



Samson

CAST:	Costumes & Props
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Narrator○ Samson○ Manoah○ Wife of Manoah○ Angel○ Imri○ Ari○ Philistine 1○ Philistine 2○ Wife of Samson○ Captain of Army – Israel○ Captain of Army – Philistine○ Delilah○ Lords of Philistine 1○ Lords of Philistine 2○ Lords of Philistine 3○ Lords of Philistine 4○ Boy○ Crowd○ Armies of Judah & Philistine○ Friend of Samson 1○ Friend of Samson 2○ Friend of Samson 3○ Philistines	

SCENE 1

NARRATOR The days of the Judges were dark days for the children of Israel, for they had forsaken Yahweh and every man did that which was right in his own eyes. Because of this the hand of Yahweh was against Israel for evil and He sold them into the hand of their enemies. Nevertheless, from time to time He raised up judges who delivered them from their enemies. Our story tells of one of these judges whom Yahweh raised up to begin to deliver Israel for at this time they had been sorely oppressed by the Philistines for 40 years. We begin our story by travelling south in the land of Israel to the town of Zorah, on the edge of the Philistine/Israel border.

Manoah's wife is standing at the edge of the stage "looking down to valley".

Manoah enters and comes over to MW

MANOAH What are you looking at my dear wife

WIFE Oh Manoah – look at that view – from up here we can see all the land of the Philistines – the land that should have been our inheritance!

MANOAH Yes, but we choose to live here in Zorah to see this view! To see what God had promised us, if our tribe of Dan had been brave enough to fight for it!

WIFE I know dear, it is just hard to look down upon the Philistines and know that our people did not put their trust in God. Most of our tribe has moved north to possess a land that God did not promise, just because it was the easy thing to do!

MANOAH Yes, but we choose to live here in faith, There are those who are still faithful in Dan. God sees that and he will be with us. We just need to be patient and trust in him. Come dear, it is not safe for us to be out here on our own, you never know what a Philistine patrol will come by.

Manoah and MW leave stage.

Manoah re-enters carrying a load of wood onto stage, standings up to stretch the kinks in his neck.

WIFE *Enters excitedly*

Manoah, Manoah, a man of God just came to me. His countenance was like that of an angel of God. I have never seen anyone like it. I didn't dare ask him who he was and he didn't tell me but he said to me... he said to me... Behold you shall conceive and have a son. He went on to say that **I** must drink neither wine nor strong drink, neither am **I** to eat anything that is unclean and no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

MANOAH *Rising to his feet and moving a little towards wife.*

Did he say anything else to you?

WIFE Yes, he said that the child shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

MANOAH *In wonder*

Could it be that **we** are to have a son whom Yahweh will use for this great work of delivering our people from the oppression of the Philistines!

Taking his wife's hands they kneel to pray

O my Lord, let the man of God which Thou did send come again unto us and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.

Lights dim and they exit stage

NARRATOR God hearkened to the voice of Manoah and the angel of God came again unto Manoah's wife as she sat in the field: but Manoah was not with her. She ran and told Manoah and they both hurried back to the angel.

Lights on. Enter Manoah and wife. Angel standing to one side of stage.

MANOAH Sir, are you the man that spoke to this woman?

ANGEL Yes, Manoah, I am.

MANOAH O let your words come to pass - tell us of the child. What will he be like and what work will he do for Yahweh?

ANGEL Manoah, of all that I said unto your wife, let her take note. She shall not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither shall she drink wine or strong drink, or eat anything that is unclean. Now all that I have commanded her let her observe.

MANOAH I pray thee, stay with us while I prepare a kid, for I have brought one.

ANGEL If you detain me I will not eat of it. If you offer a burnt offering then you must offer it to Yahweh.

MANOAH Tell me sir, what is your name so that when all that you have said has come to pass we may remember and honour you.

ANGEL Why do you ask after my name. It is wonderful.

By this stage the kid is ready with the meal offering to be offered - Manoah places it upon the rock. The angel touches it and it ignites with flames and the angel vanishes! Manoah and wife fall to the ground.

MANOAH He was an angel... We will surely die because we have seen one of the mighty ones.

WIFE Not so Manoah, for if Yahweh was to kill us then He would not have accepted the burnt offering and the meal offering of our hands - neither would He have revealed these things and told us such things as he did.

Lights dim and off

NARRATOR In due time the woman bore a son and called his name Samson, and the child grew and Yahweh blessed him and the spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

SCENE 2

Lights dim ~ Samson with Imri & Ari following sneak though the back of the audience

IMRI *Hissing* Samson wait for us, SAMSON – stop!

