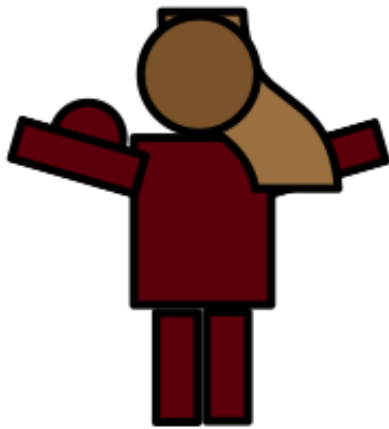


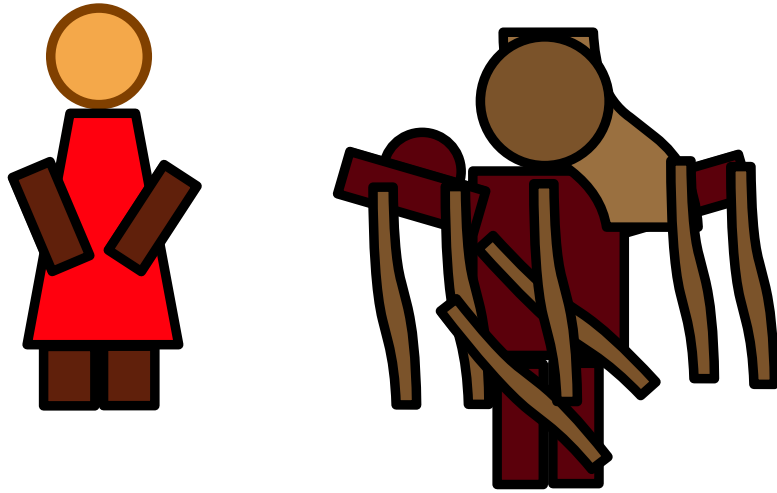
# Samson



Judges 13 & 16  
New International  
Reader's Version

The angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife. He said, "You will become pregnant. You will have a son. He must not use a razor on his head. He must not cut his hair. That is because the boy will be a Nazirite. He will be set apart to God from the day he is born. He will begin to save Israel from the power of the Philistines."

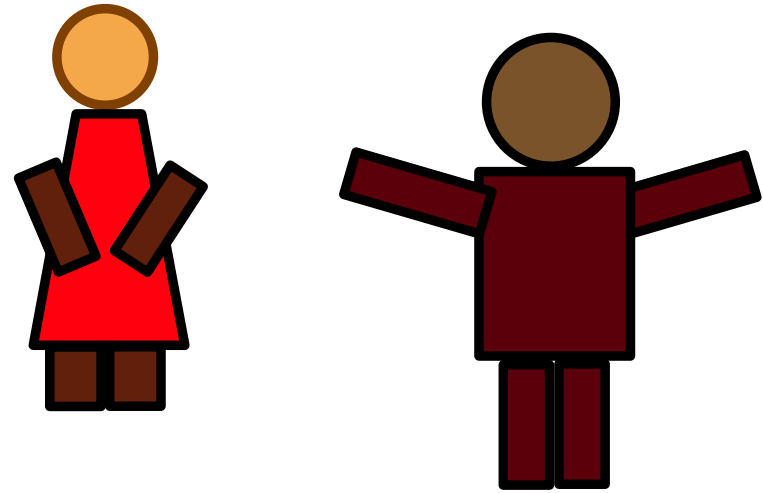
Later, the woman had a baby boy. She named him Samson. As he grew up, the Lord blessed him.



So Delilah spoke to Samson. She said, "Tell me the secret of why you are so strong."

Samson answered her, "Let someone tie me up with seven new leather straps. Then I'll become as weak as any other man."

