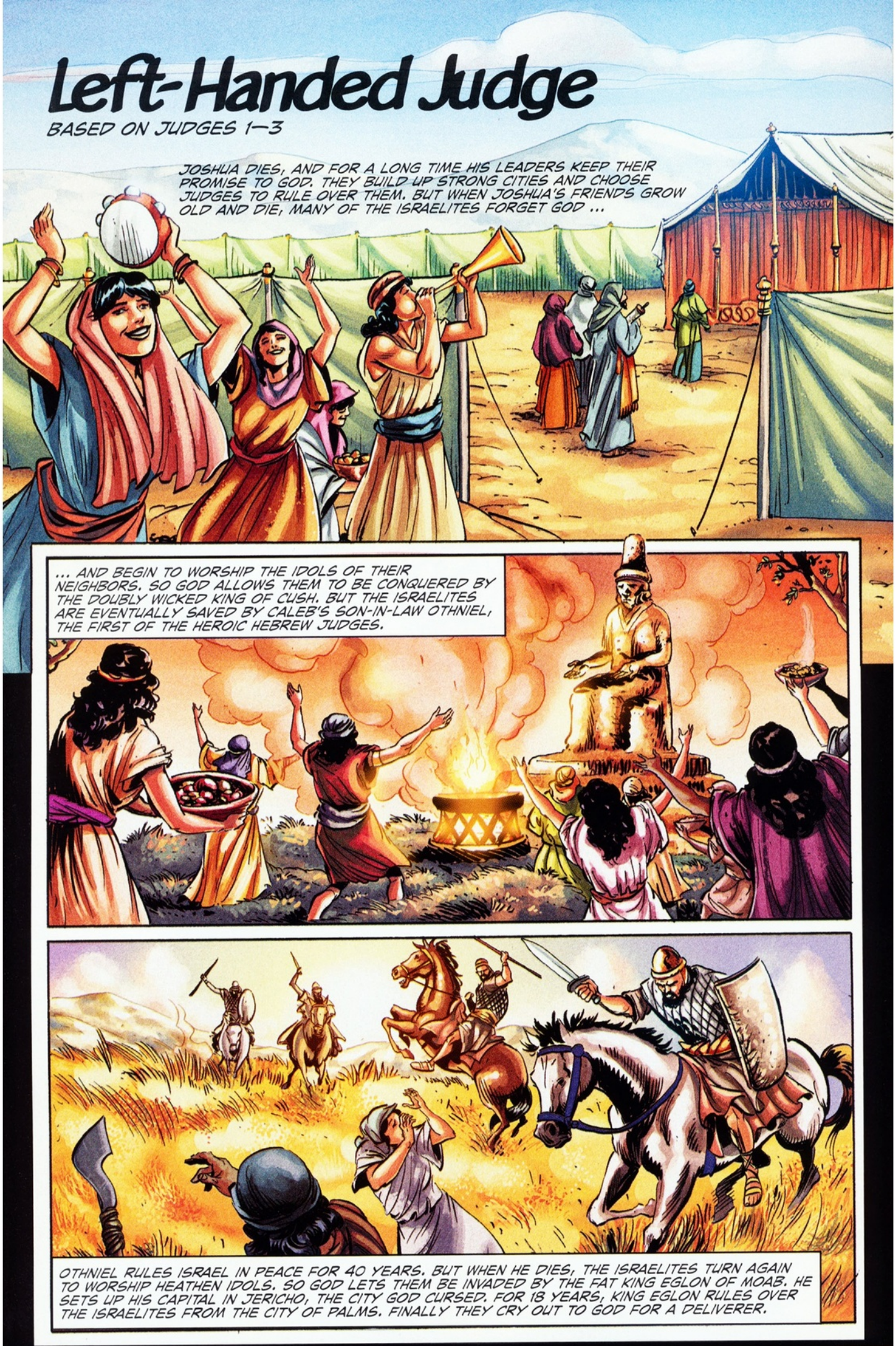
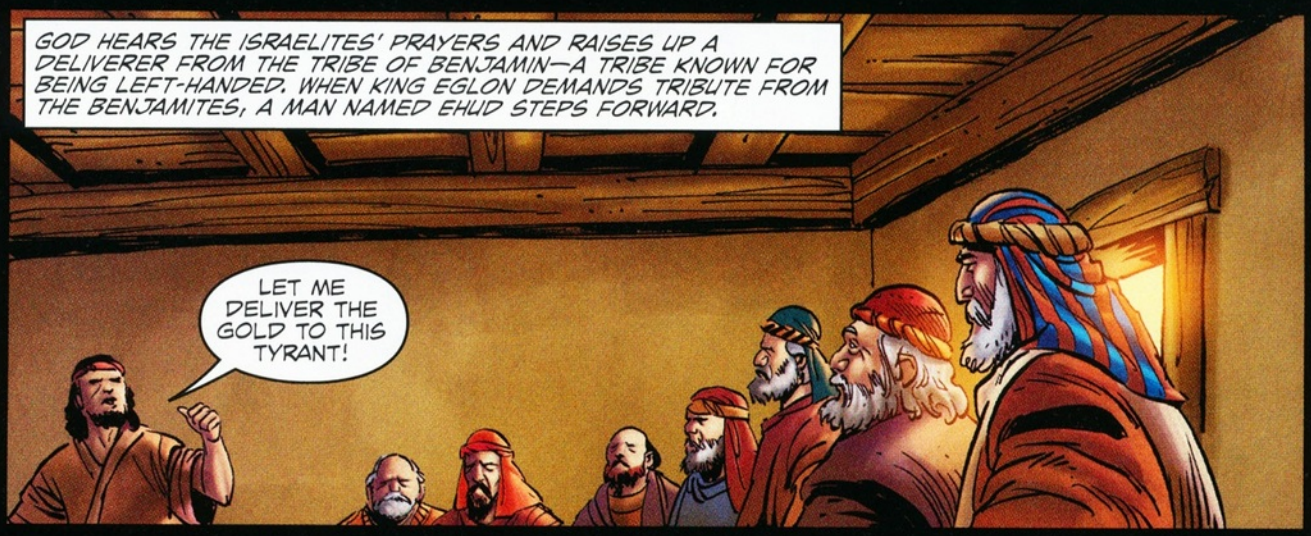
The Action Bible

God's Judges

Left-Handed Judge

BASED ON JUDGES 1–3




GOD HEARS THE ISRAELITES' PRAYERS AND RAISES UP A DELIVERER FROM THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN—A TRIBE KNOWN FOR BEING LEFT-HANDED. WHEN KING EGLON DEMANDS TRIBUTE FROM THE BENJAMITES, A MAN NAMED EHUD STEPS FORWARD.
LET ME DELIVER THE GOLD TO THIS TYRANT!

HOPEFULLY THEY WON'T SEARCH ME FOR A WEAPON.

IN EGLON'S THRONE ROOM, EHUD DELIVERS THE BENJAMITES' GOLD AND TURNS TO LEAVE.
OH, WAIT! I ALMOST FORGOT. GOD HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
BUT IT'S A SECRET; I HAVE TO TELL YOU PRIVATELY.

EVERYBODY OUT! BUT FIRST, MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T HAVE A WEAPON.

SEARCH HIM!

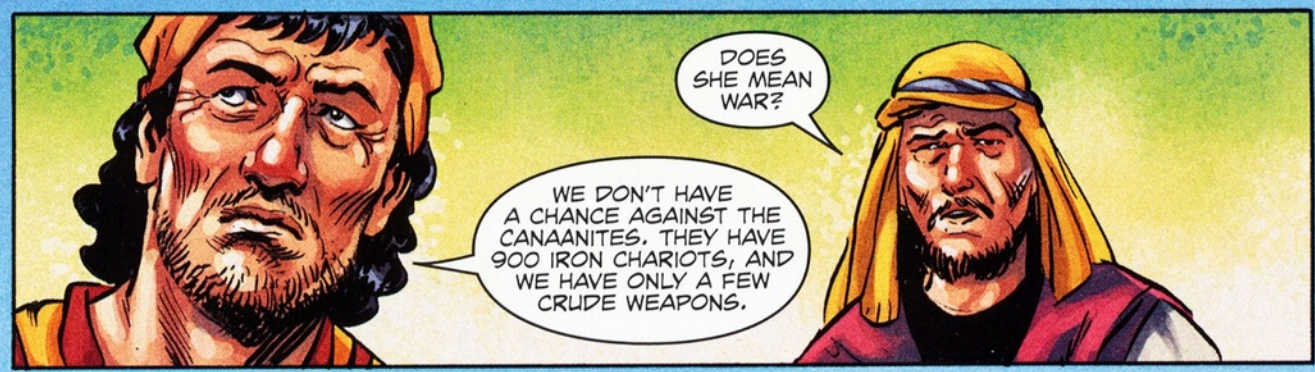
THE GUARDS SEARCH THE LEFT SIDE OF HIS BODY FOR A WEAPON. BUT THEY DON'T SEARCH HIS OTHER SIDE, NEVER SUSPECTING HE MIGHT BE LEFT-HANDED.
AFTER THE GUARDS LEAVE, EHUD APPROACHES EGLON ON THE THRONE.
THIS IS GOD'S MESSAGE TO YOU!
EHUD STABS KING EGLON IN THE BELLY. BUT EGLON IS SO FAT THAT EHUD CAN'T PULL HIS SWORD BACK OUT. THE FAT OF EGLON'S STOMACH COVERS UP THE HANDLE COMPLETELY.
QUICKLY, EHUD LOCKS THE DOORS OF THE UPPER ROOM AND THEN SNEAKS OUT THROUGH THE SEWER SYSTEM. THE SMELL IN THE ROOM IS SO BAD THAT EGLON'S SERVANTS THINK HE IS GOING TO THE BATHROOM, SO NO ONE DISCOVERS THE ASSASSINATION FOR MANY HOURS.
IN THE MEANTIME, EHUD RALLIES THE ISRAELITES. THEY STAND AT THE FORDS OF THE JORDAN, THE SHALLOWEST PART OF THE RIVER. WITH THE WATER UP TO THEIR KNEES, THEY FIGHT OFF THE MOABITES, KILLING MANY OF THEM.
AFTER THIS VICTORY, THE LAND HAS PEACE FOR 80 YEARS.

