

Search for a saviour

Samson's strength

Judges 13–16

	Beginnings	The End
	13	
Sees a woman	14:1–3	16:1
Feat of strength	14:4–6 (lion)	16:2–3 (gate)
Woman betrays Samson's secret	14:7–20 (the riddle)	16:4–19 (the hair)
Philistine conflict leaves Samson bound	15:1–13	16:20–21
Defeating Philistines, calling on the LORD	15:14–19 (salvation)	16:22–30 (revenge)
Conclusion: "20 years"	15:20	16:31

1. *What sort of a man is Samson?*

Set apart?

Nazirite (13:4–5, 16:17, Numbers 6)

Women (14:1–3; 16:1, 4)

Wine (14:5, 10)

Unclean things (14:6–9, Genesis 3:6; 14:19; 15:4–5)

Strong but weak

Miraculous strength (14:4–6, 16:2–3 etc)

Extraordinary weakness (14:7–20, 16:4–19)

Selfish saviour

*"...he shall begin to save **Israel** from the hand of the Philistines."* (13:5)

It's all about "me" (15:16, 18, 19; 16:1–3, 28–30)

→ Samson is the saviour *who suits us*

2. *What sort of a God is the LORD?*

The Saviour who uses sinners

The secret to Israel's strength

→ The LORD is the Saviour we *need*