

The Testament Spectator

SPECIAL SAMSONIC EDITION

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Scriptural Stories Published in Newspaper

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Strongman Samson dies

In a last act of suicidal revenge, strongman Samson, the son of Manoah of the tribe of Dan, died when he pushed the two middle pillars of Dagon's Temple, killing him and at least 3,000 Philistines.

During his life, strongman Samson performed many incredible feats.

Dismembering a lion with his bare hands, the long-haired Danite is credited with slaughtering 30 Ashkelon men and torching the Philistine crops in a most unusual way. Samson trapped 300 foxes, tied them in pairs, fastened a torch to the tails and lit fires to them.

Strongman Samson slew 1,000 Philistines men with a jawbone of an ass. Years later, he removed Gaza's gate and carried it over rough terrain on his back 35 miles.

A list of Samson's incredible feats would lead one to conclude that the Danite was a violent man. But as a judge for 20 years, he would be fondly remembered as the "sword and shield of Israel."

Samson is survived by his brothers and his Father's family.

This special Samsonic Edition of *The Testament Spectator* will report and chronicle the spectacular deeds and feats of strongman Samson.

Barren woman told of impending pregnancy

Future Mother advised
what to eat, because
son will be a Nazirite

A stranger told a barren woman from Zorah that she will become pregnant.

"You are sterile and childless," the stranger, later identified as an Angel of the Lord, said to the barren woman. "But you are going to conceive and have a son."

Yearning to be a mother for many years, the woman was also pleased to learn that her future son will be a Nazirite throughout his life.

Because her future son will be set apart to God from birth, the Angel of the Lord commanded the woman that she couldn't eat anything unclean during pregnancy. This strict diet prohibited her from even eating fruit from the vine, which included grapes and raisins. She was also told not to drink wine or fermented drink.

"No razor may be used on his head," the Angel of the Lord insisted. "Because the boy is to be a Nazirite, he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

The woman couldn't wait to tell her

husband that a visitor said they will be parents — something they both wished for a very long time.

"A man of God came to me," she said to her husband Manoah, an Israelite from the tribe of Dan.

Excited about the visit and ecstatic about the message he brought, Manoah's wife was just beaming all over. He hadn't seen his wife this joyful before.

"He looked like an Angel of God, very awesome," she described the messenger, speculating that He was probably a prophet — not from around Zorah nor the tribe of Dan.

"I didn't ask Him where He came from nor did He tell me His name," she said. Such trivial querying was unnecessary, she told *The Testament Spectator*.

Manoah's wife said she was immediately convinced of the "man of God's" legitimacy because He knew personal things about her.

Convinced of his wife's account, Manoah acknowledged that if his future son will be a Nazirite, he wanted the Godly messenger to return so he could teach him how their future son will be properly reared.

Expectant father ecstatic about news

Manoah prays to God
for visitor's return

The prospect of fatherhood was exciting news for Manoah, but when the Danite's wife informed him that a "man of God" prophesied their son will be a Nazirite, he just couldn't contain himself.

Nazirite's, set apart to God from birth until death, were highly respected in Israel, recalled Manoah, who lived in the city of Zorah, located between Eshtaol of Judah and Ir-shemesh.

In her excitement while relating the incident, Manoah recalled her saying that she was not to drink wine, fermented drink, nor eat unclean food, such as grapes or raisins.

But weren't there more rules he should know about? According to his recollection, Nazirites' lived a very strict, disciplined, monastic life.

Manoah just wanted further information because he didn't want them to mess things up.

"Oh Lord, I beg you, let the 'man of God' you sent to us come again to teach

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'Man of God' returns

Danite couple grateful
to hear from visitor again

Samson's Mother and Father wanted to prepare a meal for the returning "man of God."

The Danite couple were grateful to hear from the visitor that they will be childless no longer and that their future son will be a Nazirite sent to begin to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines.

Perhaps the Lord God Almighty was rewarding them for adhering to the Mosaic laws and customs.

Maybe that's why this unknown, unnamed prophet was sent to give them this message. For as long as Manoah could remember, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, but not him.

The Danite was first to admit that he too wasn't perfect, but compared to some of his fellow countrymen, Manoah vouched (humbly of course) that he was not an evil man.

That's why Manoah didn't think it was fair that he and his wife weren't parents. Not wanting to complain, they still tried to do what was right. They were now being blessed for their faithfulness.

"We would like you to stay until we prepare a young goat for you," Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord after being called out to the field when He appeared to his wife yet a second time.

Since they've never seen Him before, the holy man probably came from some distance and needed to eat, they reasoned. Manoah and his wife waited

to express appreciation and hospitality to the visitor.

"Even though you detain me, I will not eat any of your food," He told the Danite from Zorah. "But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the Lord God Almighty."

Feeling emboldened to engage in conversation with the messenger, Manoah asked the Angel of the Lord to identify Himself. "What is your name, so that we may honor you when your word comes true," Manoah said.

"Why did you ask my name," the

amazing sight. The couple didn't know how long their faces were pressed to the ground. All they knew was that they enjoyed basking in the presence of God.

Eventually the couple, hearing the crackling fire and smelling the delightful aroma of the charred goat, raised their heads and saw that the Angel of the Lord vanished. Although they felt God's presence, the Angel of the Lord did not reappear.

"We are doomed to die," Manoah predicted to his wife fearfully, "because we have seen God."

'Why do you ask my name. It is a wonderful name, beyond your human understanding' — the Angel of the Lord

heavenly being asked. "It is a wonderful name, beyond your human understanding."

Puzzled and awed at the "man of God's" statement, Manoah sensed the sacredness of the Angel of the Lord's response and didn't push the matter any further.

Manoah fetched a young goat and prepared it along with a grain offering. He placed the elements on a rock formed in an altar and ignited the sacrifice.

When the offering was lit, something supernatural happened. Manoah and his wife attested. While the crackling fire engulfed the elements lying on the altar, the Angel of the Lord miraculously ascended in the flame toward heaven.

Manoah and his wife dropped to their knees and knelt after seeing this

Considering himself to be the more logical of the two, Manoah was a little humbled by his wife's logic.

"If the Lord God Almighty had meant to kill us," she told her husband, "He would not have accepted our offerings, shown us all these things, or even visited us twice."