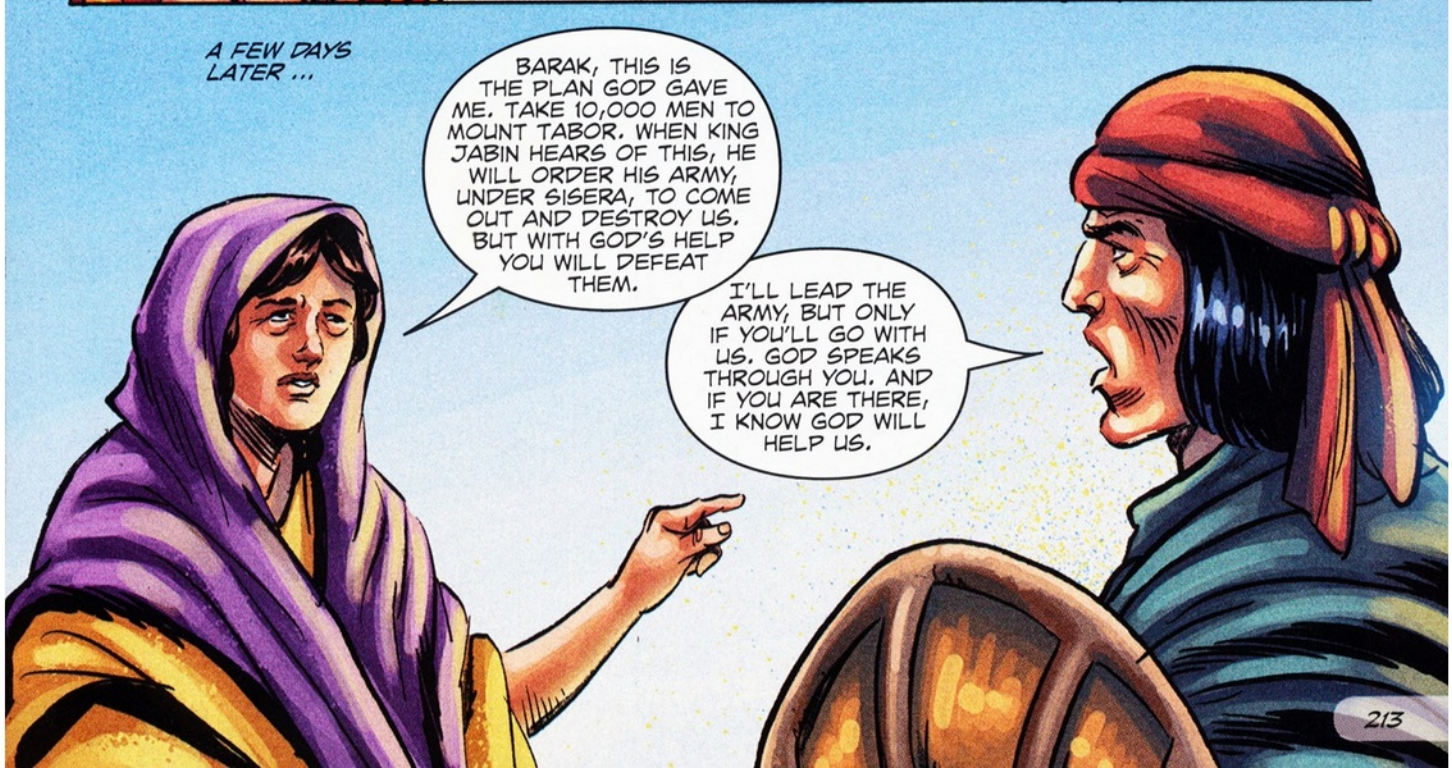
The Song of Deborah

BASED ON JUDGES 4–5

THE ANGRY FARMERS TAKE THEIR STORY TO DEBORAH, WHO HOLDS COURT UNDER A PALM TREE IN EPHRAIM.
WHAT CAN WE DO? THE CANAANITES ARE STEALING OUR FOOD.

TAKE A MESSAGE TO CAPTAIN BARAK IN THE NORTH COUNTRY. TELL HIM TO COME AT ONCE.


DOES SHE MEAN WAR?
WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST THE CANAANITES. THEY HAVE 900 IRON CHARIOTS, AND WE HAVE ONLY A FEW CRUDE WEAPONS.


A FEW DAYS LATER ...
BARAK, THIS IS THE PLAN GOD GAVE ME. TAKE 10,000 MEN TO MOUNT TABOR. WHEN KING JABIN HEARS OF THIS, HE WILL ORDER HIS ARMY, UNDER SISERA, TO COME OUT AND DESTROY US. BUT WITH GOD'S HELP YOU WILL DEFEAT THEM.
I'LL LEAD THE ARMY, BUT ONLY IF YOU'LL GO WITH US. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH YOU. AND IF YOU ARE THERE, I KNOW GOD WILL HELP US.

I AM SORRY THAT YOU LACK THE FAITH TO LEAD BY YOURSELF. VERY WELL, I WILL GO WITH YOU. BUT SINCE YOU NEED A WOMAN TO HELP YOU FIGHT YOUR BATTLES, A WOMAN WILL WIN YOUR BATTLE FOR YOU AS WELL.
AFTER A QUICK MARCH, THE ISRAELITES REACH MOUNT TABOR. DEBORAH'S PROPHECY COMES TRUE—THE CANAANITE ARMY COMES TO MEET THEM.
HAVE FAITH! THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD WILL DELIVER US.
DEBORAH GIVES THE SIGNAL, AND BARAK CHARGES DOWN THE MOUNTAIN LEADING HIS TROOPS. ABOVE THEM LIGHTNING FLASHES ...
A CLOUDBURST TURNS THE PLAIN INTO A SEA OF MUD. THE IRON CHARIOTS OF THE CANAANITES SINK INTO THE MIRE. TRAPPED, THEY ARE AT THE MERCY OF THE ISRAELITES, WHO ATTACK WITH SPEED AND COURAGE.

TO THE RIVER!
THE CANAANITES TRY TO RETREAT. BUT THE KISHON RIVER IS ALREADY OVERFLOWING ITS BANKS. AND THE CANAANITES WHO TRY TO SWIM TO SAFETY SINK UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THEIR HEAVY ARMOR.
SISERA TRIES TO ESCAPE. ON THE WAY HE STOPS TO REST IN A TENT THAT HE THINKS IS FRIENDLY. BUT THE WOMAN WHO LIVES THERE, JAEL, IS LOYAL TO ISRAEL AND KILLS SISERA WHILE HE IS ASLEEP.
WHEN DEBORAH LEARNS THAT THE CANAANITES HAVE BEEN DEFEATED, SHE SINGS A SONG OF VICTORY ...
IN THE HEAVENS, EVEN THE STARS FIGHT FOR THE LORD. MAY ALL THE LORD'S ENEMIES PERISH. AND MAY THOSE WHO LOVE THE LORD BE LIKE THE SUN SHINING IN ALL ITS MIGHT.
THE PEOPLE REJOICE AND SING PRAISES TOO. AND FOR 40 YEARS THERE IS PEACE IN ISRAEL. FAMILIES WORK IN THEIR FIELDS AND HARVEST THEIR CROPS. BUT IN TIME THEY AGAIN FORGET GOD AND FIND THEMSELVES IN MORE TROUBLE THAN EVER BEFORE.

Cowardly Judge

BASED ON JUDGES 6–7

FOR SEVEN LONG YEARS THE ISRAELITES SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF THE DESERT TRIBESMEN. THEY HIDE OUT IN CAVES AND THRESH THEIR GRAIN IN SECRET PLACES ... BUT THE RAIDERS ALWAYS RETURN.

LIKE GRASSHOPPERS, THE ENEMY SWARMS OVER THE ISRAELITE FIELDS, STEALING GRAIN, CATTLE, AND SHEEP.

