

SAMSON

Deliverance

in

Death



Sermon Questions

1. About how far did Samson carry the gate from Gaza? (10, 20, 30, 60, 90 kilometers)
2. What are the ways that Samson told Delilah that he could be bound?
 - a. New ropes
 - b. Old ropes
 - c. Chains
 - d. Fresh bowstrings
 - e. Hair pinned up
 - f. Beard shaved
3. Did Samson think that Delilah presented a danger to him? (Yes/No)
4. Did Samson think that anyone could be a danger to him? (Yes/No)
5. When faced with temptation (a situation where you can easily do what is wrong), what should we do?
 - a. Close your eyes
 - b. Just be patient, it will be over soon
 - c. Flee (get away from the temptation)
 - d. Know that God gives you strength in temptation
 - e. If you're a strong Christian, you can handle it
6. Does Satan try to destroy Christians? (Yes/No) How does he do this?

7. Was Samson's strength because of his hair? (Yes/No)
8. If you do the right things, then God *must* give you strength? (Yes/No)
9. Are you humble enough to admit your sin and flee to Jesus for forgiveness? (Yes/No)
10. Are you sure that God is with you? (Yes/No)

Samson's Life: History or Fantasy?

Some people reject the story of Samson as a mere myth, a legend that never really happened like it is recorded in the Bible. After all, how could two pillars in a temple be pushed over and make the entire building collapse so that so many people die in the catastrophe?

One historian writes, *"The historical quality of heroic tales is always low. This is easy to see in Samson. A palace or temple which could support several thousand people on its roof supported by two central pillars separated by an arm's length never existed... The world in which Samson lives is real, even if his feats of strength are not."*¹

Like in other cases, archaeology validates the Bible. A Philistine temple was excavated at Tel Qasile in the 1970s and more recently at Gath in 2010. In each case, two pillars anchored the center of the structure and are about 6 feet apart. The support pillars were made of wood and rested upon stone support bases. A strong man could dislodge the pillars and cause the roof to come crashing down. While the temple where Samson was in Gaza has not been excavated (since it is beneath the modern city), these findings show that the Biblical account is historical and accurate. We can trust God's word.



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Support bases at the excavated Philistine temple at Tel Qasile.

¹ McKenzie, John L. *The Old Testament Without Illusions*. Chicago: Thomas More, 1979: 229–30.