Manoah thought that what his wife said made a lot of sense. His fear subsided. The Danite couple from Zorah never forgot the Angel of the Lord's message, Him levitating toward heaven and then vanishing after Manoah ignited their offering.

Eventually Manoah's wife became pregnant. Because her son will be a Nazirite, adherence to the strict diet imposed on her during pregnancy was easy.

Young Samson falls in love with Philistine woman

Demands parents to arrange wedding with Timnah maiden

According to Mosaic law, it was illegal for an Israelite to marry outside their race, but strongman Samson still ignored that prohibition.

"I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah," Samson said to Father Manoah and his Mother one day.

"Now get her for me as my wife," he said, demanding his parents break Mosaic law by having them arrange a marriage with the Philistine maiden.

Insisting that Manoah and his wife work out such a marital arrangement was not only illegal but it would be delicate, since it will place his parents in an awkward position.

Samson's parents weren't too surprised that he fell in love with a Philistine woman, but they were still

Expectant father...

(Continued from Page 1, Column 4)

us how to bring up the boy who is to be born," Manoah pleaded to the Lord God Almighty.

Not much time transpired. Manoah's prayer was heard and immediately answered. The Angel of the Lord visited his wife again — this time while she sat in the field, perhaps meditating. Just like before, Manoah wasn't around.

When the "man of God" suddenly appeared, Manoah's wife looked up, arose and hastily ran to tell her husband.

"He's here," she said to Manoah, out of breath after running from the field and excited about telling her husband of the second visit. "The man who appeared to me the other day — He's here!"

Manoah arose and went quickly with her out in the field to meet the visitor who initially brought her the good news.

"Are you the one who talked to my wife," Manoah asked the heavenly being, patiently waiting for their return.

"I am," responded the Angel of the Lord to the Danite couple of Zorah.

Manoah immediately believed the "man of God's" legitimacy because the prophet knew things about his wife that were only known to him.

Manoah tried to compose himself. So many questions came to his mind, but the Danite decided to cut to the chase. He cleared his throat and then proceeded.

"When your words are fulfilled [about the birth of a Nazirite son] what is to be the rule for the boy's life and work," Manoah asked officially, as if he was addressing the Lord God of Israel.

The "man of God" told him to do precisely what his wife was commanded. For some reason, Manoah expected additional instructions, but he'd just have to accept this.

Manoah agreed with his wife. The visitor's countenance did resemble an Angel of God, but He was probably just a holy man or prophet.

Out of gratitude for the news He brought them, the couple wanted to prepare him dinner. (See the page one "Man Of God Returns" story).

upset about their son's choice.

"Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people," Samson's parents asked him.

"Why do you have to go all the way to Timnah to find a wife there," they said. "The young, virtuous beautiful maidens of Israel will be better for you."

Adherence to a strict diet befitting an unborn Nazirite and year's of preparation while Samson was a newborn, toddler, child and then young man, was all for

naught, Manoah and his wife reflected, recalling the Angel of the Lord's specific instructions how their son was to be properly reared.

"Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife," they implored Samson, who just ignored their parental counsel.

"Get her for me," Samson insisted impatiently, almost disrespecting Father Manoah and his Mother.

Softening his abrupt tone and trying

to be a little more conciliatory, Samson calmed himself, paused and then said: "She's the right one for me."

Unbeknownst to Manoah and his wife — and probably to Samson as well — the Lord God Almighty was leading their son in this direction to carry out His will of beginning to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines.

At the time, all Manoah and his wife knew was that Samson's request will definitely cause problems.

Israelite man slays lion

Beast dismembered at Timnah Vineyard

One of the strongest, most powerful and deadliest beast in the region was literally torn apart by an Israelite man.

A dead lion, estimated to have weighed over 300 pounds and measured about six feet long, was discovered near the Timnah Vineyard.

No weapon marks were discovered on the carcass, the Philistine authorities reported after examining the dead beast, leaving the lion to decompose under the hot sun as a memorial to the hunter's prowess and power.

The hooked claws, wide powerful

jaws of the ferocious lion did not frighten the Israelite hunter, who dismembered the beast with his bare hands as he might have rent a young goat.

The Israelite hunter must have been very agile and quick to counteract the sudden charge of the lion, a Philistine zoologist surmised, noting that lions can sprint 30 miles per hour when they are approximately 100 feet away from their prey.

The killing of the lion coincided with the arrival of one Israelite man, named Samson, the son of Manoah.

Strongman Samson — a nickname given to the Danite — was on his way to Timnah to meet a Philistine maiden

there, sources confirmed.

This probable marriage displeased both Israelites and Philistines alike, who mutually viewed interracial marriage as contemptible.

The long-haired Danite reported to possess incredible physical strength, could threaten civil order if he wasn't kept in check, Philistine authorities predicted. Rumors about "the Spirit of the Lord falling upon" an Israelite hunter might be an exaggeration.

But if the rumor were true and an Israelite hunter driven by their God could cause this damage to an animal, what could Samson do to a Philistine man?

Grooms solve riddle fraudulently

Encourages Samson's wife to explain the riddle to them

Strongman Samson slaughtered and stripped the clothes of 30 Ashkelon men and in turn, gave those garments to 30 grooms as a reward for fraudulently solving a riddle at his wedding reception.

Angered that the 30 grooms did not guess his riddle legitimately and fairly, Samson suspected that his wedding guests blackmailed his wife to get the correct answer.

The 30 grooms, initially amused at their conduct but became subsequently sobered to learn from Philistine authorities that their dishonest scheme cost the lives of 30 Ashkelon men, confirmed that Samson and his wife were treated rather unfairly.

Here's what happened, *The Testament Spectator* learned.

Strongman Samson, the seven-braided, long-haired Israelite from the tribe of Dan, challenged the 30 grooms to solve a riddle in seven days.

"If you can give me the answer, I will give you 30 sets of clothes," he said. "If you can't tell me the answer, you must give me 30 sets of clothes."

Not wanting to back down from a challenge — especially from an Israelite — the wedding guests agreed to the contest. They listened intently as the strongman stated the riddle.

"Out of the eater, something to eat, out of the strong, something sweet," Samson said.