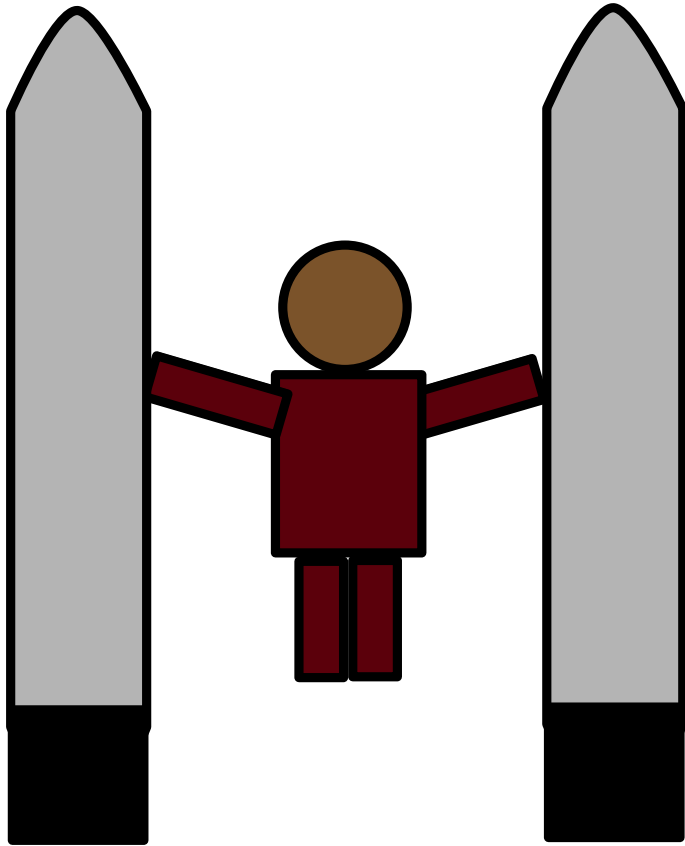
She called out to him. She said, "Samson! The Philistines are attacking you!" But he snapped the leather straps easily. So the secret of why he was so strong wasn't discovered.



She continued to pester him day after day. So he told her everything. "I've never cut my hair. If you shave my head, I won't be strong anymore. I'll become as weak as any other man."

Delilah realized he had told her everything. She called out, "Samson! The Philistines are attacking you!"

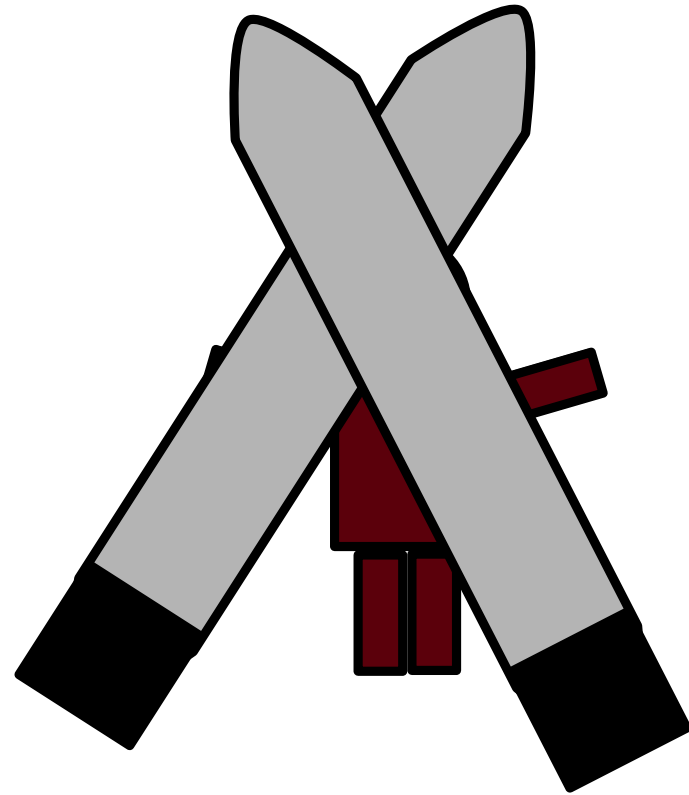
He woke up from his sleep. He thought, "I'll go out just as I did before. I'll shake myself free." But he didn't know that the Lord had left him.



The rulers of the Philistines gathered together.

They called Samson out of the prison.

They had him stand near the temple pillars. Then he spoke to the servant who was holding his hand. He said, "Put me where I can feel the pillars. I'm talking about the ones that hold the temple up. I want to lean against them."



Then he prayed to the Lord. He said, "Lord and King, show me that you still have concern for me. God, please make me strong just one more time."

Then Samson reached toward the two pillars that were in the middle of the temple.

Samson said, "Let me die together with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might. The temple came down on the rulers. It fell on all of the people who were in it.