ME? MY FAMILY IS THE WEAKEST OF THE WHOLE TRIBE, AND I'M THE WEAKEST ONE IN MY FAMILY. IF YOU'RE REALLY AN ANGEL OF THE LORD, THEN GIVE ME A SIGN.
GIDEON PREPARES SOME FOOD AND BRINGS IT TO THE STRANGER.
PUT THE FOOD ON THE ROCK.
THE STRANGER TOUCHES THE FOOD WITH HIS STAFF. INSTANTLY, A FIRE BURSTS FORTH AND CONSUMES IT.
I HAVE SEEN THE ANGEL OF THE LORD FACE-TO-FACE!
WHEN THE ANGEL DISAPPEARS, GOD SPEAKS TO GIDEON AND TELLS HIM TO DESTROY THE ALTAR OF BAAL.
BUT GIDEON IS AFRAID OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE, SO HE WAITS UNTIL DARK TO OBEY.
WON'T THE PEOPLE KILL US IF THEY FIND OUT?
THAT'S WHY WE'RE DOING THIS AT NIGHT.

BUT GIDEON STILL HOPES THAT GOD HASN'T REALLY CALLED HIM. HE ASKS FOR A SIGN ...
OKAY, GOD, TOMORROW MORNING IF THIS WOOL IS WET WITH DEW AND THE GROUND IS DRY, THEN I'LL KNOW THAT YOU HAVE TRULY CHOSEN ME.
THE NEXT MORNING, GIDEON HAS HIS SIGN.
THE GROUND IS DRY—BUT THERE'S ENOUGH DEW ON THIS WOOL TO FILL A WHOLE BOWL.
BUT GIDEON IS STILL AFRAID.
OH GOD, PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY, BUT GIVE ME JUST ONE MORE SIGN. THIS TIME MAKE THE *WOOL* DRY AND THE *GROUND* WET. THEN I'LL REALLY TRUST IN YOU.
THE NEXT MORNING ...
THE WOOL IS DRY—AND THE GROUND IS WET! ALL RIGHT, GOD, I BELIEVE! NOW I KNOW THAT I AM THE ONE CALLED TO SAVE MY PEOPLE.

GIDEON CALLS THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL TOGETHER.
WITH GOD'S HELP WE CAN DRIVE THE MIDIANITES FROM OUR LAND. ARE YOU WITH ME?
YES!
YES!
WITH AN ARMY OF 32,000 SOLDIERS, GIDEON MARCHES TO THE HILLS SURROUNDING THE MIDIANITE CAMP.
WHAT A CAMP! THEIR CAMELS OUTNUMBER THE SAND ON THE SHORE.
DON'T WORRY. WITH 32,000 MEN WE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE AGAINST THEM.
BUT GOD GIVES GIDEON MORE INSTRUCTIONS.
GOD HAS SAID THAT IF ANY OF YOU IS AFRAID TO FIGHT, YOU MAY LEAVE NOW AND GO HOME.
MOST OF HIS ARMY DISBANDS. ABOUT 10,000 MEN REMAIN.
BUT GOD WANTS IT TO BE CLEAR THAT VICTORY COMES FROM GOD, NOT THE STRENGTH OF GIDEON'S ARMY. HE MAKES GIDEON WEED OUT HIS ARMY ONCE AGAIN. WHEN THE MEN STOP TO DRINK FROM A BROOK, ANYONE WHO KNEELS DOWN TO DRINK IS SENT HOME.
HOW CAN I WIN A BATTLE WITH SO FEW SOLDIERS?

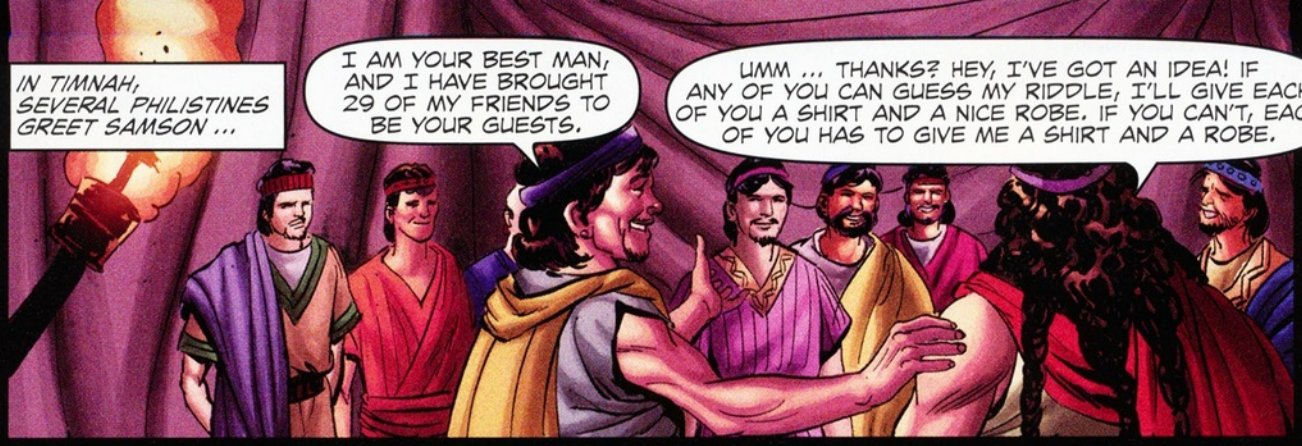
ONLY 300 MEN ARE LEFT OUT OF GIDEON'S ORIGINAL ARMY OF 32,000. NOW THE ISRAELITES KNOW BEYOND ALL DOUBT THAT ONLY WITH GOD'S HELP CAN THEY DEFEAT THE ENEMY.
HIDE YOUR TORCHES IN THESE PITCHERS. SPREAD OUT ON THREE SIDES OF THE CAMP. WAIT UNTIL NIGHTFALL, THEN LISTEN FOR MY SIGNAL ON THE TRUMPET.
WE'RE READY!
AT GIDEON'S SIGNAL, THE MEN BLOW THEIR TRUMPETS, SMASH THEIR PITCHERS, WAVE THEIR TORCHES, AND GIVE THE BATTLE CRY ...
THE SWORD OF THE LORD AND OF GIDEON!
THE STILLNESS OF THE NIGHT IS SUDDENLY BROKEN BY THE BLARE OF 300 TRUMPETS AND THE CRASH OF BROKEN PITCHERS. STARTLED FROM THEIR SLEEP, THE MIDIANITES RUSH OUT TO FIND THEIR CAMP ABLAZE WITH FLAMING TORCHES.
THOUGH THEY ARE ONLY 300, THE ISRAELITES' TORCHES, HORNS, AND SHOUTING THROW THE MIDIANITES INTO A PANIC. THEY LASH OUT WITH THEIR SWORDS, STRIKING EACH OTHER DOWN. WITHIN MINUTES THEY'VE KILLED MORE OF THEIR OWN MEN THAN GIDEON EVER COULD WITH HIS ORIGINAL ARMY. THE LORD HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS MIGHT ONCE AGAIN.

God's Enforcer

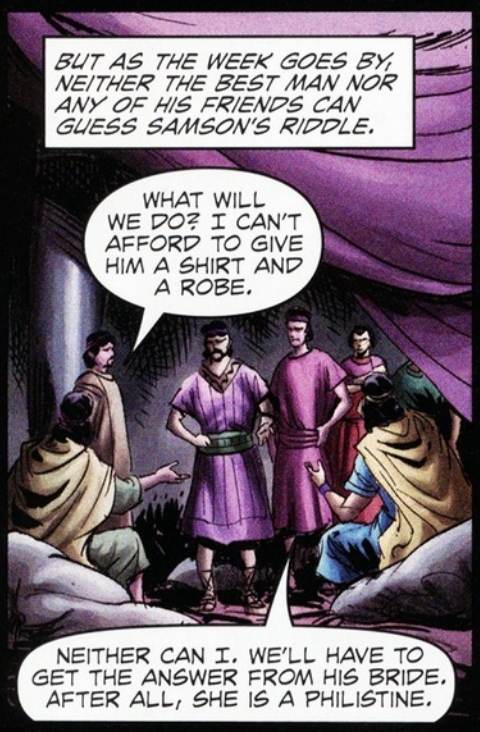
BASED ON JUDGES 13–14

WE HAVE SEEN GOD!
THE LORD WILL SURELY FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO US.
BUT TO HIS PARENTS' DISMAY, AS THEIR SON, SAMSON, GROWS UP, HE DOESN'T ACT LIKE SOMEONE DESTINED TO BE GOD'S HERO. AN IRRESPONSIBLE YOUNG MAN, HE DISOBEYS MANY OF THE LORD'S COMMANDS, EXCEPT FOR THE ONE ABOUT CUTTING HIS HAIR.
MAY I GIVE YOU A DRINK OF WATER?
YES, THANK YOU.
SHE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I'VE EVER SEEN. I DON'T CARE IF SHE'S A PHILISTINE, THE ENEMY OF MY PEOPLE.
BACK HOME, SAMSON LOSES NO TIME TELLING HIS PARENTS WHAT HE WANTS.
I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A PHILISTINE GIRL. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH HER PARENTS FOR US TO GET MARRIED.
BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GOD'S DELIVERER!
HOW CAN YOU LOVE ONE OF OUR ENEMIES? SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN OUR GOD.
I DON'T CARE. MAKE IT HAPPEN.