Feeling up to the challenge of solving this simple riddle — and sensing him mocking them — the 30 grooms immediately shouted out answers to Samson. Each answer was incorrect. Eventually, frustration set in the raucous room as the grooms became drunk.

The possibility of losing to an Israelite

from the lowly tribe of Dan was out of the question. Finally after the third frustrating day, the 30 invited wedding guests, so puzzled and befuddled by the riddle, approached Samson's bride sneakily.

"Coax your husband to explain the riddle for us, or we will burn you and your father's household to death," they said, threatening the Timnah bride after unsuccessfully trying to solve Samson's riddle for three consecutive days.

Questioning her loyalty to Philistia, the 30 men reminded her that Samson was a lowly Danite and she was a proud Philistine woman and as such, they must not be outshined by an Israelite.

"Did you invite us here to rob us," they asked the new bride, chiding her for consenting to marrying an Israelite.

Afraid and easily intimidated by the grooms, Samson's bride didn't take much convincing. She asked Samson to explain the riddle to her but he did not initially divulge the answer.

Hour after hour she persistently pressured him. However cajoling, temper tantrums, tears and even seduction did not faze the strongman. Samson would not yield to the enticements of his young, alluring, beautiful new bride.

She accused Samson of hating her. "You don't really love me," she alleged in a manipulative fashion. "You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer."

Still Samson was not going to tell her the answer. "I haven't even explained it to my Father or Mother," he replied. "So why should I explain it to you?"

Eventually Samson's new bride penetrated his tough veneer. The strongman tried but could not resist her sobbing any longer. He finally capitulated and told her the correct answer.

"What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion? That is the

answer," Samson said regrettably. "Are you satisfied now?"

Leaving their bed chamber, the new bride couldn't wait to relay the answer to the 30 anticipating grooms. This would get her and her father off the hook, she thought.

Before sunset of the seventh day, the grooms called Samson to the banquet room. They were ready to tell the answer of his riddle.

A man designated to speak for the other 29 grooms stood up and said to Samson: "The answer to your riddle is this: 'What is sweeter than honey. What is stronger than a lion?'"

When Samson heard the answer, he knew they couldn't have solved his enigmatic riddle on their own. Livid that they cheated, Samson knew his bride told them.

"If you have not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle," Samson said angrily.

While the 30 men laughed and made fun of him, strongman Samson suddenly stormed off in anger.

Hours later, 30 Ashkelon men were brutally slaughtered and shamelessly stripped of their clothing, Philistine authorities allege.

Eyewitnesses placed a long-haired man resembling Samson's appearance at the scene of the crime. The Philistines knew Samson had the motive and the muscle to carry out the dastardly deed.

Authorities deduced that Samson was the Israelite who dismembered the lion with his bare hands at the Timnah Vineyard — a deduction revealed by the very content of his enigmatic wedding riddle (see the above "Israelite Man Slays Lion" story).

Samson had become too brash and too big for his breeches, the Philistines thought, illustrated in the strongman marrying the maiden from Timnah and then flaunting the wedding in front of them. This Israelite must be killed.

Long-haired Danite torches Philistine crops

Standing grain, shocks of wheat, vineyards and olive groves set ablaze by foxes

Angered that his father-in-law gave his wife to a friend, strongman Samson torched the Philistine crops.

The Danite from Zorah who slaughtered 30 Ashkelon men and is believed to have dismembered a lion with his bare hands, is the same man who now burned the standing grain, shocks of wheat, vineyards and olive groves by foxes, many Philistines eyewitnesses say.

This man Samson is not only strong, but he is agile and quick, according to some who saw how the strongman burned their crops in a most unusual, effective and destructive way.

"I saw many foxes in pairs run past me with torches attached to their tails," said one Philistine farmer, whose slaves were frantically trying to douse the flames with water. "No one could have

done this but Samson."

The unbelievable sight of seeing two foxes, with their tails ablaze, running throughout the farmlands was corroborated by many other eyewitnesses.

"A normal man would not have had the speed to capture all those foxes," another Philistine farmer said.

It is unknown how strongman Samson

'I saw many foxes in pairs run past me with torches attached to their tails. No one could have done this but Samson' — a Philistine farmer

trapped 300 foxes, tied them in pairs (tail-to-tail), fastened a torch to the tails, lit fires to them and then released the foxes to burn the Philistine crops.

However it is known what provoked the seven-braided, long-haired Danite.

Strongman Samson was linked to murdering 30 Ashkelon men, stripping their garments and giving them to the 30 groomers who fraudulently guessed his riddle.

Seething with anger, witnesses saw Samson go to his Father's (Manoah) house to cool off from the Ashkelon incident. After awhile, Samson returned to Timnah to claim his wife. In an act of reconciliation, the strongman brought a young goat with him. Entering the house, Samson attempted to find her.

"Where are you going," Samson's father-in-law asked him.

father-in-law was coerced in giving away his wife. "This time I will really harm them."

Samson abruptly left his father-in-law's and at midnight, Philistines saw fire's everywhere.

"Who did this," a group of Philistines asked, wanting to take matters in their own hands and exact their own brand of vigilante justice.

"Samson, the Timnite's son-in-law, because his wife was given to his friend," someone answered.

In an act of retaliation for what strongman Samson did, the Philistines burned his wife, her father and torched their house. When Samson learned what happened to his wife and father-in-law, revenge was in his heart.

"Since you've acted like this, I won't stop until I get my revenge on you," he was overheard to have said.

Strongman Samson slaughtered many of them and like a fugitive on the run, escaped and hid out in a cave in the rock of Etam.

Samson slays 1,000 with jawbone of an ass?

Philistine Lords dispatch large posse to capture one man wrecking machine

The 1,000 men dispatched to capture strongman Samson were slain with a jawbone of an ass, Philistine authorities learned.

The five Philistine Lords thought that dispatching a 1,000-member posse to capture the infamous Israelite was more than enough. However, they were wrong.

How were so many men slain by just one man, the Philistine Lord's wondered. Here are the events which led to Samson's victory and the Philistines' defeat.

The fugitive Samson, fleeing the Philistines after torching their crops, slaughtering many Timnahites and slaying 30 Ashkelon citizens, eventually surrendered to the men of Judah. But it took some convincing.

