

FLAWS

A silhouette of a person with arms outstretched, standing in a brightly lit, geometric, crystalline structure against a dark background. The structure is composed of several large, angular blocks that form a central, open space where the figure stands. The lighting is dramatic, with the central area being very bright and the surrounding areas being dark, creating a strong contrast.

JUDGES 13:1-16:31





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Judges 13:1

“Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.”

A silhouette of Samson standing between two large, broken pillars of a temple, holding them up. The scene is dramatically lit from behind, creating a strong backlight effect. The background is dark, and the pillars are illuminated from within, casting a glow on the surrounding area.

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Samson was to “begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”



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“the spirit of the Lord began to stir him...”

A silhouette of a man, likely Samson, is shown in a temple setting, holding a large stone or object. The scene is lit from behind, creating a dramatic, high-contrast effect. The word "FLAWS" is written in a large, white, serif font across the middle of the image.

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“Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines (v1)”.



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7 Steps that caused him to slide into sin

1. He went to the wrong place

“he went down to Timnah”



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7 Steps that caused him to slide into sin

2. He was looking for the wrong thing

“Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah”



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7 Steps that caused him to slide into sin

3. He rejected Godly counsel

By rejecting his parents counsel, Samson is also rejecting what God said in Exodus 34:16 and Deuteronomy 7 about not marrying someone from the surrounding pagan nations.



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7 Steps that caused him to slide into sin

4. He continued a wrong relationship

“So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson.”



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7 Steps that caused him to slide into sin

5. He compromised his commitment

“he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.”



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7 Steps that caused him to slide into sin

6. He ignored his weaknesses

“Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet”

“Entice your husband into explaining the riddle for us, or we will burn you and your father’s household.”



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7 Steps that caused him to slide into sin

7. He would rather take revenge than repent

He kills 30 Philistines, strips their clothes off of them and gives the clothes to those who had “solved” the riddle, which, by the way, is another violation of the Nazirite vow.



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The Road to Revenge

“This time I shall be blameless in regard to the Philistines when I do them harm.”

“struck them ruthlessly with a great slaughter.”

“fresh jawbone of a donkey..” and with it killed one thousand men.



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Verses 2 and 3 say, “When it was told to the Gazites, saying, ‘Samson has come here,’ they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. And they kept silent all night, saying, ‘Let us wait until the morning light, then we will kill him.’ Now Samson lay until midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the city gate and the two posts and pulled them up along with the bars; then he put them on his shoulder, and carried them up to the top of the mountain which is opposite Hebron.”



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Verses 4 and 5 say, “After this it came about that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name is Delilah. The lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, ‘Entice him, and see where his great strength lies and how now we may overpower him that we may bind him to afflict him. Then we will each give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.’”



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Moral Collapse

1. Moral failure always involves small steps.
2. Moral failure usually involves relevant needs.



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Judges 16:6, “So Delilah said to Samson,
‘Please tell me where your great strength is
and how you may be bound to afflict you.’”



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Looking at verses 15-17, “Then she said to him, ‘How can you say ‘I love you,’ when your heart is not with me? You have deceived me these three times and have not told me where your great strength is.’ It came about when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, that his soul was annoyed to death. So he told her all that was in his heart and said to her, ‘A razor has never come on my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will leave me and I will become weak and be like any other man.’”



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Judges 16:18-20a, “When Delilah saw that he had told her all that was in heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, ‘Come up once more, for he has told me all that is in his heart.’ Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. She made sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his hair. Then she began to afflict him, and his strength left him. She said, ‘The Philistines are upon you Samson!’ And he awoke from his sleep and said, ‘I will go out as at other times and shake myself free...”



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Judges 16:20b, “...but he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.”



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Judges 16:21, “Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison.”



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Judges 16:22, “However (in spite of all that has happened), the hair of his head began to grow again after it was shaved off.”



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verse 28, “Then Samson called to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.’”



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Samson changed in 2 ways

1. Repentant from his life of sin.
2. He understands that his strength comes from the Lord.



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Action Steps

1. Acknowledge your fatal flaws
2. Admit you need help
3. Avoid temptation
4. Ask for help
5. Assimilate God's truth into your life

A silhouette of Samson standing in a temple, holding a horizontal bar across two pillars. The scene is backlit, creating a dramatic glow around him and the pillars.

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Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left.

And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life.

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The background features a dark, atmospheric scene with a central, brightly lit, geometric structure resembling a crystalline or architectural form. A silhouette of a person with their arms outstretched horizontally is positioned in the center of this structure, appearing to be part of it or standing within it. The lighting is dramatic, with the central area being very bright and the surrounding areas being dark and shadowed.

JUDGES 13:1-16:31