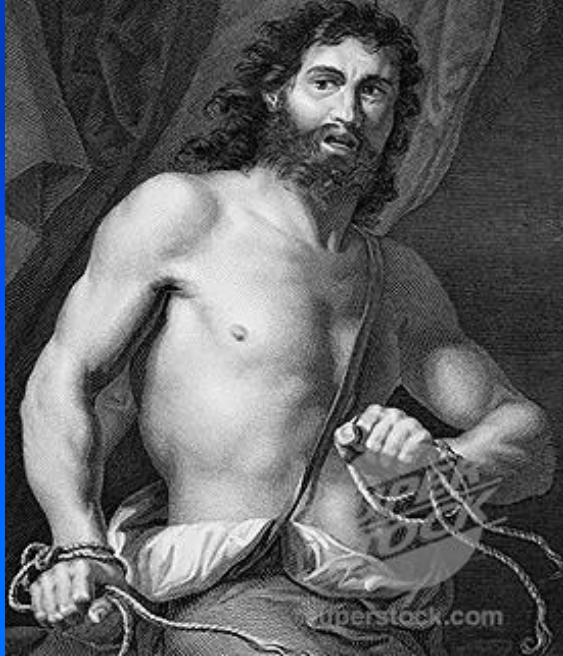


SAMSON: TRIBE OF DAN



- Nazarite from birth (actually from the embryo)
- Territory of Dan was adjacent to the Philistines
- Most of Dan moved north, only some stayed nearby in small villages
- Samson's divine purpose was to BEGIN to defeat the Philistines
- ***Shimshon*** = Samson



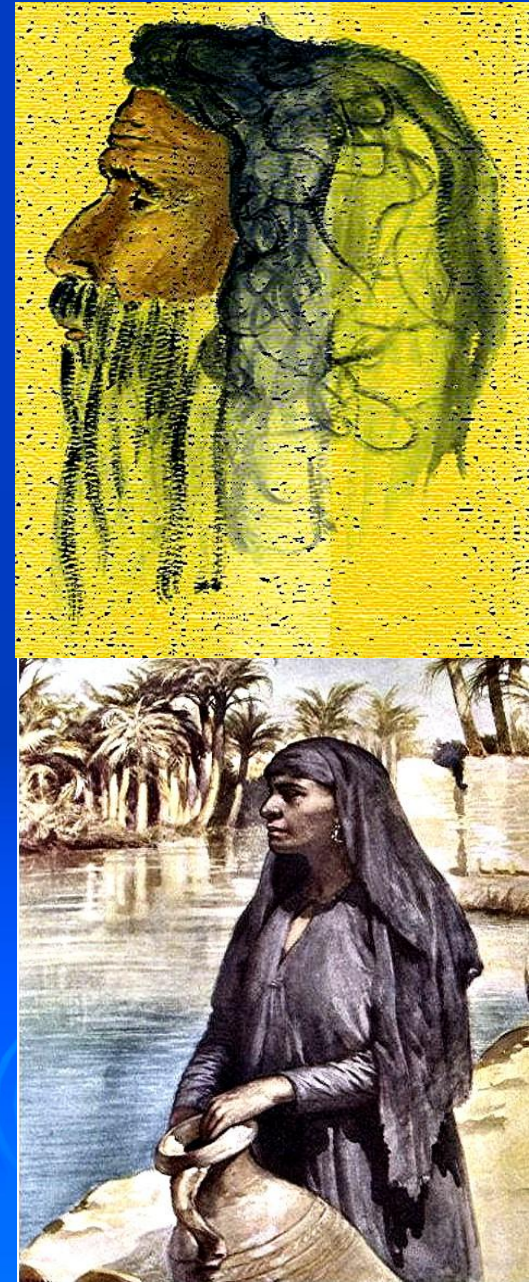
SAMSON GOES TO TIMNAH

- Samson 18-19 years old
- He lives in Tzorah
- Timnah a Philistine city
- The region where Israelites lived still called Canaan
- Samson goes to Timnah and sees a beautiful Philistine girl
- “Saw a woman” means she was unveiled, and therefore immodest