Arriving at the cave in the rock of Etam where the long-haired Danite was hiding, the Judahites sent a delegation up the cliffs to reason with the strongman.

"Don't you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us," the delegation asked the strongman from Zorah, aware of his physical power but unaware whether he would indeed consider surrendering. "What have you done to us?"

"I merely did to them what they did to me," replied Samson. He explained to them about the incidents which led to his wife's murder and why he retaliated against the Philistines.

The 3,000 men of Judah, outnumbering the enemy by three to one but resigned to Philistine control, said they commiserated with Samson. But there was peace between the two nations and peace must continue, they explained to their brother.

They told Samson about the Philistine mobilization. A 1,000-man posse, invading their soil to arrest him, were encamped in Judah, extending all the way to Lehi, the delegation further reported.

"We've come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines," they said. This is the only way to spare conflict between the conquerors and the

conquered.

The long-haired Danite from Zorah knew he should surrender to the men of Judah. Realizing that fear prevented the Judahites from fighting the Philistines, Samson didn't want to trigger a war because of him.

As a Nazirite, he knew that the Lord God Almighty would take care of him. He thought that the whole matter could be settled by trial.

But Samson had to be sure that the men of Judah weren't sent by the sneaky Philistines to do their dirty work.

'With a donkey's jawbone I have made a donkey of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men'

"Swear to me that you won't kill me yourselves," he pleaded to his countrymen. "Agreed," they answered. "We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you," they promised.

Samson was bound with two new ropes and led down the cliffs. The 3,000 Judahites escorted the strongman toward his captors. After an Israelite scout sighted the Philistine checkpoint some distance away, they departed from the strongman.

The long-haired Danite walked alone toward his enemies. When the Philistines saw him coming toward them, they suddenly charged, shouting they were going to mutilate and publicly display his body.

Samson was caught a little off-guard. He thought that the Philistines had just

come to take him prisoner, as the men of Judah led him to believe. (He was unaware that the Philistines told the Judahites prior to the Etam surrender that they intended to do to him [Samson] as he did to us.)

Suddenly like a whirlwind spiraling from the air, the Spirit of the Lord fell on the Danite mightily. He forcefully but effortlessly jerked his limbs free. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax and instantly, the bindings dropped quickly from his hands.

Although Samson was now unfettered

he didn't have a weapon. He looked for something, just anything to defend himself against the Philistine onslaught. Samson fleetingly thought that maybe the 3,000 men of Judah would back him. Speculating very long on that improbability would be fatal, he thought.

Quickly looking for a weapon, the Spirit of the Lord directed Samson's line-of-vision to see a fresh jawbone of a donkey lying on the ground.

Right before the first helmeted Philistine got to him, Samson grabbed the jawbone laying in the dust. Dodging the attacker's lunge, the strongman struck the soldier's helmet, killing him instantly.

Angered at the murder of his fallen comrade, another Philistine attacked the strongman. Samson whacked him with the jawbone. He too died instantly.

The mob all quickly rushed him. One, by one, by one, strongman Samson struck the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass.

The Spirit of the Lord fueled the Danite with power, speed, quickness and dexterity. Just like an efficient soldier, Samson hit one Philistine right after another, and then hit the next one.

In some instances, Samson's makeshift weapon slashed through their shield, hitting the torso of the soldier holding it and obliterating his internal organs. In other instances the strongman's jawbone of an ass clobbered the head of the Philistine soldier, cracking it open like a fractured egg.

Not wanting to waste unnecessary movements because of dodging the many sharp swords and spears that were slashing and stabbing at him, Samson expended one blow per soldier, stepping over his crumpling dead body, then bashing the next one.

The Spirit of the Lord enabled the former defender to become the lone attacker. Beginning to retreat while Samson advanced, the Philistines were placed on the defensive, whose opponent wielded a jawbone of an ass rather than brandishing a sword.

Because of Samson's speedy counterattack, it didn't take long for him to slay all 1,000-armed Philistine men.

"With a donkey's jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men," Samson boasted of the mighty victory at Ramath Lehi.

Samson craves water, fount comes from unlikely source

Fears he will die of thirst

Water was all strongman Samson craved after single-handedly slaughtering 1,000 Philistines at Ramath Lehi with a jawbone of an ass.

Dead Philistines laid in heaps everywhere. It was quiet now. No voices clamored for his life. The commotion associated with battle dissipated. Blood-splattered and sweaty, Samson glanced around at the lifeless bodies strewn around him.

The Spirit of the Lord, which enabled him to kill so many with a donkey's bone, had quickly departed. Samson felt vulnerable and feared that if more Philistines attacked now, he wouldn't have the strength to defend himself.

The long-haired Danite knelt down on his knees. Out-of-breath and exhausted, Samson was still able to generate just enough strength to pray.

"You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the

uncircumcised," Samson managed to utter with his cracked, parched lips.

The Lord God Almighty instantly heard Samson's prayer. Miraculously, water began to trickle from an unlikely source. From a hollow opening of the same jawbone of an ass which Samson wielded as a weapon, cool refreshing water now flowed.

Samson moistened his lips and drank from the fountain flowing from the jawbone. Washing his face, Samson

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Strongman Samson removes Gaza's gate; Carries it 35 miles to Hebron on shoulders

Amazing act ranks with one of strongman's greatest physical feats

Strongman Samson removed Gaza's gate with his bare hands and carried it, along with the two posts and bar attachments, on his back 35 miles to Hebron.

The Gazites learned that Samson was attracted to a prostitute in their city. They surrounded the brothel where he lodged and waited to ambush the strongman at dawn. However, the long-haired Danite foiled their assassination plot.

"Samson seemed to be so relaxed and comfortable when we went asleep so I was surprised that he was gone when I awoke," said the Gaza prostitute, denying any complicity with the conspiracy.

Samson probably crept out of the prostitute's room around midnight, Philistine law enforcement officials theorize. In the cover of darkness and avoiding detection, Samson left the brothel and a few minutes later, he was

engrossing to the sentries and guards alike, that no one didn't think to pursue and slay him. Hours later, eyewitnesses spotted Samson placing Gaza's gate at the top of the hill which faces Hebron, Judah's capital city.

"I don't know how much that gate weighs, but it took several men and oxen just to install it" — Philistine building engineer

sighted at the Gaza gate.