Samson waits for friends to catch up

ARI Samson – do you parents know we are out of the camp, at night, unprotected, in enemy territory?!!

SAMSON This is not enemy territory – this is our territory! We have spent our whole lives living in a camp while the filthy Philistines live in what God promised us. We just need to be brave enough to take it!

IMRI *(Sarcastic)* Isn't it ironic that the filthy Philistine's means "wallowers in the dust" – I mean, you can't get more filthy then that.

ARI Don't get distracted – what are we doing out here Samson, and why did you drag us into this. Is this where you keep disappearing too?

SAMSON God told my parents that he would use me to begin to save Israel from the Philistines, I'm not sure how yet – but I feel like I need to go down to see what we are up against.

IMRI Why don't you just wait until God decides its time though?

SAMSON I can't just sit around doing nothing – it agitates me knowing that they are in our land. Come on – we are going down to Timnath tonight, I want to check out their defences.

ARI TIMNATH! Are you crazy! That is a Philistine city –do you know what they will do to us if we get caught?!

SAMSON It might be a Philistine city NOW, but God promised it to us. *(shaking his head)* It will be fine, our God will protect us, I have been going down to all the towns at night now for months. I am even planning on going down during the day next week to see what might happen.

All exit

NARRATOR: And so as a young man Samson went down to Timnath, a town of the Philistines and coming home he has some news to share with his parents.

SCENE 2

Lights on. Manoah and wife sitting in house around table. Samson enters and hugs his parents.

MANOAH Welcome home! Where have you been for the last few days Samson?

SAMSON *(Sitting down between parents)* Well, as you both know, for the last few years I have been getting to know our oppressive Philistine neighbours trying to see how God will use me to overcome them. Well, a little while ago on one of my visits down to Timnath, *(looking side to side at both parents)* I met a really lovely young woman annnnd *(deep breath, speaking quickly)* I would like her for my wife.

MANOAH You what?!! *(Standing in disbelief)* Samson, where is this coming from?!? You wouldn't really take a daughter of the Philistines for a wife?

WIFE There are plenty of lovely girls of your brethren and your people who would make wonderful wives. Not just from our tribe either – the whole nation is available to you!

SAMSON But she is a lovely girl Mum, and if only you could see her. You would want me to be happy wouldn't you Mum?

MANOAH *(Shaking his head)* But Samson, if it is not right in the sight of God, it doesn't matter what we see.

SAMSON Dad, she comes from such a lovely family and I am sure she will learn to love the truth when we are married.

WIFE Although we haven't met her, it is still not right.

SAMSON They're such a nice family. I am sure that if you met them then you would see what I mean. She is so obedient to her father. Perhaps this is how God will use me to overcome the Philistines – perhaps this is Gods will?

MANOAH Well if you insist we will meet her family, but I am not agreeing to this, you understand.

Lights dim out slowly as discussion concludes

NARRATOR So Samson, together with his mother and father go down to Timnath. As they pass the vineyards on the outskirts of Timnath...

Lights on

SAMSON I know one of the young men who owns a vineyard here, and I would like to tell him that we have come, you go on ahead and I will catch you up.

MANOAH Alright Samson, but don't be long.

SAMSON No - you just keep on this road and I will catch you up.

Manoah and wife keep going; Samson watches until they are out of sight, he turns to cross the stage and a lion roars and bounds out. Fearful fight - lion torn up and left for dead.

Samson dusts himself down, in a state of shock NOTE – this is the first time Samson's incredible strength has been shown. He is just as in shock as the audience.

SAMSON *(Stumbling around, looking at his hands)* The lion is dead – I killed a lion with my bare hands as if it were one of my father's goats. *(Excitedly)* Surely this must mean that Yahweh is with me – he gave me the strength to kill the lion! *(Hesitantly)* But what if this was God trying to stop me from going to Timnath – maybe he doesn't want me marrying a Philistine. *(Thinking)* I better not tell me parents – they might use this as a reason to not marry her, and I so desperately want her to be my wife.

Samson walks off. Lights off.

NARRATOR And so arrangements were made for the wedding, for neither Manoah nor his wife knew that this whole matter was of Yahweh for He sought an occasion against the Philistines. When the time came for the wedding, Samson made his way down to Timnath and as he did so, he turned aside to the place where he had slain the lion.

Lights on. Samson walks up to the carcass.