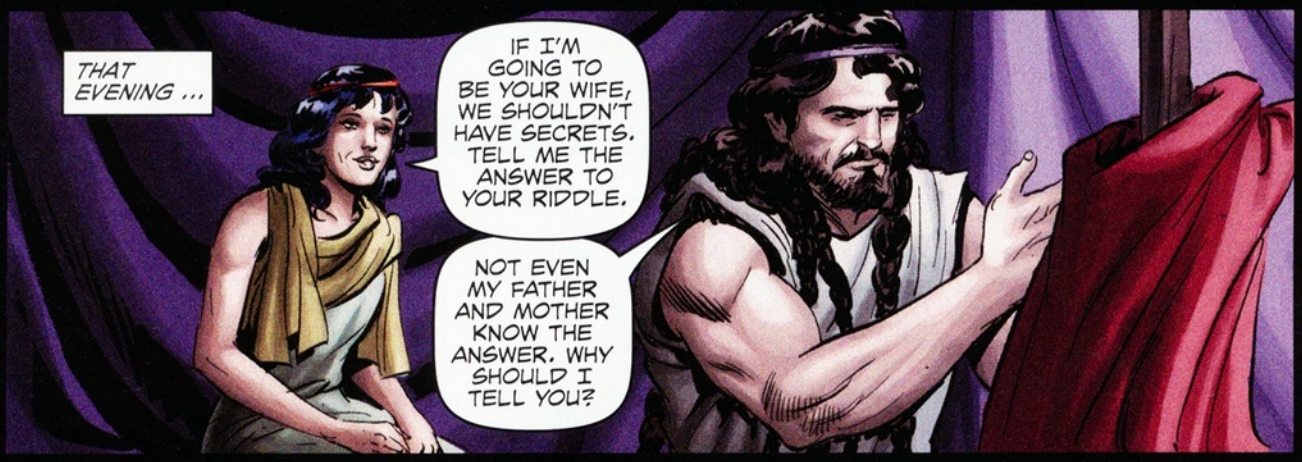
ON HIS WAY TO VISIT HIS NEW FIANCÉE, SAMSON IS SUDDENLY ATTACKED BY A LION!
GRRRR
ROAR
AT THAT MOMENT, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GIVES SAMSON GREAT POWER, AND HE RIPS THE LION APART WITH HIS BARE HANDS!
THE LORD HAS GIVEN ME GREAT STRENGTH. NOBODY BETTER MESS WITH ME NOW.
FINALLY, THE TIME FOR THE WEDDING COMES. SAMSON WALKS BY THE SPOT OF HIS BATTLE WITH THE LION AND SEES ITS BODY STILL THERE.
BEES HAVE MADE HONEY IN THE LION'S CARCASS.
SAMSON SCOOPS SOME OF THE HONEY AND TASTES IT.
IT'S GOOD. HA! I'M EATING FOOD OUT OF THE ANIMAL THAT WANTED TO EAT ME FOR FOOD.


IN TIMNAH, SEVERAL PHILISTINES GREET SAMSON ...
I AM YOUR BEST MAN, AND I HAVE BROUGHT 29 OF MY FRIENDS TO BE YOUR GUESTS.
UMM ... THANKS? HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA! IF ANY OF YOU CAN GUESS MY RIDDLE, I'LL GIVE EACH OF YOU A SHIRT AND A NICE ROBE. IF YOU CAN'T, EACH OF YOU HAS TO GIVE ME A SHIRT AND A ROBE.

AT LEAST ONE OF US SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THIS STUPID ISRAELITE'S RIDDLE.
IT'S A BET!
"OUT OF THE EATER, SOMETHING TO EAT. OUT OF THE STRONG, SOMETHING SWEET." YOU MUST GUESS THE ANSWER WITHIN THE SEVEN DAYS OF MY WEDDING FEAST.

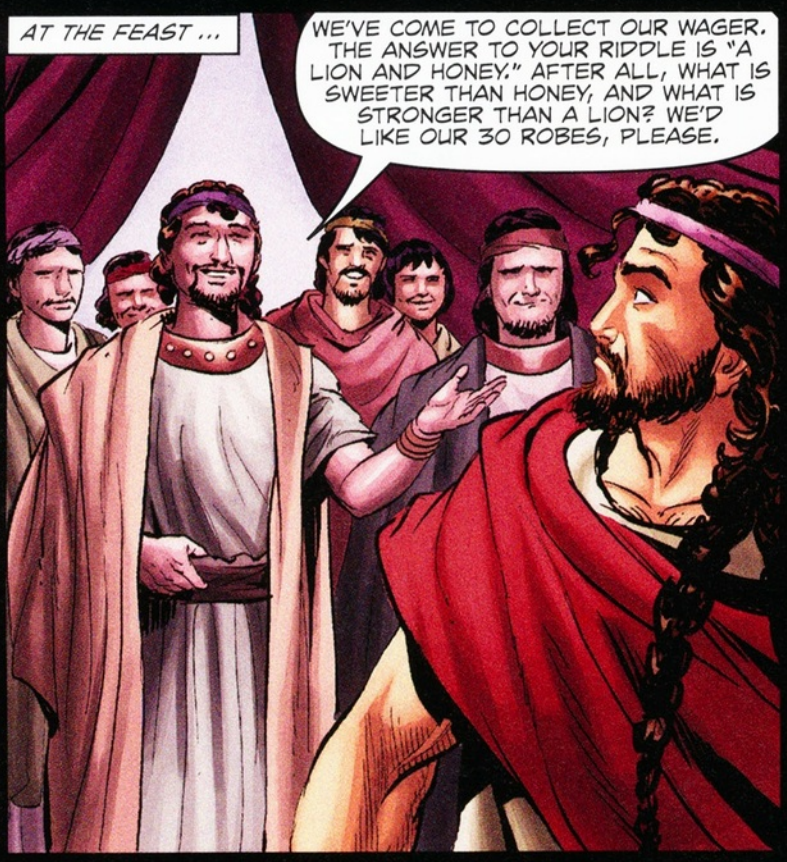

BUT AS THE WEEK GOES BY, NEITHER THE BEST MAN NOR ANY OF HIS FRIENDS CAN GUESS SAMSON'S RIDDLE.
WHAT WILL WE DO? I CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE HIM A SHIRT AND A ROBE.
NEITHER CAN I. WE'LL HAVE TO GET THE ANSWER FROM HIS BRIDE. AFTER ALL, SHE IS A PHILISTINE.

WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO GET ROBBED BY YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND. GET THE ANSWER FROM SAMSON, OR WE'LL SET FIRE TO YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE WITH YOU IN IT!
I WILL! JUST GIVE ME TIME.


THAT EVENING ...
IF I'M GOING TO BE YOUR WIFE, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE SECRETS. TELL ME THE ANSWER TO YOUR RIDDLE.
NOT EVEN MY FATHER AND MOTHER KNOW THE ANSWER. WHY SHOULD I TELL YOU?

BUT SHE CRIES EVERY DAY, AND ON THE LAST DAY OF THE FEAST ...
YOU HATE ME! IF YOU LOVED ME, YOU'D TELL ME THE ANSWER.
FINE! THE ANSWER IS "A LION AND HONEY."

A FEW MINUTES LATER, SHE SLIPS AWAY ...
I HAVE THE ANSWER.
TELL US, AND YOU'LL SAVE YOUR LIFE.


AT THE FEAST ...
WE'VE COME TO COLLECT OUR WAGER. THE ANSWER TO YOUR RIDDLE IS "A LION AND HONEY." AFTER ALL, WHAT IS SWEETER THAN HONEY, AND WHAT IS STRONGER THAN A LION? WE'D LIKE OUR 30 ROBES, PLEASE.

