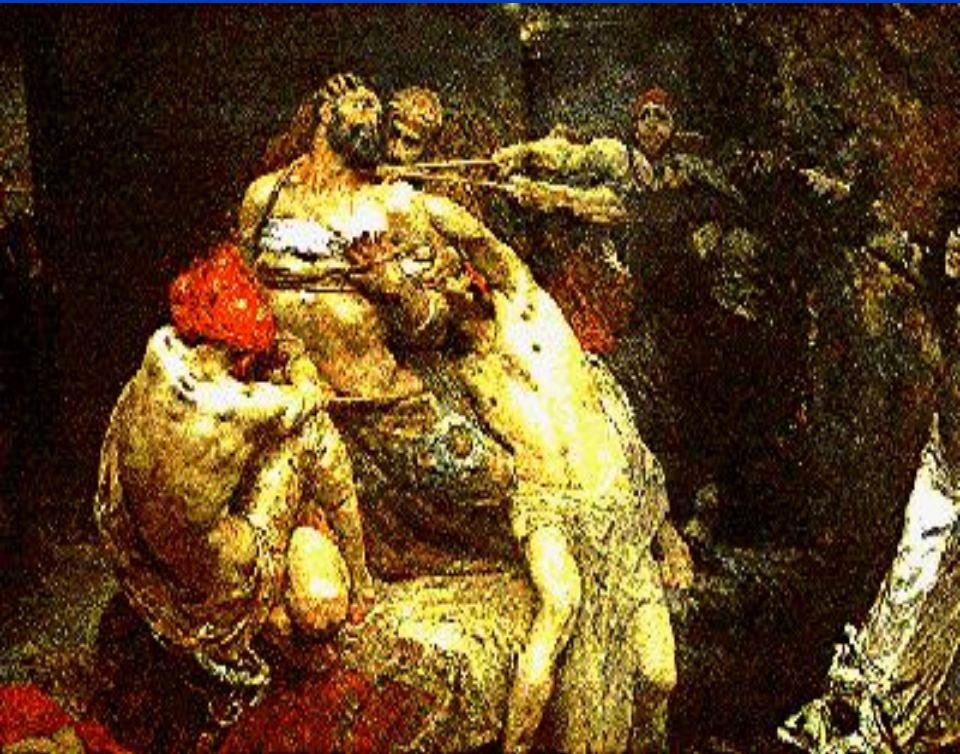
HISTORY IS CIRCULAR

- After his killing spree, Samson goes to 'Eitam Rock in Judah
- Samson's divine purpose was to disrupt the peace process
- Samson and Philistines = Israel and Palestinians
- The Lord DOES NOT WANT peace in the Middle East.....YET!



SAMSON
AT 'EITAM
ROCK

MEN OF JUDAH BIND SAMSON



- Middle East dilemma same today as in Samson's day
- Philistine soldiers attack Lechi in Judah
- 3000 Judahites go to 'Eitam Rock to capture Samson for the Philistines
- "What are you doing to US !!"

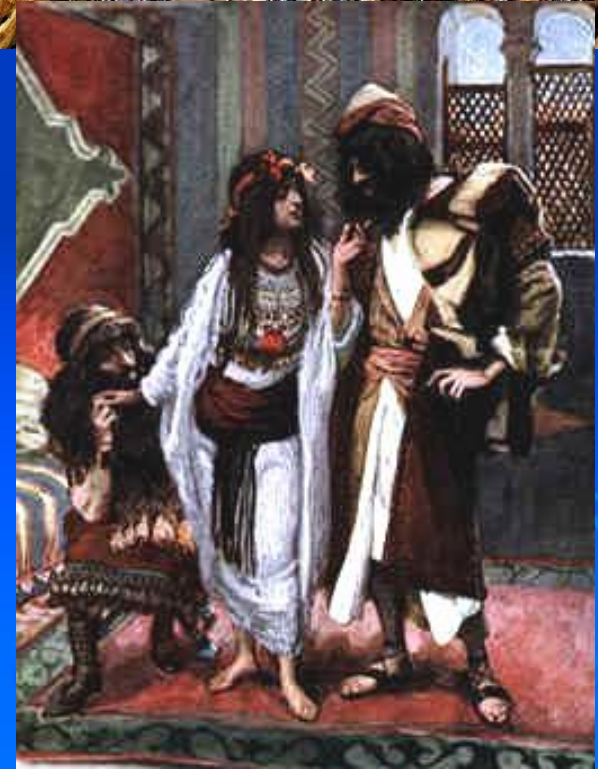
THE JAWBONE OF AN ASS



- Spirit of God comes upon Samson
- Bursts ropes and attacks Philistines with the fresh jawbone of a donkey
- ***Chamor*** = donkey, heap
- ***Ramath-Lechi*** = jawbone hill
- Samson is dehydrated and exhausted
- Lord provides water from a rock

SAMSON INFATUATED WITH PHILISTINE GIRLS

- **Judges Chapter 16**
- Samson judged for 20 years
- Philistines stopped pursuing Samson for several years
- Samson goes down to Gaza and gets involved with a Philistine prostitute



THE GATES OF GAZA

- Towns people of Gaza set a trap for Samson
- Samson hears of it and at midnight awakes and leaves
- He lifts the city gates off their pins and carries them away!
- Took the gates along the road to Hebron
- At a hill overlooking Hebron he tossed them over



SAMSON AND DELILAH



- Delilah a Philistine woman
- A one-sided love affair