SAMSON Wow! A swarm of bees have made a hive in the carcass of that lion. It is so unnatural.

Samson bends down and takes a handful and eats some.

Oh honey! This is good!! *(Suddenly)* Oh no! Ahhhh! This came from a dead animal – it is unclean! I better not tell my parents or they'll just tell me how I'm disappointing God again.

Bends and takes more and walks off licking fingers. Lights off.

NARRATOR The marriage proceeded and as the custom was in those days, a feast was arranged that was to last seven days. As Samson sits with 30 of his new Philistine friends he asks them a riddle.

Lights on. Samson in the middle of some Philistines. Casual talk.

SAMSON Friends *(raises glass)*, I will now give you a riddle to work out. To make it worthwhile I will give you seven days to figure it out. If you do I will give you 30 changes of clothes, however if you can't then you have to give me 30 changes of clothes.

1ST FRIEND *(Annoyed)* 30 garments!! Where are we going to get that kind of money?! 1 garment costs enough to impoverish a man!

2ND FRIEND *(Disregarding 1st Friend)* Oh no way, I'm sure between all of us we can figure it out!

2ND FRIEND *(Joking)* You're the best Samson – I'm going to look so good in my new outfit that I'll soon have a beautiful bride too!

REST OF FRIENDS

Yes, Yes, etc.

SAMSON Okay - Listen carefully then. Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness.

Friends recite it to themselves and talk among themselves. Lights out.

NARRATOR As the day passed the Philistines found that they could not unravel the riddle and so fearful of losing an enormous amount of money they made a plan to find the answer.

Lights on. Wife sitting down, friends walk in acting brute/bully/thug-like

1ST FRIEND I suppose you thought it would be cute to have your Jewish husband make a fool of all of us – huh *(coming in close to the wife threatening)*

WIFE Oh no, no, that is not it at all – I didn't even know he was going to do that!

2ND FRIEND Well we want you to understand something. You'd better entice Samson to tell you the meaning of the riddle or else we will burn you and your father's house with fire. *(pausing to let it sink in)* We know you'll make the right decision – your allegiance is after all to your people first, and your husband second.

WIFE *(very scared)* Why would you do such a terrible thing?!

1ST FRIEND Because **you** have brought him here among us. He is going to take all that is ours!!

WIFE *(groans and buries her head in her arms)*

Lights out. Lights on dim. Samson and wife in house. The wife is angry and spiteful in this scene.

SAMSON What is wrong dear? You haven't spoken to me since I came in.

WIFE You don't really love me. *(angry that she is in this position)* That's what's wrong. You don't love me; you must hate me. *(acting like a very highstrung dramatic female)*

- SAMSON** Of course I love you. How could you say that?
- WIFE** Well, if you did love me you would tell me that answer to the riddle that you put to my people.
- SAMSON** But I haven't told the thing to my mother or father; why should I tell it to you. Surely that doesn't mean that I don't love you, you know that I do.
- WIFE** (Angry) What is that suppose to mean? You trust your mother and father more than your wife?! (*Staring right at him, speaking very angrily*)

Lights dim and all freeze

- NARRATOR** And so Samson's wife continued to plead with him to tell her of the riddle. Now it came to pass on the seventh day of the feast that she continued with her persistence and weeping.

Lights on

- WIFE** *Resting on Samson, trying a different tactic of being sad/weepy.*
- Pleeease tell me the riddle dear. I can't sleep at night thinking you...don't...trust...me! (*crying*)
- SAMSON** (*Shaken at the sight of tears*) Oh no, (*sitting up*), don't do that – no, I do love you. I can't hide it from you any longer. Here...I will tell you, please don't cry.

They lean close to whisper. Lights dim

- NARRATOR** As soon as she had learned the answer to the riddle she went to her people the Philistines and gave them the answer. Later that day, as they gathered with Samson...

Lights on. Friends around Samson

- 1ST FRIEND** Samson, we have come with the answer to the riddle. (*laughing cynically*) I hope you've been saving your talents!
- SAMSON** (*Confidently*) Oh you think you have figured it do you? Well, what is it (*takes a drink*)
- 2ND FRIEND** (*Smugly*) What is sweeter than honey, and what is stronger than a lion?
- SAMSON** *Visibly furious*

If you had not ploughed with **my** heifer, you would not have found out my riddle.

Turns and storms out.

NARRATOR And the Spirit of Yahweh came upon Samson and he went down to Ashkelon and slew thirty men there and taking their spoil gave changes of garments to those who had expounded the riddle to him.

