

One Bad Turn Deserves Another Judges 15

A lost wife leads to burning crops. 15:1-5

- ◆ Samson is finally ready to start the honeymoon with his bride but fails at communicating yet again (for *young goat*, see 6:19, 13:15).
- ◆ Feeling ripped-off and less blameworthy, Samson burns crops with fiery foxes. Note again revenge is not on the direct perpetrators.

A burned wife leads to a great slaughter. 15:6-8

- ◆ Recall threat in 14:15 (cf. 12:1) plus see 11:39 (2nd female victim).
- ◆ How can Samson think his revenge will end after this slaughter?

A great slaughter leads to an enemy invasion. 15:9-13

- ◆ Disunity/involvement is bad enough (5:15-17, 8:1,15-17, 21:5-10), but now we have an actual betrayal of a divinely-sent deliverer!
- ◆ Why does Samson let himself be handed over? Is this faith?

- ◆ Do you see the huge missed opportunity here?

- ◆ The Spirit of the Lord empowers Samson, as in 14:6,19. Slim odds and poor weaponry (3:31, 4:21, 5:20, 7:7,19) prove what?

An enemy invasion leads to a devastating defeat. 15:14-20

- ◆ Samson's pun and prayer aren't impressive but God is gracious. His prayer again suggests he is a metaphor for the nation, Num. 20:1-4.
- ◆ Samson judges Israel 20 years, but it is so hard to picture him as much of a moral authority, and there is no mention of any rest.