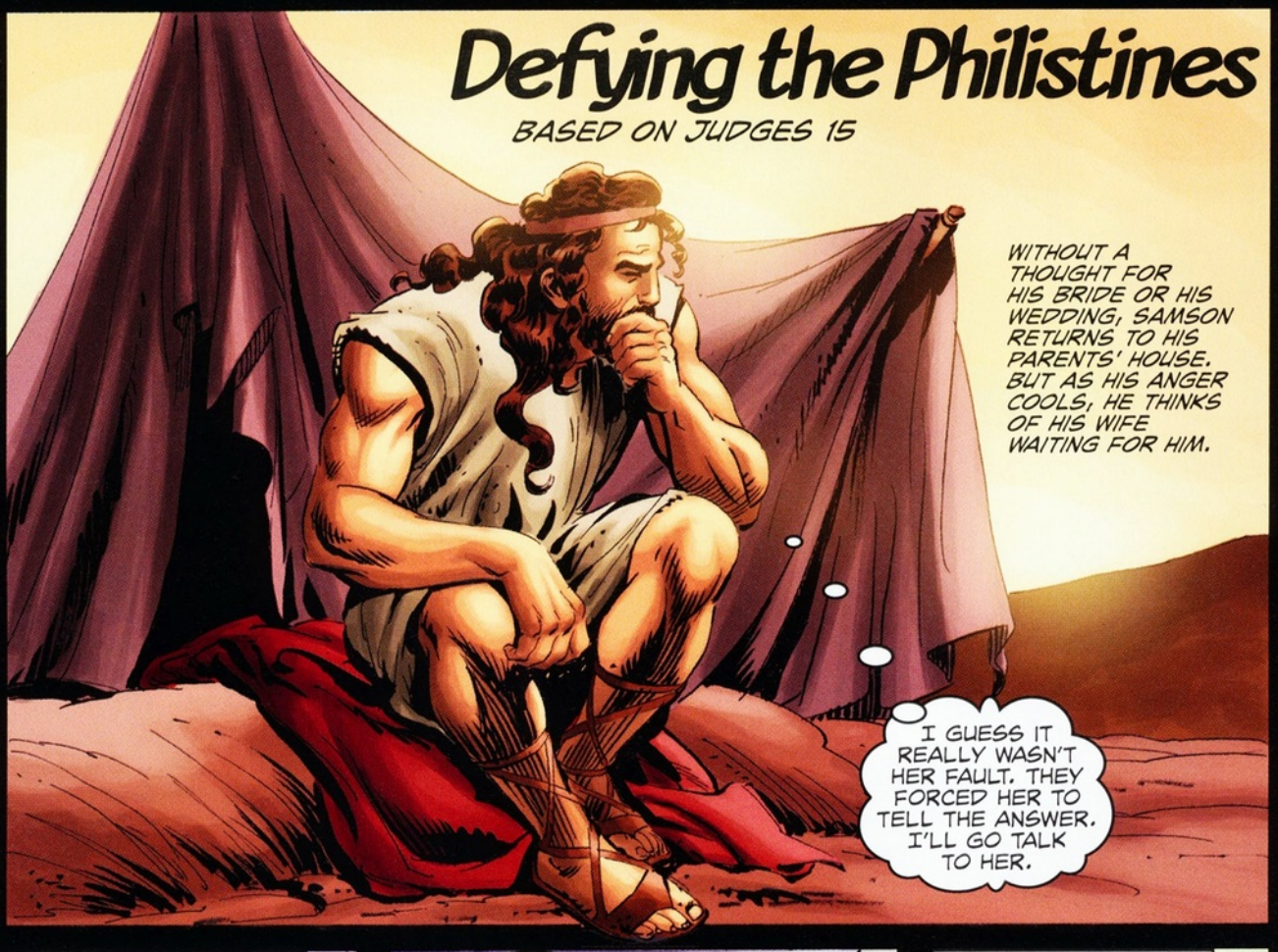
YOU CHEATED. MY BRIDE MUST HAVE TOLD YOU! I MAY HAVE LOST THIS BET, BUT YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE THE ONES TO PAY!

SAMSON IS FURIOUS! HE STORMS OUT OF HIS OWN WEDDING FEAST AND ENTERS ANOTHER CITY.
AH! ENOUGH PHILISTINES TO PAY MY DEBT—AND ALL OF THEM HANDSOMELY DRESSED TOO!

WITH HIS GREAT STRENGTH, SAMSON STRIKES DOWN A GROUP OF ENEMY PHILISTINES.
23 ... 24 ... 25 ...
STILL IN A RAGE, SAMSON RETURNS TO THE WEDDING FEAST.
HERE! THE DEBT IS PAID. AND BY THE LIVES OF YOUR OWN COUNTRYMEN!

Defying the Philistines

BASED ON JUDGES 15



IN NO TIME, SAMSON SETS FOXES RACING THROUGH THE FIELDS AND VINEYARDS WITH FLAMING TORCHES TIED TO THEIR TAILS. IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE IS ABLAZE.
IN THE CITY, THE PHILISTINES WATCH WITH TERROR AS THE SKY GLOWS RED.
SAMSON DID THIS! HE'S GETTING EVEN WITH HIS WIFE'S FATHER FOR LETTING HER MARRY SOMEONE ELSE.
HER FATHER SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRICK SAMSON. COME ON, LET'S GIVE OUR COUNTRYMAN A TASTE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE.
THE ANGRY PHILISTINES SET FIRE TO THE HOME OF SAMSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW. BUT THEY DON'T COUNT ON SAMSON'S RETURN.
YOU KILLED MY WIFE? SHE WAS ONE OF YOUR OWN PEOPLE!
SOMEONE HAD TO BE PUNISHED.
THEN IT WILL BE YOU! NONE OF YOU PHILISTINES DESERVES TO LIVE!

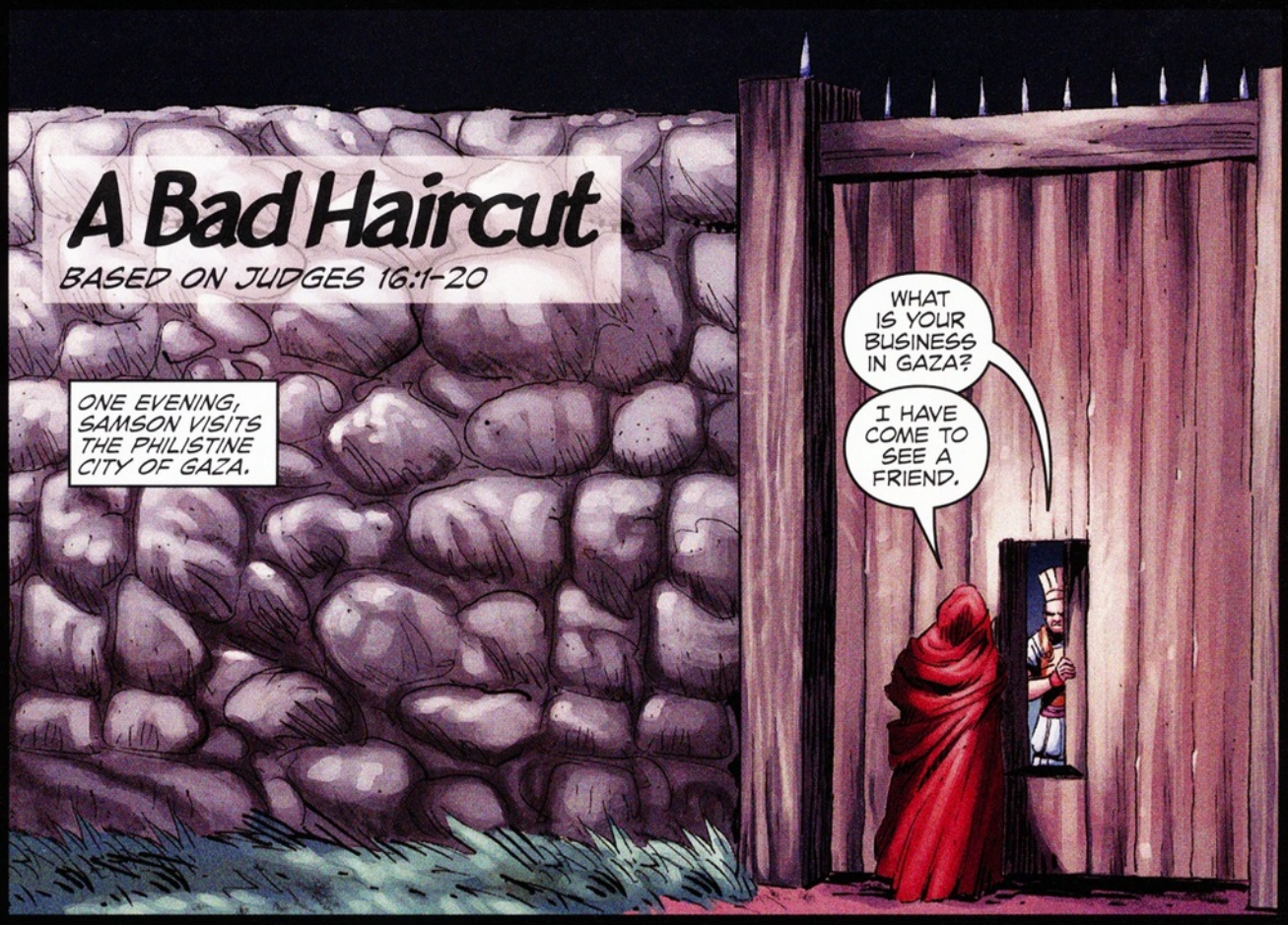
AFTER KILLING THE PHILISTINES, SAMSON HIDES IN A CAVE IN JUDAH. THE PHILISTINE ARMY FOLLOWS HIM AND DEMANDS THAT THE TRIBE OF JUDAH TURN SAMSON OVER TO THEM. THE TRIBAL LEADERS ARE POWERLESS TO REFUSE. "IT'S YOU," THEY TELL SAMSON, "OR EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IN JUDAH." SO SAMSON LETS THEM TIE HIM UP.
THAT SHOULD DO IT. THE ROPES ARE NEW, AND THE KNOTS ARE TIGHT. YOUR CAPTURE WILL SPARE US THE PHILISTINES' WRATH, SAMSON. LET'S GO.
O GOD, DO NOT LET YOUR ENEMY DEFEAT ME.

WHEN THE PHILISTINES SEE SAMSON BOUND BEFORE THEM, THEY SHOUT IN RAGE AND CHARGE TO KILL HIM.

