

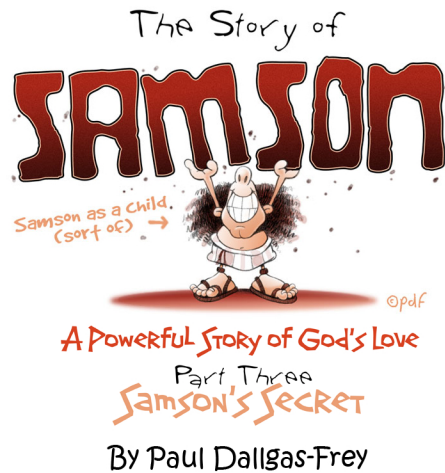
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BOWSTRINGS
 DELILAH
 GRINDER
 HAIR
 PHILISTINES

PRISON
 RAZOR
 ROPES
 SAMSON
 SHAVED

SILVER
 STRENGTH
 THREAD
 YARN





We must find the secret of Samson's strength!

"But how?" The Five Philistine Kings were huddled together. They were getting tired of all the trouble Samson was causing. They had to find out what made him so strong.

And then they had an idea.

"Let's go to Samson's wife. Maybe she can trick him into telling the secret of his strength."

And so the Five Philistine Kings went to Delilah, Samson's wife. They promised her eleven hundred pieces of silver each if she could discover Samson's secret.

That night, Delilah snuggled up to Samson. "What makes you strong?" she asked him sweetly. "If someone wanted to tie you up, how could they do it?"

"Well," Samson said, "If they tied me up with seven new bowstrings, that would do it. I would be as weak as any man."

The next day, Delilah went to the five kings and told them the secret. They gave her seven new bowstrings. That night, while the five kings were hiding in the other room, Delilah tied up Samson while he was sleeping.

"Samson! The Philistines are coming!" she shouted.

Samson jumped up, and snapped the bowstrings like they were nothing.

"Rats!" the kings thought. That wasn't the secret.

"You tricked me!" Delilah said to Samson the next night. "Tell me

really this time. What is the secret of your strength?"

"If you tie me up with ropes that have never been used, I will be as weak as any man." Samson said.

And so, the next night, while Samson was sleeping, Delilah tied him up with new ropes.

"Samson! The Philistines are coming!" she shouted.

And Samson jumped up and broke the ropes as if they were thread.

"Samson," Delilah said to him the next night. "You're being mean to me! Tell me the truth. How could someone tie you up?"

"If you weave my hair into a loom, then I will be as weak as any man." Samson said.

And so that night, while Samson was sleeping, Delilah took his long hair, and wove it into a loom and pegged it tight.

"Samson! The Philistines are coming!" she shouted.

Samson jumped up and broke free, just like before.

"How can you say you love me," Delilah said, "When you won't even tell me the truth?"

She kept asking him, and asking him, day after day, night, night after night, until Samson couldn't take it anymore.

"All right, all right, I'll tell you," he finally said. "My hair has never been cut, ever since I was dedicated to God when I was born. If you cut my hair, I will be like any man."

And so Delilah went to the five kings and said, "Come back one more time. Samson has finally told me the truth."

That night, after Samson had fallen asleep in Delilah's lap, she cut his hair.

"Samson! The Philistines are coming!" she shouted.

Samson jumped up like before - but this time God had left him. He was as weak as any man.

The Philistine Kings grabbed him. And then they did a terrible thing. They poked out his eyes, tied him with chains, and dragged him away. They put him to work turning a great stone wheel.

Day after day, Samson turned the heavy wheel.

But his hair started growing back.