

Sermon Title: **“SAMSON & THE JAWBONE”**

Judges 15:1-20

- After a little time, Samson returns – his anger subsided & bringing with him a young goat (Samson’s desire was to eat a meal with this woman)
  - The father said “No” & explained that he was under the impression that Samson hated his daughter
  - In a way of distracting & maybe appeasing, or at least maybe defusing the situation, this father offers his other daughter to Samson
- First time Samson attacked the Philistines, it was really unprovoked. God used it, but it was initiated by Samson
- This time what’s about to happen is a direct result from the Philistines giving his wife to another man
- After this damage had been done, the Philistines asked who was responsible for this atrocity. Answer = Samson
- To enact two-fold revenge – the Philistines go & kill both the woman & her father by fire
  - Cause Samson pain – by killing his wife (who Samson desired)
  - Purged the Philistines of the reason Samson acted this way
- “Ruthlessly” = literally translated – ‘He attacked them hip & thigh (basically an expression of a cruel slaughter)
- Do you see the NEVER ending back & forth of retaliation?
  - This is why the Philistines surround & invade Lehi
- Judah takes 3,000 men for a “conversation” with Samson
  - They had come up to the mountain to bring Samson back with them to hand him over to the Philistines
  - Many commentators believe that Samson submitted himself to this (where they differ is to the reason why)
- Arriving in Lehi, Samson was greeted with shouts of anger & Samson (being filled with the Spirit of God) hulks up & kills 1,000 Philistine men
  - Emphasis used is two-fold:
  - On the heaps – piles of people have been slain
  - & on the jawbone – such a humble instrument was used
- This section ends with the phrase that normally comes at the end of a judge’s life – ‘So he judged Israel 20 years.’