I'M SORRY, SAMSON. BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT ISRAEL.

SUDDENLY, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GIVES SAMSON GREAT POWER AGAIN. HE BURSTS HIS ROPES AND GRABS THE JAWBONE OF A DONKEY LYING NEARBY ON THE GROUND.
I'VE THOUGHT OF ANOTHER WAY.

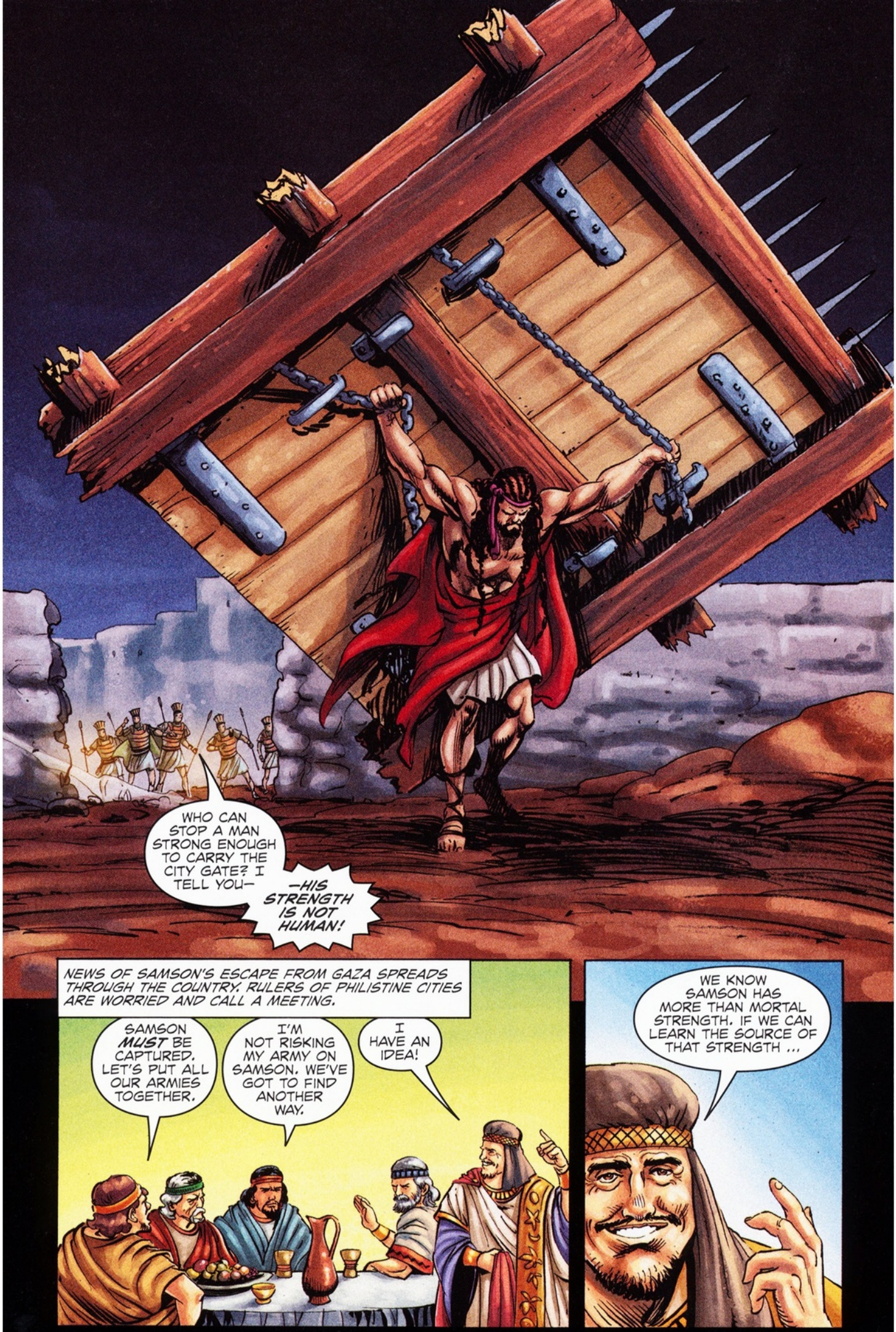
WITH DEADLY AIM, SAMSON STRIKES DOWN ONE PHILISTINE SOLDIER AFTER ANOTHER. THOSE WHO CAN ESCAPE RUN FOR THEIR LIVES.
WHEN HE IS DONE, A THOUSAND PHILISTINES LIE DEAD AROUND HIM.
THEN, WEARY AND THIRSTY, SAMSON PRAYS TO GOD.
LORD, YOU GAVE ME THE VICTORY. DON'T LET ME DIE OF THIRST NOW.
GOD PROVIDES A STREAM OF WATER TO STRENGTHEN SAMSON. AFTER THIS EVENT, SAMSON SERVES AS A LEADER AND PROTECTOR OF ISRAEL FOR 20 YEARS.


A Bad Haircut
BASED ON JUDGES 16:1-20
ONE EVENING, SAMSON VISITS THE PHILISTINE CITY OF GAZA.
WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS IN GAZA?
I HAVE COME TO SEE A FRIEND.

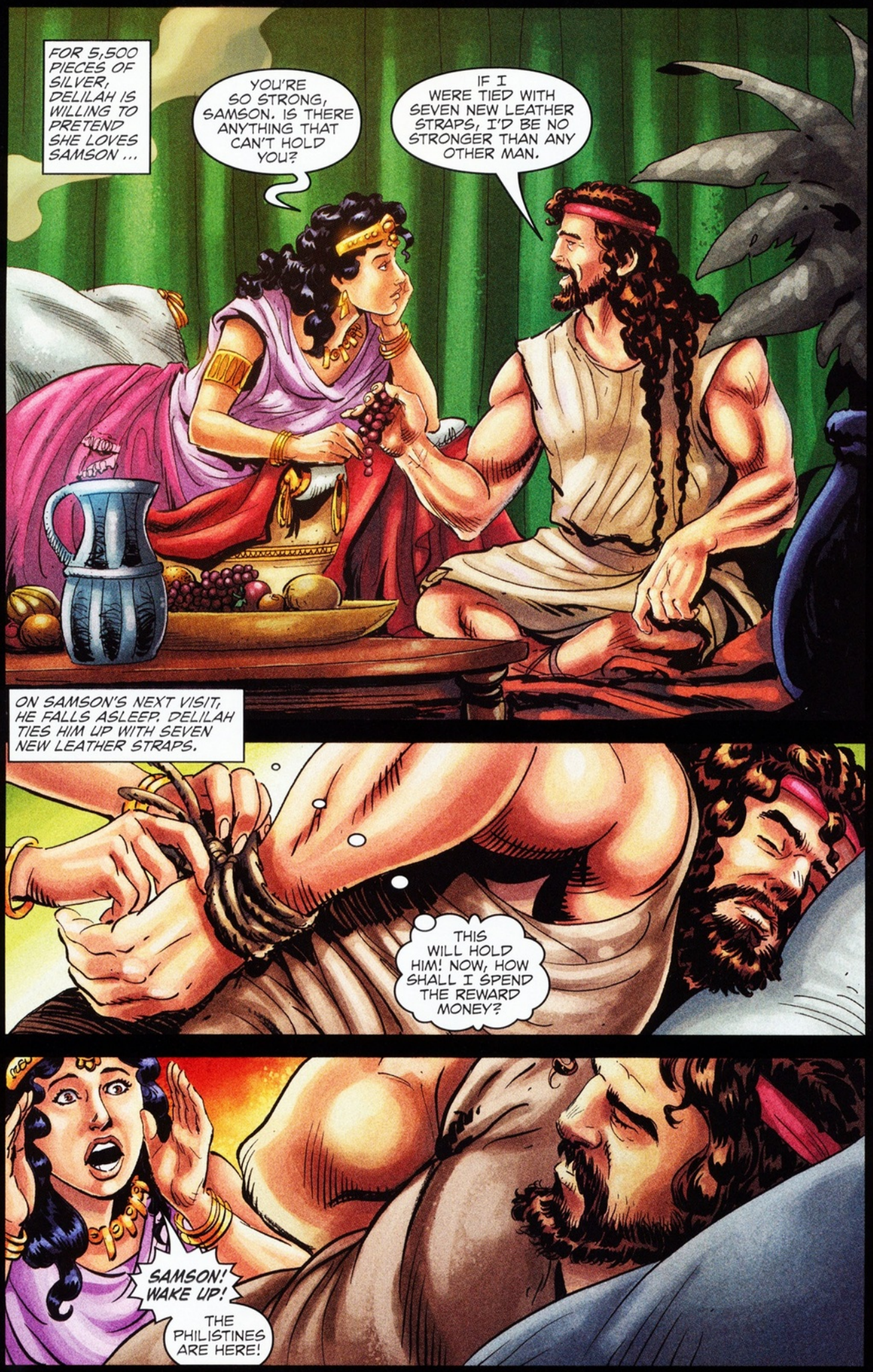
I JUST SAW SAMSON ENTERING A HOUSE DOWN THE STREET. HOW DID HE GET IN?
SAMSON? I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM.

