

A. Bringing of the Ropes (9-10)

1. Invasion of Judah

When the Enemy Invades

"Then" - Refers back to the great slaughter (v.8)

Where the Enemy Invades

"Lehi" - Lit "Jawbone"

-In tribal territory of Judah. East of Philistia.

-Why? That's where Samson was located. He did not go back to his hometown of Zorah, which was located in the tribal territory of Dan. North of Philistia.

2. Inquiry by Judah

"Why have you come up against us?"

-They knew the location of Samson but were ignorant concerning his activities. See v. 11

"As he did to us"
See v. 8

C. Breaking of the Ropes (14-17)

"Shouting" - a sign that they sensed victory. Israel shouted as they pursued the Philistines after Goliath's death (1Sam 17:52).

1. Releasing of Samson

"Spirit of the Lord"
- 14:6, 19

Flax - A food and fiber crop (plant) cultivated in cooler regions of the world

2. Rampage of Samson

Duty in the Rampage

Samson used his freedom to attack an enemy of God and His people.

⁹Then the **Philistines** came up and encamped in **Judah** and **made a raid** on **Lehi**.

¹⁰And the men of **Judah** said, "**Why have you come up against us?**" They said, "We have come up to bind **Samson**, to do to him **as he did to us.**"

¹¹Then **3,000 men of Judah** went down to the **cleft of the rock of Etam**, and said to **Samson**, "**Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us?**" What then is this that you have done to us?" And he said to them, "**As they did to me, so have I done to them.**"

¹²And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you, that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines." And **Samson** said to them, "**Swear to me that you will not attack me yourselves.**"

¹³They said to him, "No; we will only bind you and give you into their hands. We will surely not kill you." So they bound him with **two new ropes** and brought him up from the rock.

¹⁴When he came to **Lehi**, the **Philistines** came **shouting** to meet him. Then the **Spirit of the LORD** rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as **flax that has caught fire**, and his bonds melted off his hands.

¹⁵And he **found a fresh jawbone of a donkey**, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he **struck 1,000 men**.

¹⁶And Samson said, "**With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey have I struck down a thousand men.**"

¹⁷As soon as he had finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone out of his hand. And that place was called **Ramath-lehi**.

Deserting in the Rampage - Apparently Samson fought the Philistines completely by himself. None of the 3,000 men of Judah participated.

3. Remarks of Samson -The word for donkey and heap are very similar in Hebrew

*The Hebrew text could be understood as Samson stating that he has made his Philistine enemies into "many heaps" or that he has made them seem like donkeys by simply using the jawbone of a donkey.

-Ramath-Lehi - Lit. "Hill of the Jawbone"

B. Binding with the Ropes (11-13)

-This episode shows how firmly the Philistines were in control of Israel

1. Denouncing of Samson

"Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us?"

-The men of Judah responded very submissively to the Philistines.

2. Desire of Samson

"As they did to me, so have I done to them" (6-7)

-Same justification the Philistines used in v. 10

"Swear to me that you will not attack me yourselves."

-Why?

(a) He had no desire to kill his countrymen.

(b) Gave him the advantage in attacking the Philistines.

3. Delivering of Samson

-They had an opportunity to rally around Samson and march against the Philistines, but instead turned him over to face certain death.

-Their action is treacherously wicked

Judges 15:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ Then the Philistines said, “Who has done this?” And they said, “Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion.” And the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire. ⁷ And Samson said to them, “If this is what you do, I swear I will be avenged on you, and after that I will quit.” ⁸ And he struck them hip and thigh with a great blow, and he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

1 Samuel 17:52 (ESV)

⁵² And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.