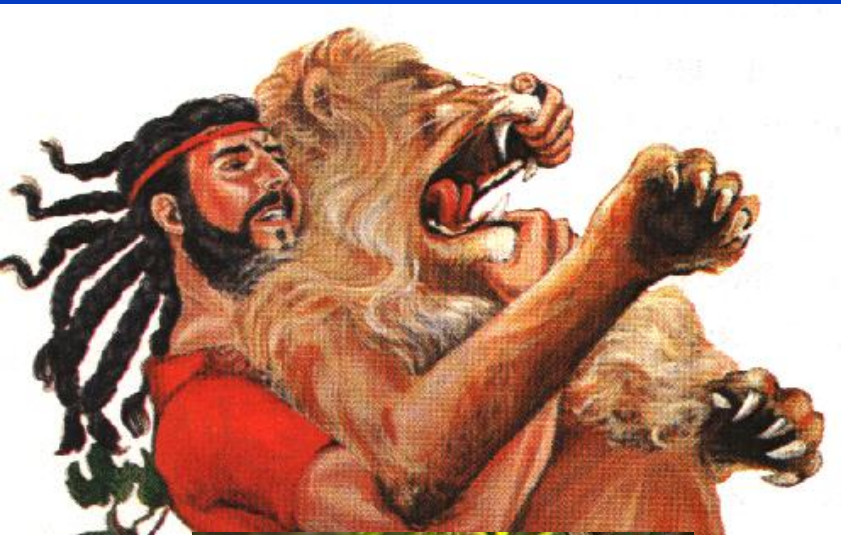


SAMSON WANTS TO MARRY

- Shimshon's parents horrified at Samson's choice of a Philistine girl
- Samson insists: "Get her, she is right in my sight"
- The Lord put the impulse into Samson to want this Philistine for a
- There are sides to God that modern Christian Theologians want to dismiss and declare obsolete
- The Lord did NOT WANT PEACE between Israel and the Philistines
- Philistines did not belong in the Holy Land any longer



SAMSON AND THE LION

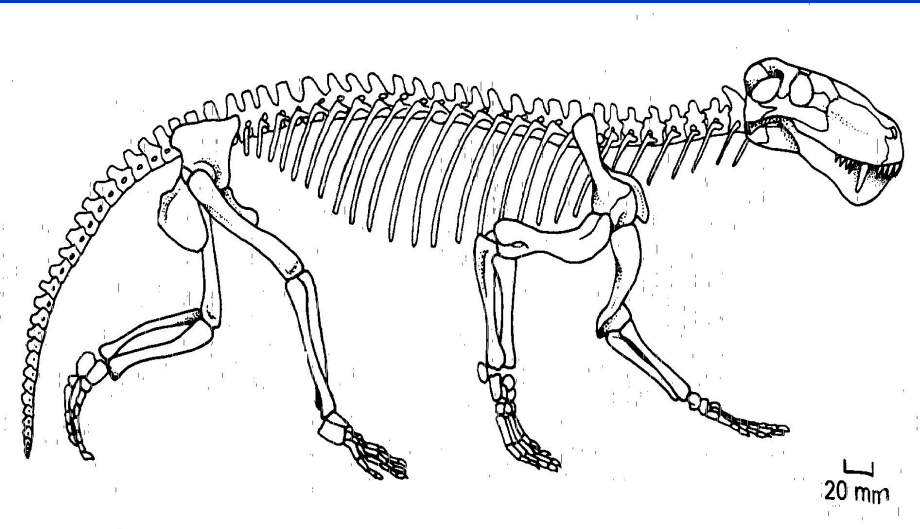


- Samson and his parents journey to Timnah to arrange the marriage
- At a vineyard Samson and his parents go separate routes
- A Nazarite must steer clear of any grape products
- A lion roars at Samson, and the Ruach YHWH comes upon Samson
- He kills the lion easily with his bare hands
- 5 Hebrew words for “Lion”, each denotes a stage of maturity
- ***Kephir*** = 2nd youngest stage