In an awesome display of supernatural strength, the strongman wrenched with his bare hands the bronze gate loose — bar and all, according to sentries who witnessed the amazing feat. Hoisting the heavy bronze gate and positioning it on his shoulders, Samson carried it away.

The sight of seeing a man transport a gate at night on his back was so

Why did Samson set Gaza's gate facing Hebron? Some speculate that he was still resentful that the 3,000 men of Judah participated in his arrest year's earlier rather than back him at Ramath Lehi. So setting Gaza's gate facing Hebron could have symbolized his displeasure for the men of Judah's passivity.

The men of Judah had outnumbered

the Philistines' 1,000 man posse three to one that day.

If the Spirit of the Lord hadn't fallen on him when He did, Samson would have died and not slain so many with a jawbone of an ass!

The Gaza gate incident may not have eclipsed the single-handed slaughter of 1,000 Philistines at Ramath Lehi, but removing a heavy gate — along with the assembly and carrying it over rough terrain on his back 35 miles — certainly does rank with one of Samson's greatest feats.

"I don't know how much that gate weighs, but it took several men and oxen just to install it," a Philistine building engineer said while he was planning with civil authorities of constructing a makeshift gate until a permanent one would be replaced.

Delilah learns secret of Samson's strength

Nazirite's strength associated with strongman's long hair

The secret of strongman Samson's strength was the length of his hair, a woman from the Sorek Valley learned after enticing the long-haired Danite.

When the five Lords of Philistia found out that strongman Samson fell in love with a woman from the Sorek Valley named Delilah, they approached her with a deal.

"See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him," the five Lords asked the beautiful Philistine woman. "Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver."

Although Delilah knew Samson loved her deeply, she didn't feel that way toward him. She might have been impressed with Samson's strength and attracted to his seven-braided long hair, but Delilah viewed the Philistine Lords' offer as an opportunity to become rich.

Eleven hundred shekels of silver multiplied by five is a lot of money, she thought. Anyway, she wasn't going to be killed by her own people, like Samson's first wife was. Delilah agreed to the deal.

The mission wasn't easy. Samson lied

three times to Delilah when asked to confide in her.

"Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued," she asked the strongman one evening after an intimate candlelight dinner.

Samson was a little amused by her question and decided to play with her a little. "If anyone ties me with seven fresh thongs that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man," the

"If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man" — strongman Samson to temptress Delilah

strongman told her mischievously.

The Philistine Lords brought Delilah seven fresh thongs as Samson instructed. While men hid in the room, Delilah tied the strongman with the seven fresh thongs as he slept.

"Samson, the Philistines are upon you," Delilah whispered to Samson in his ear while he was awaking. Shortly after the Danite awoke, Samson realized he was tied. He snapped the thongs as if it was string near an open fire.

Samson duped Delilah and Delilah in turn duped them, the Philistine Lords murmured when they learned from the men hiding in the temptress' room what happened.

"You have made a fool of me," Delilah yelled at the strongman, embarrassed for being so gullible and for telling the Philistine Lords that she had learned Samson's secret. "You lied to me."

Delilah knew she wasn't going to get anywhere if she were upset. So she calmed down and asked him later.

"Come now," Delilah said seductively, pulling him gently close to her, embracing the strongman with her

strong, soft arms. "Tell me how you can be tied."

Samson whispered in her ear and said: "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man."

The temptress smiled. Delilah thought she had him this time. No man as ever resisted her so.

Just like before, Delilah waited for Samson to fall asleep. She got new ropes and tied the strongman with them, just as he instructed her. While men hid in the room again, Delilah told Samson that the Philistines are upon him.

Again, Samson's instructions to Delilah did not weaken him. He snapped the ropes off his arms just as easy as if they were threads.

Samson made a fool of Delilah again. She was livid. It was ironic that Delilah was the one, not the long-haired Danite, who was fit to be tied!

"Until now, you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied," she insisted impatiently.

Samson was actually attracted to the anger, passion and charm of Delilah. This is what he liked and loved about her. The Danite decided to play with the alluring woman from Sorek Valley some more.

"If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with a pin, I'll become as weak as any other man," Samson replied convincingly.

This was an elaborate procedure, Delilah thought, reasoning that Samson must be telling the truth this time. She

got the supplies needed and when Samson fell asleep, she took his seven braids, wove them into the fabric and tightened it with a pin.

"Samson, the Philistines are upon you," Delilah whispered to Samson a third time, believing the Danite when he told her that if she followed these instructions he would become like other men.

Feeling her womanly wiles were beginning to wear on Samson, Delilah was anxious for him to awake and when he did, to her shock and frustration nothing happened. He pulled the pin and the loom off his braids and walked off amused and unaffected.

"How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me," Delilah angrily shouted at Samson as he exited her bedroom "This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength."

Hour after hour, day after day, there was nonstop nagging and persistent prodding. Just like his Timnah wife, Delilah perpetually pressured him. Cajoling, temper tantrums, tears and seduction were the tools the temptress employed.

Finally, Delilah gave Samson an ultimatum. If he wasn't going to tell her the secret of his strength, she'd leave him.

Samson wasn't amused anymore. He couldn't stand the thought of being without her. Delilah seemed to be very serious about this ultimatum thing. He finally broke down and told her the secret of his power.

"No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since my birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."

Delilah knew this time Samson leveled with her. She hadn't heard about this Nazirite stuff before. She tried to convince the Philistine Lords that she had indeed learned the secret of Samson's strength, but it was difficult.

"Come back once more," Delilah pleaded to the Philistines Lords, feeling like the allegorical lad who "cried wolf"

(Continued on Page 5, Column 1)

Water fount from unlikely source...

(Continued from Page 3, Column 4)

raised the jawbone over his head to rinse the blood and sweat from his seven-braided long hair to his feet.

The cool water refreshed his hot, dehydrated body so much that the Danite began to feel his spirit returning.

Fortunately, no Philistines attacked Samson while he showered. Despite the dead around him there was tranquility and Samson felt the comforting presence of the Lord.

After Samson completed showering, the water which flowed from the hollow place of the jawbone suddenly ceased. He looked inquisitively at the jawbone before discarding it.