After a time Samson returned to Timnath to his wife, but when he arrived he found that she had been given to another Philistine. Samson's anger was kindled and taking 300 foxes, he tied them tail to tail and after lighting them set them free in the corn of the Philistines causing great destruction to their corn, vineyards and olive groves –destroying the whole economy of the Philistines in one fell swoop.

When the Philistines realised that it was Samson who had caused this catastrophe, they arose against him but he smote them in hand to hand combat, and departed to Judah. The Philistines being incensed by this, gathered an army and pursued him to Judah.. When the men of Judah found the reason for the coming of the Philistine army they took 3000 men into the mountain top to bring Samson down to the Philistines.

Lights on. Army of Judah at Etam. Samson high on rock.

CAPTAIN *Calling*

Samson, Samson

SAMSON *(Angry)* Yes. *(Dejected)* What is it?

CAPTAIN Samson. Did you forget that the Philistines rule over us? What have you done to us?

SAMSON *(Bitterly)* As they did to me, so I have done to them.

CAPTAIN Well we have been sent out by Judah to bind you and deliver you to the Philistines so that they do not destroy **us** for what you have done.

SAMSON *(Shaking his head)* Swear to me that you will not harm me yourselves and I will come down.

CAPTAIN We swear that we will not kill you, **but we will** bind you and give you to them.

SAMSON Alright, I will accept your word. I'm coming.

Samson comes down and they bind him with two cords.

Lights dim.

NARRATOR And so Samson was brought to the Philistines.

Lights on. Samson bound is handed to the Philistines. Army gathered. Army of Philistines shout.

CAPTAIN OF ARMY

Now we have you.

- SAMSON** *Spirit of Lord comes on him and he snaps the cords. Shouts
NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*
- looks on ground, sees and picks up jaw bone - fights furiously. Dead bodies everywhere!*
- (As he is fighting) With the jaw bone of an ass... heaps upon heaps... with the jaw bone for an ass have I slain a thousand men.*
- Fighting is over, walking while dragging the bone. Realizes how disgusting it is, throws it away. Falls onto front edge of stage exhausted.*
- Looking tired and then thirsty.*
- Oh, LORD, thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant, and now shall I die for thirst?
- NARRATOR** And the Lord clave a hollow in the jaw and there came out water and when Samson had drunk he revived.
- Samson enacts this.*
- SAMSON** *(Lifting head in prayer)* Thank-you LORD. Here is the well of him that called upon God.
- Lights out,*
- NARRATOR** Samson was therefore established as a judge and he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines for 20 years. As those years rolled past Samson loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. When the lords of the Philistines became aware of this, they approached Delilah asking her to entice Samson to tell her wherein his great strength lay and how they might prevail over him. For this information they would each give her 1100 pieces of silver. Delilah agreed.
- Lights on.*
- DELILAH** *(Coming up behind Samson and resting her hands on his shoulders)* Samson, my Love - I still can't believe you chose ME to be your wife. You are the most incredible man I have ever met. There is none in all of Israel that comes close to you. I love seeing the way those filthy Philistines quiver just at the mere mention of your name! I feel so safe and secure with you!
- SAMSON** Well, you aren't too bad yourself. I mean I just happened to find the most beautiful woman in all of Israel AND the land of the Philistines! And you have nothing to fear. The Philistines don't even think of attacking us nowadays. They're still nursing their wounds from our last scrap.
- DELILAH** *(Flirtatious)* Speaking of your mysterious strength. You never talk about it, you don't even mention it. Is it something you do? Is it something you eat?

SAMSON *(Jokingly)* Why so curious all the sudden, you thinking of taking up Philistine-wrestling.

DELILAH *(Flirtatious indignation)* Well, what if I just wanted to learn how to beat you! It would be nice to not always be the one needing to be defended! How do you do it?!

NARRATOR Delilah continued with her persistence to find the secret of Samson's strength. Twice Samson misled her as to the source of his strength. After believing him both times, and having had the Philistines lie in wait in vain, Delilah confronts Samson angrily.

Lights on.

DELILAH Up until now you have told me lies. Do you know really love me? How can our relationship be built on lies and mistrust? Please tell me Samson how you can be bound.

SAMSON *(Frustrated)* I don't know why this is so important to you! Fine - My hair is the secret. *(Pulling himself together)* If you weave the seven locks of my hair with a web and fasten it you will have me bound.

DELILAH *(Loud whisper as Samson is now sleeping)* I hope that you are not mocking me again. It must work this time! They are starting to get angry with me!!