SAMSON RETURNS TO CLAIM BRIDE

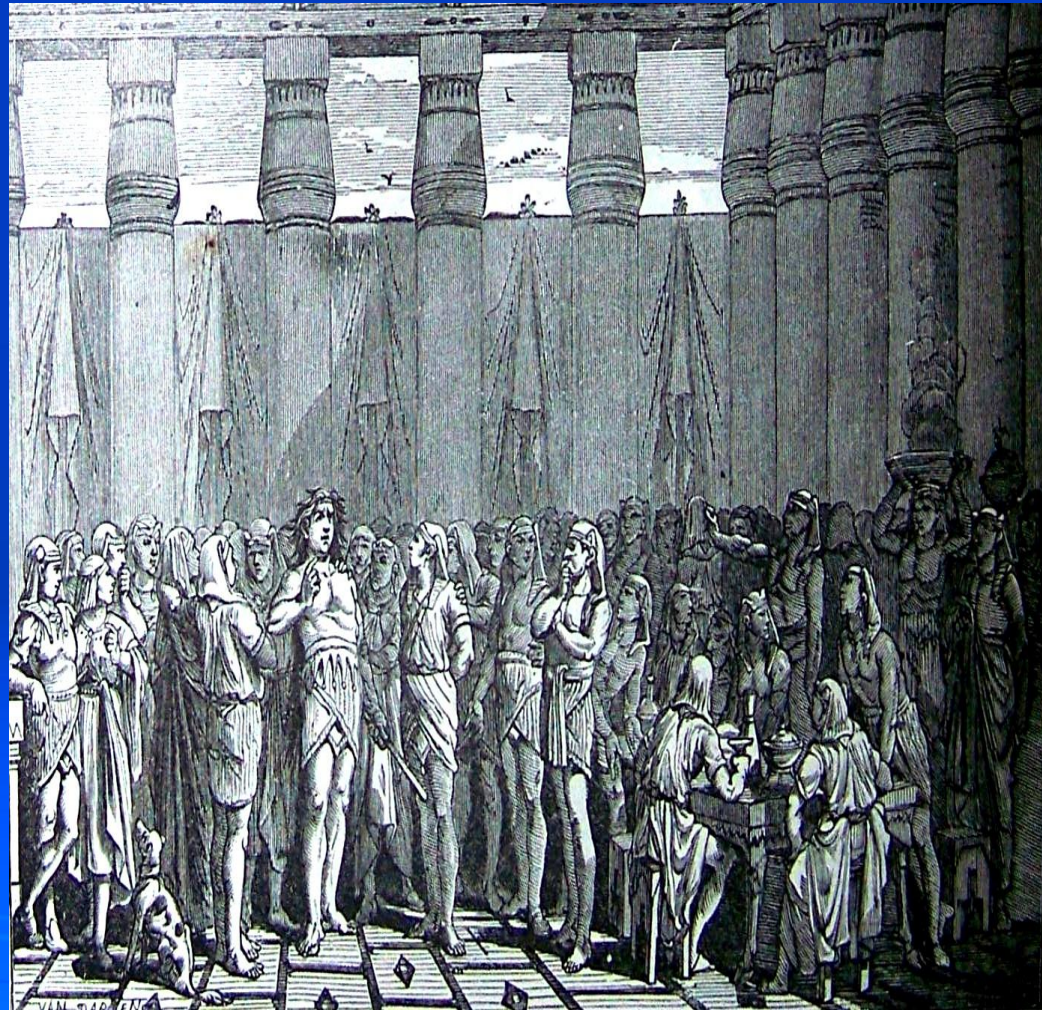


- Samson and parents go back to Timnah for wedding ceremony
- Samson again parts company with parents, finds lion carcass
- Bees had built a hive inside and Samson scrapes out the honey
- Lion was unclean
- Death was ever MORE unclean
- Parents would NEVER have eaten the honey if they had known its source



SAMSON'S UNFAIR RIDDLE

- No hint of any kind of tension between the two families
- The 30 young men invited as companions were Philistines
- Riddles told at parties as a customary form of entertainment
- Wager goes with the riddle: 30 sets of clothing to the winner



SAMSON'S POOR CHARACTER REVEALED AGAIN!

- 30 linen shirts & 30 changes of good clothing
- **Sedinim** = rectangular pieces of fine, soft linen used as undergarment
- **Chalipha** = festive garments, Sunday best
- No way to solve the riddle
- Men decide to confront Samson's bride and extort the answer from her



UNSOLVABLE RIDDLE & TIMING DIFFICULTIES WITH TEXT

- Feast was 7 days long, but we don't know on what day it began
- 7th day of the feasts
- 7th day of the WEEK = Shabbat
- Bride cried for 7 days we're told
- Samson's brides tears finally wore him down!





BRIDE BETRAYS HIM

- Just before the sun set on the 7th day of the feast, Samson's bride reveals the riddle to the 30 men
- Samson knew it was his "wife" because only he and she knew about the lion and the honey
- ***Ishsheh*** = girl, woman, wife depending on the context
- Samson became furious and left **BEFORE** the marriage was sexually consummated
- In ancient times the sexual consummation = marriage

SAMSON GOES TO ASHKELON

- Samson sets out to obtain the 30 sets of clothing to pay off his debt
- Ashkelon is over 20 miles from Timnah
- He kills 30 men at random in Ashkelon for their clothing
- Samson did not return to Timnah so the girl's father gave her in marriage to Samson's "best man"



WAR WAS NOW UNAVOIDABLE

- Vs. 19 The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson to give him strength to kill those 30 random Philistines for their clothing
- The Lord unapologetically used Samson's evil inclinations for His purposes
- The Rabbis handle all of Samson's anger and criminal behavior, and the walking away from his bride, by saying his "wife" now gave up Judaism and returned to being a pagan!