NEVER MIND. CLOSE THE GATE AND WE'LL TRAP HIM IN THE CITY. CALL OUT ALL THE GUARDS! SAMSON WILL NEVER LEAVE GAZA ALIVE.

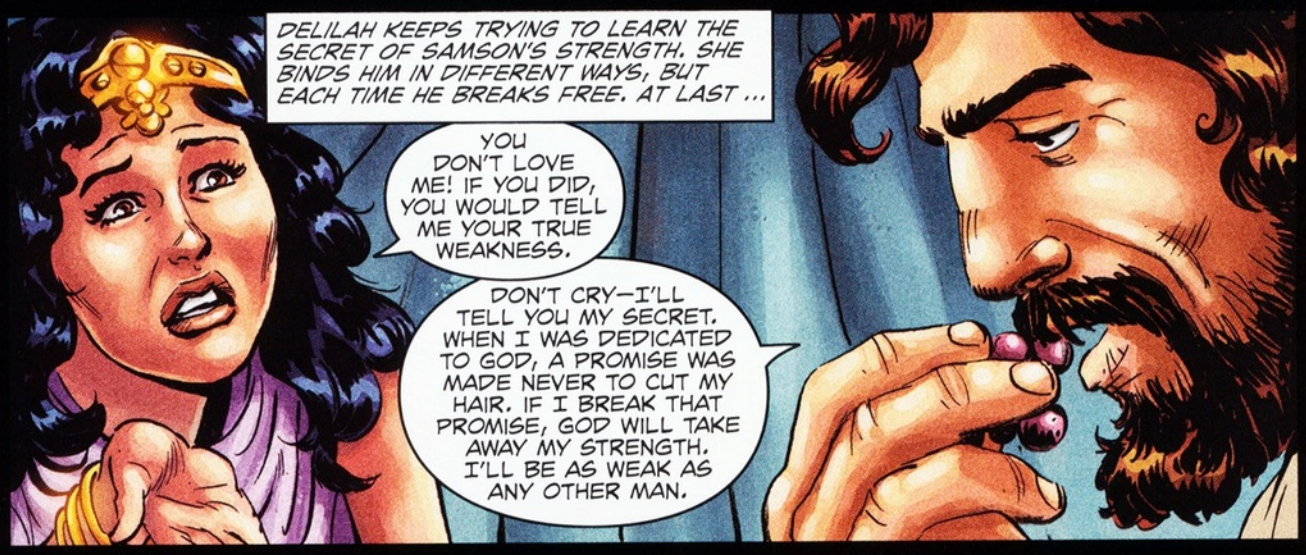
THE PHILISTINES CALL OUT ALL THE GUARDS AND LIE IN WAIT FOR SAMSON.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SAMSON. WHAT IS HE LIKE?
OH, HE'S LIKE ANYONE ELSE— IF YOU DON'T COUNT THE FACT THAT HE HAS HAIR LIKE THICK VINES AND THE STRENGTH OF A HUNDRED MEN.
AT MIDNIGHT, SAMSON WALKS DOWN THE STREET AND TOWARD THE GATE ...
HMM. LOTS OF GUARDS ON DUTY TONIGHT. THEY'RE PROBABLY NOT HERE TO HELP ME THROUGH THE GATE, SO ...
I'LL HELP MYSELF!
STOP HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.


WHO CAN STOP A MAN STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY THE CITY GATE? I TELL YOU—
—HIS STRENGTH IS NOT HUMAN!
NEWS OF SAMSON'S ESCAPE FROM GAZA SPREADS THROUGH THE COUNTRY. RULERS OF PHILISTINE CITIES ARE WORRIED AND CALL A MEETING.
SAMSON MUST BE CAPTURED. LET'S PUT ALL OUR ARMIES TOGETHER.
I'M NOT RISKING MY ARMY ON SAMSON. WE'VE GOT TO FIND ANOTHER WAY.
I HAVE AN IDEA!
WE KNOW SAMSON HAS MORE THAN MORTAL STRENGTH. IF WE CAN LEARN THE SOURCE OF THAT STRENGTH ...

DO YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO TELL US WHAT IT IS?
NO, BUT HE'LL TELL THE RIGHT PERSON. I HEAR HE'S IN LOVE WITH DELILAH ...
DELILAH? SHE'S A PHILISTINE.
RIGHT. SHE'LL GET SAMSON TO TELL HER HIS SECRET. THEN SHE'LL TELL US.
WILL SHE? WHAT IF SHE'S IN LOVE WITH SAMSON?
SHE'S ALSO IN LOVE WITH MONEY. COME ON. LET'S GO SEE HER.
SO THE PHILISTINE RULERS VISIT DELILAH.
IF YOU FIND OUT SAMSON'S SECRET FOR US, WE'LL GIVE YOU 1,100 PIECES OF SILVER. EACH.
PAYABLE WHEN YOU DELIVER SAMSON INTO OUR HANDS.
HMM ... 1,100 TIMES FIVE EQUALS ... UMM, A LOT OF MONEY. HOW CAN I REFUSE?
THIS AMOUNT OF MONEY IS A SMALL FORTUNE. IF SHE CAN FIND OUT SAMSON'S WEAKNESS, DELILAH WILL BE AS RICH AS A MODERN MILLIONAIRE.


FOR 5,500 PIECES OF SILVER, DELILAH IS WILLING TO PRETEND SHE LOVES SAMSON ...
YOU'RE SO STRONG, SAMSON. IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN'T HOLD YOU?
IF I WERE TIED WITH SEVEN NEW LEATHER STRAPS, I'D BE NO STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER MAN.
ON SAMSON'S NEXT VISIT, HE FALLS ASLEEP. DELILAH TIES HIM UP WITH SEVEN NEW LEATHER STRAPS.
THIS WILL HOLD HIM! NOW, HOW SHALL I SPEND THE REWARD MONEY?
SAMSON! WAKE UP!
THE PHILISTINES ARE HERE!

SAMSON TRICKED ME!
WHY DID YOU TIE ME UP?
OH, JUST A GIRLISH WHIM. I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE TELLING ME THE TRUTH.


DELILAH KEEPS TRYING TO LEARN THE SECRET OF SAMSON'S STRENGTH. SHE BINDS HIM IN DIFFERENT WAYS, BUT EACH TIME HE BREAKS FREE. AT LAST ...
YOU DON'T LOVE ME! IF YOU DID, YOU WOULD TELL ME YOUR TRUE WEAKNESS.
DON'T CRY—I'LL TELL YOU MY SECRET. WHEN I WAS DEDICATED TO GOD, A PROMISE WAS MADE NEVER TO CUT MY HAIR. IF I BREAK THAT PROMISE, GOD WILL TAKE AWAY MY STRENGTH. I'LL BE AS WEAK AS ANY OTHER MAN.

AT LAST DELILAH HAS THE REAL SECRET. SHE CALLS THE PHILISTINES AND THEY PLAN TO TRAP SAMSON THAT NIGHT.
HAVE YOUR CHAINS READY—AND BRING THE MONEY YOU PROMISED ME.

THAT EVENING, SAMSON CALLS ON DELILAH. WHEN HE FALLS ASLEEP ...
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH LONG HAIR. BUT I STILL DON'T SEE HOW THIS WILL TAKE HIS STRENGTH AWAY.
SAMSON! WAKE UP!
THE PHILISTINES ARE HERE!

SAMSON WAKES UP READY TO DEFEND HIMSELF, BUT ...
MY HAIR! IT'S GONE! I HAVE BROKEN MY PROMISE, AND NOW GOD HAS TAKEN AWAY MY STRENGTH.
YOU BROKE THE LEATHER STRAPS, BUT LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN BREAK OUR CHAINS NOW.
SAMSON'S STRENGTH IS GONE! CHAINED AND UNDER HEAVY GUARD, HE IS TAKEN AWAY.
WHAT WILL THEY DO TO HIM?
PUT OUT HIS EYES AND THROW HIM INTO PRISON. OUR TROUBLES WITH SAMSON ARE OVER.
HERE'S YOUR MONEY, DELILAH. YOU'VE EARNED IT.
5,500 PIECES OF SILVER—ALL MINE!
WHILE DELILAH COUNTS HER MONEY, SAMSON IS LED THROUGH THE STREETS OF GAZA—A CAPTIVE IN CHAINS.
HA! THE MIGHTY JUDGE OF ISRAEL IS A WEAKLING NOW!

Bringing Down the House

BASED ON JUDGES 16:21-30

SO SAMSON IS BROUGHT OUT OF THE PRISON AND LED UP THE TEMPLE STEPS.
BRING HIM UP HERE SO EVERYONE CAN SEE WHAT THE MIGHTY JUDGE OF ISRAEL LOOKS LIKE NOW.

SHOW US HOW YOU CARRIED OFF THE GATES OF GAZA!
LET'S SEE YOU TEAR APART A LION WITH YOUR BARE HANDS NOW!

NOW THAT SAMSON'S HAIR HAS GROWN BACK, HE HOPES THAT GOD WILL RESTORE HIS STRENGTH.
WHERE ARE THE PILLARS? I WANT TO LEAN AGAINST THEM.
HERE, I'LL PUT YOUR HANDS ON THEM.