Moments earlier Samson used this

piece of donkey skeleton as a crude weapon. What a miracle — a fresh jawbone of an ass which he just tossed on the ground served as a weapon and water faucet!

Emotionally moved and thankful that the Lord God Almighty satisfied his thirst, Samson called the place where he refreshed himself, En Hakkore, which means "the caller's fount."

This site would be remembered where the Lord God almighty heard Samson's cry and revived him with an unlimited supply of water.

The long-haired Danite would remember this incident, the victory and the place where it occurred for the remainder of his life.

Secret learned...*(Continued from Page 4, Column 4)*

so often that when the real predator appeared, no one believed the boy. "He has told me everything."

Once Delilah convinced the Philistine Lords that Samson had really leveled with her this time, she reminded them not to forget to bring the 5,500 shekels of silver.

Delilah drugged Samson and while his head laid on her lap, a Philistine barber cut the long-haired Danie's beautiful, seven-braided hair.

"The Philistines are upon you," the temptress Delilah whispered to strongman Samson as he awoke from sleeping, with his shaven hair strewn all over the floor.

Samson got up. Just like he had done three times before, the strongman went outside to shake himself free just to ensure that his strength was still with him.

Feeling lifeless, Samson sensed the anointing that was on his life departed and the Lord God Almighty had withdrawn Himself.

Samson realized that he had become like other men. The Danite didn't know that the Lord even departed from him because he was drugged. Suddenly the Philistines emerged from everywhere and jumped him. Strongman Samson was subdued and his eyes were gouged out.

Bound with shackles, Samson was taken to Gaza, the city whose conspirators and sentries witnessed his great strength when he removed their gate. Authorities released him to the custody of Gaza's State Penitentiary.

Blindman Samson, the Nazirite who had betrayed his vow for the woman he loved but didn't love him, was given the lowliest assignment of grinding in the prison mill. Meanwhile, Delilah was paid off.

Dossier on Samson made public

Resigned to the Philistines rule over them, the Israelites assisted their conquerors in compiling a dossier on strongman Samson after the temptress Delilah learned the secret of his power.

Who Samson is, where he came from and what kind of person he is are the probing questions the Philistines are asking the Israelites about their nemesis.

For over 20 years while Samson was "judge" of Israel, the strongman has slaughtered a lot of Philistines and destroyed their property.

Many Philistine citizens have been terrified of Samson or are curious about him, the Philistine Lords reasoned, allowing the publishing of this once classified report.

According to Samsonic legend a godly messenger — referred by the Israelites as an Angel of the Lord — told Manoah and his wife that their son will be a Nazirite, individuals committed to living a disciplined life.

After this angelic encounter, Samson was born to the Danite couple of Zorah. His Hebrew name means "sun" or "brightness," Philistine intelligence officials discovered. Samson was the radiant "sun" or "brightness" in their lives because his mother, barren for many years, was overjoyed to learn from this Godly messenger about her impending pregnancy.

The only official record of Samson's childhood was that "the Lord blessed him and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him" while he grew up in Mahaneh Dan, which is located between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Even though Samson was a special child, friends and neighbors revealed to Philistine investigators that Father Manoah and his wife acknowledged (before their death) that like all people, their son possessed negative character flaws and positive attributes.

On the negative side, Samson frequently disobeyed his parents

(Editor's note: This fictitious "dossier" report on strongman Samson is based solely on a psychological profile, gleaned from official scriptural records.)

(marrying the Timnah maiden) and he was deceitful (giving honey to his parents from a bee hive without disclosing that the hive inhabited the carcass of a dead lion). He also lacked self-control (frequenting prostitute's, like the one in Gaza) and he lacked discernment (falling in love with Delilah, which proved to accelerate his demise).

Many observed that Samson allowed his emotions get the best of him — a strength as well as a definite weakness.

Since Samson knew that he wasn't like everybody else. The strongman seemed to live by his own set of rules, friends and acquaintances say. This was why no one challenged him wanting to marry a woman outside his race.

One Philistine psychologist opines that Samson was probably constantly reminded how special he was, which caused him to be somewhat egotistical. Others disagreed with this assessment, observing that Samson's Nazirite status didn't "go to his head" after all.

One Israelite man told Philistine investigators that Samson's peers were jealous of his strength and consequently, he didn't have very many male friends.

Samson's physical strength made him very popular with the ladies. The Israelite women, attracted to the Danite's long hair, flocked to him in droves.

Although Samson relished their attention, he was more attracted to Philistine women. Incapable of discerning their character, Samson had a weakness for a Philistine girl with a pretty face. This led to his downfall.

On the positive side, Samson was a natural leader. Intensely fearless, and passionately loyal to his people, Samson loved his God. The strongman got very

angry when he saw an Israelite mistreated. Although he tried to live up to his vow as a Nazirite, Samson was unsuccessful.

Israelites in this Nazirite sect couldn't eat fruit from the vine, drink wine nor fermented drink, Philistine intelligence officials learned. What puzzled investigators was Samson's life-style. As an Israelite he didn't adhere to his Nazirite oath.

For example, Israelite's in general and Nazirites in particular were prohibited from consorting with women outside their race, so Samson's preference for Philistine women was illegal, according to laws codified by the late Moses, the Servant of the Lord.

Furthermore, Nazirites were prohibited from touching carcasses. Samson was known to have committed this infraction on two known occasions, when he killed a lion with his bare hands — later eating honey from the bees hive which inhabited the carcass — and when he wielded a jawbone of an ass, slaughtering 1,000 men.

In addition, Nazirites were prohibited from drinking wine or fermented drink. Some Philistine eyewitnesses saw Samson drinking during the seven-day wedding reception at Timnah.

There is, however, an elaborate purification ritual that Samson probably followed to restore him as a Nazirite in good standing, Philistine religious scholars learned.

But the unforgivable infraction, which was divulging to Delilah the real secret of his power, was his hair — all seven braids of it. A Nazirite was prohibited from cutting their hair. Samson never got a haircut — hence his nickname, the seven-braided, long-haired Danite.

But as an Israelite "judge," strongman Samson was well-loved by his people. Some of his countrymen fondly refer him as "the sword and shield of Israel." The Testament Spectator learned.