Delilah weaves Samsons hair together and fastens it to the beam of the loom. As he finished Samson is lying asleep.

DELILAH *(Upset)* Oh no! Samson – the Philistines have surround us!

SAMSON *(Waking up groggy)* Wha...? What's this? Samson stands up with his hair still attached to loom.

DELILAH *(Upset)* Oh! You lied to me! *(Runs off stage crying)*

SAMSON *(pulls loom out of his hair and shrugs at audience)* Woman!

Lights out, music plays

Couch moved onto scene, Delilah and Samson sitting on couch

DELILAH Samson, how can you say that you love me when your heart is not at one with me. You have mocked me these three times and have not told me the secret of your great strength.

SAMSON Why does it really matter to you Delilah. You know that I really do love you, **that** is all that really matters. I have never shared my strength with anyone!

DELILAH *(Upset)* "You say" you love me, you say that you have never loved another woman as much as me – prove to me your love, prove it to me by telling me something you have never told anyone else. Then I would know you love me like no other!
(Starts crying hysterically)

SAMSON Oh love, if it means this much to you then I will tell you all that is within my heart. I can't bear to see you so sick with sadness.

Lights out.

NARRATOR This time Samson told the truth. He told her how that from birth he had been a Nazarite unto God and that his hair had never been shaven because God was going to use Samson to deliver Israel from the Philistines. Delilah realised that this time Samson was not mocking, but in fact, was telling her the reason for his great strength. When she found out she once again called the Philistines and when Samson was asleep she had one of them cut off his hair.

Lights on. Delilah sitting with Samson asleep on her lap. A Philistine (Uncle Ted or Lucas) finishes cutting his hair.

DELILAH Quickly, hide yourself, he is waking.

As Samson arises, Delilah calls

Samson the Philistines are upon you.

Samson jumps to his feet.

SAMSON *(Turning to Delilah jokingly)* Oh you are up to your tricks again... but what is this? *(in real horror)* What have you done?

The Philistines emerge. Some bound Samson who is devastated while other pay Delilah who is cold and smug. She sits down on the couch surrounded my bags and bags of money. Lights off.

NARRATOR So the Philistines took Samson and put out his eyes and caused him to grind in the prison house in Gaza. Howbeit, after a time his hair that had been shaven, began to grow.

Later the lords of the Philistines held a feast and offered sacrifices to their god Dagon, because they believed that he had delivered Samson into their hand.

Feast scene. Lights on. Great joy. Philistines giddy with joy, a slightly drunken atmosphere.

1ST LORD Dagon has delivered our enemy into our hand.

2ND LORD We finally have the one that destroyed our land and killed so many of us.

3RD LORD Call for Samson that we may SEE him.

4TH LORD Yes, bring out Samson, we have a few things to say to him.

1ST LORD Boy, *(leans over and snaps his fingers to the servant boy)* go to the prison and have Samson brought that we may have fun.

- BOY** Yes sir.
- 2ND LORD** This will be fun. Now he can see see how the important people live!
- 3RD LORD** I don't think he'll be doing much seeing!! (*everyone laughs*)
Samson enters. Great cheering etc.
- 1ST LORD** How do you like being a captive, eh Samson?
- 4TH LORD** We remember how much you liked the jawbone of a donkey in the past – we thought you'd especially like doing the work of a donkey for us! (*They all erupt in cruel laughter*)
- 2ND LORD** Call on your God now Samson. "See" if He will save you.
- SAMSON** Son let me feel the pillars of the house that I may lean on them.
- BOY** Ha. He has asked me to let him lean on the pillars. I thought you all said he was strong. He doesn't look too strong to me. Here old man, here are the pillars.
- 4TH LORD** Ha ha. He is worn out already.
- SAMSON** O Lord God, remember me, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, o God that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.
Samson takes hold of the two pillars, one in each hand and pulls together.
Let me die with the Philistines
Bows and pulls down the building. Screams etc, bodies everywhere. Lights out.
- NARRATOR** And so Samson died. In his death he slew more than those whom he slew in his life. When news of his death spread, his brethren and all of his father's house came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying place of Manoah his father.

In Samson's birth we are reminded of a time that was to come when God would operate on a barren womb to produce a child who would save his people from their sins. In Samson's final act we are reminded of our Lord Jesus Christ who too would save more people in his death than he did in his life. May his life be a reminder to us all to do what is right in the sight of our God first and "better is he that rules his spirit than he who takes a city."