RUN, BOY, AND DON'T STOP UNTIL YOU'RE OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE.

O GOD, YOU BLESSED ME WITH GREAT STRENGTH ONCE. I IGNORED YOUR COMMANDS AND LOST YOUR BLESSING. I DESERVE TO DIE. BUT JUST LET ME TAKE SOME PHILISTINES WITH ME.
USING ALL HIS STRENGTH, SAMSON PUSHES AGAINST THE PILLARS—AND THE GIANT TEMPLE TO THE HEATHEN GOD DAGON CRASHES TO THE GROUND. CRUSHED BENEATH IT ARE THOUSANDS OF PHILISTINES WHO HAD MADE SLAVES OF SAMSON'S PEOPLE.
SAMSON HAD GREAT STRENGTH, BUT A WEAK CHARACTER. YET GOD USED HIM TO HELP ISRAEL ANYWAY. NOW GOD WANTS TO SHOW THAT HE CAN ALSO USE SOMEONE WHO IS PHYSICALLY HELPLESS, BUT NOBLE AND FAITHFUL ...

Ruth's Redeemer

BASED ON RUTH

TWO WOMEN LIVE IN A FOREIGN LAND—NAOMI, A JEW, AND HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, RUTH, A MOABITE. ALL THE MEN IN THEIR FAMILY HAVE DIED, AND THEY ARE LEFT PENNILESS AND IN NEED.

LEAVE ME, RUTH. I HAVE NOTHING LEFT. I AM OLD. YOUR BEST HOPE IS TO FIND A HUSBAND WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU.

BACK IN ISRAEL ...
THERE IS A LAW HERE THAT POOR WOMEN CAN GO TO THE FIELDS AND PICK UP ANY EXTRA GRAIN THAT THE WORKERS DROP. I AM TOO OLD TO WORK IN A FIELD ALL DAY. WILL YOU GO SO THAT WE MAY HAVE FOOD?
OF COURSE, MOTHER.

RUTH GOES TO A FIELD OWNED BY BOAZ, A DISTANT RELATIVE OF NAOMI'S. SHE WORKS HARD THERE, GATHERING THE UNUSED GRAIN.

ONE DAY, THE OWNER ARRIVES ...
HOW ARE THE BEST WORKERS IN ALL ISRAEL DOING? THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU!

WHAT A GODLY OWNER.
AND THE LORD BE WITH YOU!

BOAZ QUESTIONS HIS FOREMAN ABOUT PROGRESS ON HIS FIELDS.

... AND ARE YOU TAKING CARE OF THE POOR WOMEN?

YES, AND THERE IS A NEW WIDOW, RUTH FROM MOAB. SHE HAS BEEN LABORING HARD FOR WEEKS TO SUPPORT HER MOTHER-IN-LAW, NAOMI.

NAOMI IS ONE OF MY RELATIVES!

I HAVE HEARD HOW KIND YOU ARE TO YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW. GLEAN IN MY FIELDS AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE, AND MAY GOD REWARD AND PROTECT YOU.

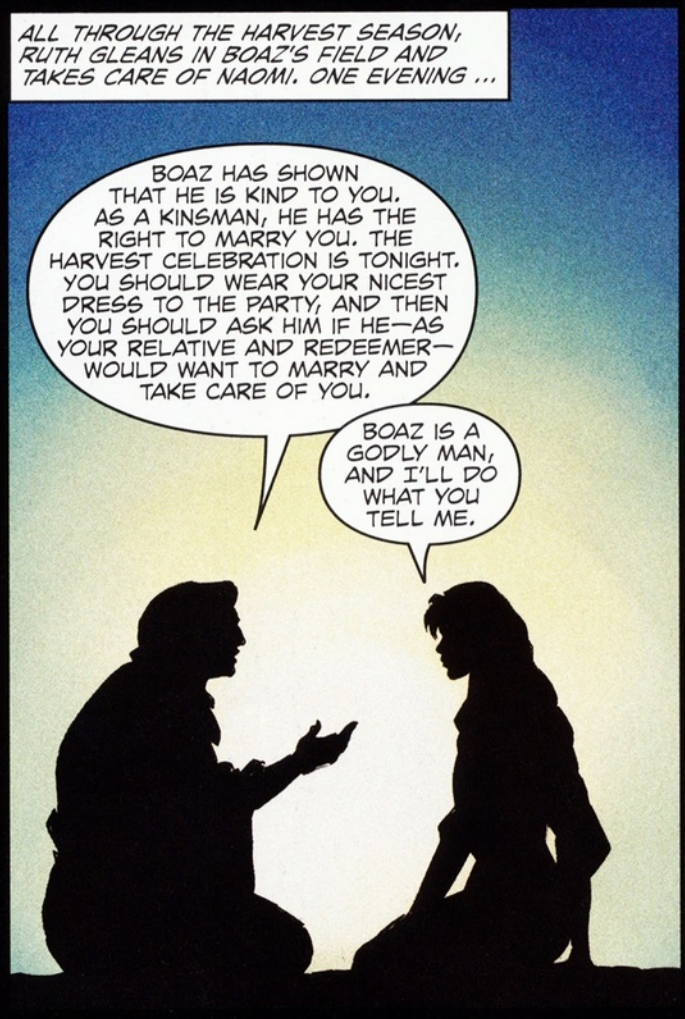
HE DOES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

AT LUNCHTIME, BOAZ IS IMPRESSED WITH RUTH'S FAITH AND WIT.

WHEN THE MEAL IS OVER AND RUTH HAS GONE BACK TO WORK ...
DROP SOME GRAIN ON PURPOSE FOR HER TO PICK UP. MAKE SURE NO HARM COMES TO HER.
DON'T WORRY, BOAZ. SHE WILL BE SAFE, AND SHE'LL FIND ALL THE GRAIN SHE NEEDS.

THAT EVENING ...
LOOK AT ALL THE GRAIN I GOT! NAOMI, YOUR GOD IS GOOD TO US!
WHEN MY HUSBAND AND SONS DIED, I THOUGHT GOD HAD FORGOTTEN ME. NOW I KNOW HOW MUCH HE LOVES ME, BECAUSE HE GAVE ME A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW WHO CARES FOR ME LIKE A DAUGHTER.

I MET THE OWNER OF THE FIELD TODAY. HIS NAME IS BOAZ—AND HE WAS VERY KIND.
BOAZ? HE IS A RELATIVE OF MY HUSBAND'S FAMILY. GOD BLESS HIM FOR BEING KIND TO YOU.


ALL THROUGH THE HARVEST SEASON, RUTH GLEANS IN BOAZ'S FIELD AND TAKES CARE OF NAOMI. ONE EVENING ...
BOAZ HAS SHOWN THAT HE IS KIND TO YOU. AS A KINSMAN, HE HAS THE RIGHT TO MARRY YOU. THE HARVEST CELEBRATION IS TONIGHT. YOU SHOULD WEAR YOUR NICEST DRESS TO THE PARTY, AND THEN YOU SHOULD ASK HIM IF HE—AS YOUR RELATIVE AND REDEEMER—WOULD WANT TO MARRY AND TAKE CARE OF YOU.
BOAZ IS A GODLY MAN, AND I'LL DO WHAT YOU TELL ME.

RUTH DOES EVERYTHING EXACTLY AS NAOMI DESCRIBED. AND BOAZ NOTICES.
RUTH CAME!

NAOMI TOLD ME TO ASK YOU— SINCE YOU ARE A KINSMAN, WOULD YOU BE MY REDEEMER? WOULD YOU ... MARRY ME?

IS THERE NO ONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU?
NO.
THEN I WILL.

THE NEWS OF RUTH AND BOAZ'S COMING MARRIAGE SPREADS RAPIDLY THROUGHOUT ALL BETHLEHEM. AT THE WEDDING THERE IS FEASTING, MUSIC, AND LAUGHTER.
ARE YOU HAPPY, MY DEAR?
HAPPIER THAN I EVER DREAMED I COULD BE. GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME.

AFTER THE WEDDING, RUTH AND NAOMI MOVE INTO BOAZ'S BIG HOUSE. LATER, WHEN A SON IS BORN TO RUTH, NAOMI PROUDLY CARES FOR THE CHILD.
I THANK GOD FOR THE DAY YOU LEFT MOAB TO COME WITH ME TO BETHLEHEM. HE HAS TAKEN MY BITTER LIFE AND MADE IT SWEET AGAIN.
I THANK GOD TOO, NAOMI. HE HAS MADE GOOD COME OUT OF OUR SADNESS. HE HONORED US WITH A MAN WHO HONORS HIM. AND NOW I HAVE A BEAUTIFUL BABY.

MY SON IS NAMED OBED, WHICH MEANS "SERVANT." AND MY PRAYER IS THAT OBED WILL SERVE GOD AND HIS PEOPLE.
RUTH'S PRAYER COMES TRUE—FOR HER SON WILL BECOME THE GRANDFATHER OF DAVID, ISRAEL'S GREATEST KING, WHO WILL FREE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR ENEMIES.