Blindman Samson demolishes Dagon Temple**Pushes two middle pillars with all of his might**

In a last act of suicidal revenge, blindman Samson pushed the two middle pillars of Dagon Temple, toppling the roof and walls on thousands of Philistines who came to see and mock him at "The Samson Show."

About 3,000 people fell or were crushed to death from the roof alone, emergency response officials estimated. Inside the temple the five Philistine Lords, their invited guests, priests and thousand of other's died when the pillars, walls as well as the people perched on the roof, collapsed on them.

"The Samson Show" circus, organized by the Philistine Lords to sacrifice to Dagon (the nation's fish god), was also intended to celebrate blindman Samson's capture and honor the temptress Delilah as the nation's saviour and hero.

For it was the alluring persistent wiles of the beautiful woman from the Sorek Valley who discovered the secret of Samson's strength.

"Our god has delivered our enemy Samson into our hands," a poster read, advertising to Philistine citizens in Gaza

and throughout the region to attend "The Samson Show," a spectacle that would be held at the largest worship place in the province.

After Dagon Temple's main section reached capacity, the Philistine Lords authorized that an additional 3,000 could view "The Samson Show" circus from the roof.

Because of security precautions, special arrangements were made by Gaza National Penitentiary's (GNP) Guards when they remanded Samson into the temporary custody of Temple guards, who were less armed and

humbled before them.

While some people jeered, joked and laughed at the blind prisoner, those who were more religious and wanted to thank a higher power, credited Dagon for temptress Delilah's success.

"Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain," the Philistine people recited, praising their fish god Dagon for capturing the long-haired Danite from Zorah.

While the people drank they begged the Temple guards to release Samson from his cage so he could "entertain us."

'Oh God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes' — strongman Samson

experienced. His eyes gouged and body scarred from torture, the Danite was bound with bronze shackles.

Since the time of his arrest, blindman Samson — so named by the Philistine guards — was given the lowliest assignment of grinding at GNP's mill.

Those in the overflow section on the roof who got a glimpse of the once proud "strongman" didn't think Samson was so big and bad after all.

Attendees were delighted to see blindman Samson, humiliated and

"Boring, boring, boring," they chanted in unison, complaining to the Philistine Lords and security guards that it was plain "boring" just to see Samson crouched in a cage.

Even though Samson was blind, GNP guards didn't think that it would be a good idea to release the blindman from his cage, even though attendees were bored! They feared that something could go wrong if he was released.

Nevertheless, the pressure was on for Samson to be released out in the open.

Once he was liberated, the Philistines made fun of him all the more. After awhile, Samson requested a place to rest.

"Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them," Samson said to the servant who held his hand.

His hair growing from the haircut which took away his power, the blindman was led to the two middle pillars, which supported the temple.

"Oh Sovereign Lord, remember me," Samson was heard to have prayed to the Lord God Almighty. "Oh God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."

After Samson requested that he "die with the Philistines" he braced his right hand on one pillar and his left hand on the other, and pushed with all his might.

The fanfare, fun and frivolity of thousands were sobered when they saw the middle pillars slowly dislodge from its foundation. Before the guards could stop him, they, as well as everybody else, was showered with debris and the entire building collapsed.

There under the rubble of Dagon's Temple, strongman Samson, son of Manoah of Zorah, died with so many of his enemies who had come to see him at "The Samson Show."

Editorial

By Ronald Owens Jr., Editor/Publisher
The Testament Spectator

Unfortunately, Strongman Samson was but a weak man

Strongman Samson, a man with a strong body yet a weak character, performed 12 supernatural feats during the 20-year period which he, according to The Holy Bible, "judged Israel in the days of the Philistines."

He rent a lion, slew 30 Ashkelon men, torched the Philistine crops by trapping 300 foxes and lighting fires to their tails, attacked the Timnah men viciously, slaughtered 1,000 Philistines with a jawbone of an ass at Ramath Lehi, carried the Gaza gate on his back 35 miles over rough terrain and pushed the middle pillars of Dagon Temple, killing a building full of men and women congregated on the inside and 3,000 perched on the roof.

Additional Samsonic miracles included breaking two new ropes before the Ramath Lehi slaughter, showering with water that flowed so fluidly from the same jawbone of an ass which was used as a weapon just moments before, breaking Delilah's seven green cords, her new ropes and pulling the pin which she wove in his seven braided hair.

If strongman Samson were alive today, he would have been very popular and successful. His handsome appearance and long hair would have attracted many a heart throb across the nation and indeed around the world.

Samsonic acclaim would have been translated to positive media coverage, lucrative book deal(s), an abundance of talk show offers and for the young, a comic book character and/or the introduction of a product line of strongman Samson toys.

Did strongman Samson, the son of Manoah of the tribe of Dan, really fulfill his intended, divine calling? The answer to this question is a probable "yes" and perhaps at the same time, a resounding "no."

A probable "yes" because the prebirth mission of Samson was to "begin the deliverance of the Israelites from the Philistines," a messenger, later identified as the Angel of the Lord, foretold a barren woman from Zorah who ended up to be Samson's Mother. Indeed, Samsonic deliverance was begun but not completed.

A resounding "no" because at the time of Samson's death — tantamount to suicidal revenge when he requested of God that he "die with the Philistines" — the Israelites' condition had not significantly changed. Sure, thanks to Samson, there were less Philistines than before, but the Israelite's enemies were still in charge of things, something the Lord God Almighty had not intended for His people.

The word "deliverance," defined as to liberate or rescue, invokes the memory and exploits of three other pre-Samsonic Biblical characters.

Moses, the Servant of the Lord, "delivered" the Hebrew slaves from the 430-years of slavery. It took ten God-induced plagues — afflicting people, nature and animals alike — before Pharaoh finally released the slaves. It also took the parting of the Red Sea, enabling six million people to cross on dry ground 12 miles to the other side, before "deliverance" was actually completed.

Joshua son of Nun "delivered" the Israelites from the desert to a land flowing with milk and honey when he — starting with Jericho — conquered Canaan.

Gideon, son of Joash of the Abiezrite clan from the tribe of Manasseh, "delivered" the Israelites from the Midianites, Amalekites and their Eastern Allies, whom for seven previous years, attacked, robbed and plundered him and his people. The "Mighty Warrior" — called by the Angel of the Lord who commissioned the timid farmer — led 300 men against a vastly superior force of 150,000!

Moses led the Israelites to Canaan, Joshua conquered Canaan and for a time, Gideon extricated Israel's enemies from Canaan — only for them to return again. These three men, in addition to of course Samson, are cited (among other heroes) in the Hebrews, Chapter 11 "Hall of Fame" faith chapter.

Sure, as a one-man army, Samson killed a lot of Philistines and performed many incredible feats in the process. But after he demolished the Dagon Temple, Philistines still occupied the territory which the Lord God Almighty promised to the Danite's patriarchs — Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Samson is the only one of the four whose exploits were prophesied prior to his birth, yet why was his service to the Israelites seemed to be more deficient compared to that of Moses, Joshua and Gideon?

The Servant of the Lord, the son of Nun and the son of Joash had a supporting cast.

It was Aaron who served as Moses' spokesman and wielded the staff which inflicted the 10 plagues and parted the Red Sea. It was Joshua's armed men who marched around Jericho and fought in the Canaan wars. It was Gideon's 300 men, divided into three, 100-men squads, who shouted: "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon," blowing trumpets, smashing jars and holding torches to illuminate their noisy assault.

Yet it was just strongman Samson, the Israelites' one man wrecking crew performing 12 supernatural feats during the 20-year period he "judged" Israel, who acted alone. With the anointing on his life, Samson could have done a lot more if his inner strength would have matched what he exerted outwardly.

In Samson we see disobedience (marrying the Timnah maiden) and deceit (giving honey to his parents without telling them that it came from a bee hive which inhabited a lion's carcass). In Samson we also see lust (visiting the Gaza prostitute [which probably wasn't the first time]) and naivete (falling in love with the Timnah maiden and the dangerous Delilah).

If the Spirit of the Lord, who fell on Samson to perform these spectacular feats, was allowed (which couldn't occur until Jesus Christ's death, resurrection and ascension) to build his character, he would not have been disobedient, deceitful, frequented prostitutes or been seduced by Delilah. I don't believe that it was God's perfect will for Samson to lose his eyes, paving the way for his suicidal revenge.

Samson's prebirth mission was to "begin the deliverance of the Israelites from the Philistines," because the Lord knew that unfortunately strongman Samson would be but a weak man.

More died in Temple collapse than estimated

Three thousand casualties on roof doesn't include victims in main section

More people died in the Dagon Temple disaster than initially estimated, according to Philistine officials who were busy counting the casualties amidst the ruins of Gaza's largest worship place.

"We know there were 3,000 men and women on the roof alone, but the precise number of Philistine citizens watching 'The Samson Show' in the main section is unknown," said a Philistine rescuer, supervising cleanup operations.

The five Philistine Lords called a sacrificial celebration to Dagon, the nation's fish god. Everyone who was someone was invited in the Temple's main floor to see Samson, humbled and humiliated before their god, rulers and people.

It was standing room only in the Temple's main section and many more Philistine citizens wanted to attend but were initially denied entry.

"The Philistine Lords authorized the Temple roof be used as an overflow section at the point when the main section reached standing room only," a Temple building official said. "So the ushers directed about 3,000 citizens to view 'The Samson Show' from the roof."

Eyes gouged, body scarred and humiliated, the Israelite prisoner, who still looked rather imposing

crowded in the cage, was brought to the Temple. Eventually set free out in the open, Samson performed to the delight of several thousand attendees, who were jeering, joking and laughing at the prisoner.

Part of the way doing the show, Samson was led to the area between the Temple's two middle pillars, which supported the entire building.

The crowd wasn't threatened to see Samson lean on the two pillars at all. Some thought it was just part of the show and laughed yet all the more when he groped and stumbled his way to his intended resting spot.

Outside the Temple, hopeful spectators could hear

'I'm glad that I didn't get here any earlier, because I surely would have been one of those unlucky ones on the roof'

the uproarious noisy laughter and drunken derision of the crowd. The latecomers wished they could view "The Samson Show."

Then everything became deathly quiet. The fanfare, fun and frivolity of thousands were sobered when strongman Samson, his hair growing from the haircut which took away his power, pushed with all his might against the two Temple pillars.

Once the pillars were slowly dislodged from its foundation, the entire Temple imploded. Like a chain reaction, the interior and exterior walls and pillars of

the building collapsed and debris rained on everybody inside.

Those denied entry in "The Samson Show" felt the building rumble and then saw the mighty edifice crumble like a house of cards. Many quickly ran from the Temple site, just happy to be alive.

"I'm glad that I didn't get here any earlier, because I surely would have been one of those unlucky ones on the roof," an unidentified Philistine man remarked to The Testament Spectator, mourning the loss of friends who did arrive early and were granted entry to "The Samson Show."

Building officials assured the Temple's structural integrity and Philistine authorities confirmed that the buildings collapse was attributed to their nemesis, strongman Samson.

This total collapse of Gaza's largest worship place at the hands of strongman Samson killed more people than when the long-haired Danite was alive, according to scribes keeping track of Samson's death count.

This disaster will indeed be remembered in the annals of strongman Samson's greatest and most spectacular exploits. Although the Philistines mourned the great loss of life in the Dagon Temple disaster, they were relieved that Samson would no longer be around to torment them.

Samson's brother's and his Father's family recovered his body. Bringing it back from Gaza they buried him in a crypt between Zorah and Eshtaal.

Editor's Note: The Testament Spectator, a newspaper which reports in a contemporary manner the characters, events and issues appearing in THE HOLY BIBLE, is intended to inform, educate and edify its readers. The events reported and sources quoted in this Special Samsonic Edition of The Testament Spectator are scriptural passages or notes taken from Duke's Annotated Reference King James Bible and scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission by Zondervan Bible Publishers. This edition, which also contains events from the books of Exodus 1-15; Numbers 13 and 14; Judges 6-8 plus 13-16, and Hebrews 11, has been journalistically paraphrased to achieve contemporary readability and clarity. In some cases, the Editor/Publisher has fictionalized some events, sources and their quotes to enhance stories covered in The Testament Spectator. For further information, contact Ronald Owens Jr., Editor/Publisher, The Testament Spectator, P.O. Box 2102, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741, at (916) 366-9576. Send e-mail queries to: protestspec@aol.com