

Samson: Dedicated Dumbbell

(What Was He Thinking!?)

Judges: The Deadly Spiral #7

Judges 16:1-22, 28



Nothing beats knowing the One True God (Who gives birth to our character... which generates our beliefs... which shape our thoughts... which direct our actions!).

I. Why Is Samson in the Book?

- A. He exposes the creeping threat of Philistine accommodation.
- B. With God's people the great threat is never **annihilation**.

It is always

II. Why Did Samson Reveal His Secret?

- A. He was a "He-Man with a She-Weakness." – Chuck Swindoll
- B. He was a "Wee-Man with a Me-Weakness"
- C. He gave away his secret because he didn't know it!
 - *And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.* – Judges 16:20

III. What Does Samson Teach Us?

- A. To ask: *What was he thinking?* And then to keep digging...

1. See actions
2. Question thoughts
3. Discover beliefs
4. Expose character
5. Reveal a "god" (or THE GOD)

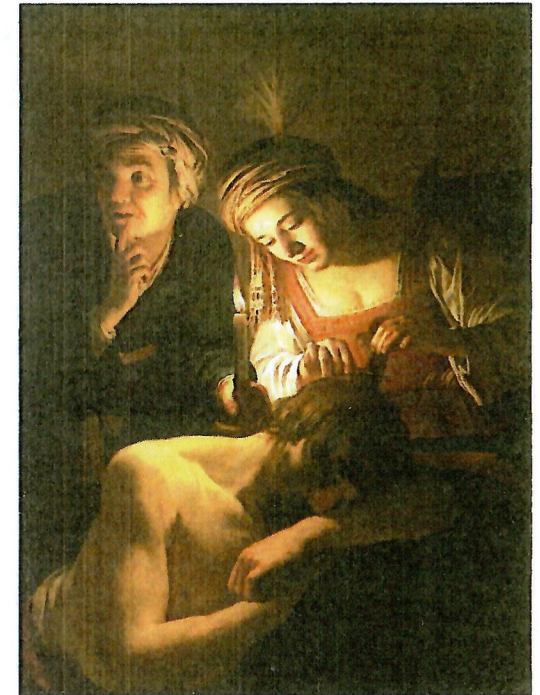
- B. To appreciate the importance of symbols...

- C. To know the great power & faithful goodness of God...
 1. Samson's "Spiritual Baldness" & the Hair-Growing God!
 2. Samson's violent vindication (v.28)

Samson, the last judge God sent to His people, was the most paradoxical man of them all – a deliverer who couldn't deliver himself, a conqueror who couldn't conquer himself, a strong man who didn't know when he was weak.

- Warren Wiersbe -

Be Available



**Gerritt van Honthorst –
Samson and Delilah (ca. 1615)**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Of
Reno, Nevada
July 19, 2026**

Service for The Lord's Day

July 19, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

- Judges 16:19-20

We Gather as the Church, a People Set Apart to God

Prelude

Nancy Tedford, organ

Church Family News

Commissioning of 2026 VBS Team

Introit "At All Times" – J. Hull Jay Hull & Jenny McNeely,
w/ Susie Humphreys, piano

***Call to Worship** 1 Timothy 4:8-10 Kathy Ludwig

Leader: For while bodily training is of some value...

People: ... godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Leader: The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive,

People: Because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

We Worship Jesus Christ Who Has Delivered Us from Death

***Songs of Praise** Samuel Dueñas & CPC Praise Band

"You Brought Me Back to Life" & "All My Boast Is in Jesus"

[CCLI License #246069]

Time of Greeting / Welcoming One Another

Children's Prayer Time

Katie Guerrero

Prayer of Confession, Word of Assurance & Gloria Patri

Time of Offering

Special Music: "Listen to My Prayer, O God" – J. Hull

***Doxology (#731) & Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Holy Spirit Helps us Hear His Word

Hymn of Preparation

#402

"Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide"

Old Testament Reading

Judges 16:1-22, 28 (p.215)

Message:

Samson: Dedicated Dumbbell

Pastor Jay Hull

(What Was He Thinking!?)

Judges: The Deadly Spiral #7

In Faith, Hope & Love We Go Forth to Honor & Serve God

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive

those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

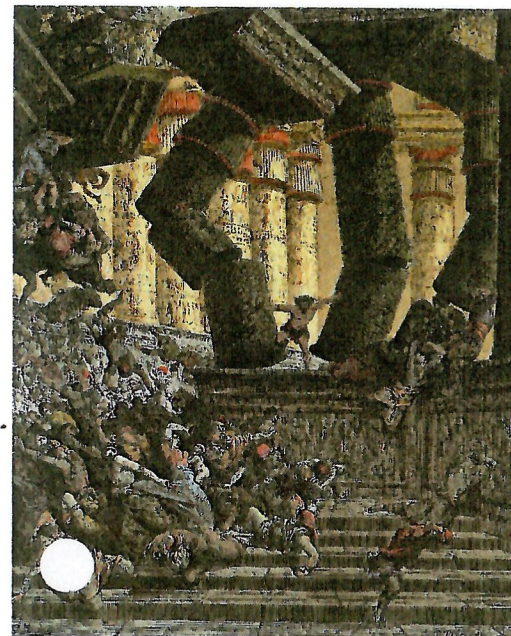
***Closing Hymn**

"Leaning on the

Everlasting Arms" #616

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**



*indicates to stand
if you are able

Weekly Events

Sundays

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Prayer
10:00 am Worship Service
11:15 am Coffee & Fellowship

Wednesday

9:00 am Women's Bible Study
(resumes Sept. 9)
1:30 pm XL-ENT Teens (resumes Aug 12)
2:30 pm Kids Club (resumes Aug 12)
7:00 pm Praise Band Practice

Thursdays

1:00 pm All Church Bible Study
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (on summer break)

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Jul 20-23 VBS 5:45 pm-8:00 pm	Aug 11 Christian Ed MTM 6:00 pm
21 Admin MTM Moved to 7-14	Worship MTM 6:00 pm
28 Session 6:30 pm	Deacons MTM 6:00 pm
Aug 2 Mission Fair 11:15	Missions MTM 6:00 pm XLD
(see Mission Focus page on back)	XL-ENT Teens 1:30 -5:30 pm
9 Mission Potluck 11:30 am	Kids Club 2:30-5:30 pm
10 First day of school for WCSD	

News & Reminders

VBS is Here!

Thank you to everyone who donated items to make VBS a success.

Kids Club and XL-ENT Teens

These groups will begin their Fall sessions on Wednesday, August 12. Registration is now open on www.covenant-reno.org. Forms are available in the narthex.

Men's Retreat

The Men's Retreat is coming up September 25-27. Sign up on our website www.covenant-reno.org.

Women's Retreat Sign-up Sheet is in the Narthex

The Women's Retreat is October 23-25 at Lake Tahoe. Catherine Coon, a founder of HopeAlive! and a friend of Covenant, is the speaker. Scholarships are available. The sign-up period is June 28 through July 26. The sign-up table is in the narthex. Pay online is available on our website www.covenant-reno.org.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Donation Bin

There is a donation bin in the narthex for individual items for shoeboxes. School supplies, hair clips and combs, small stuffed animals, toys, whatever you'd like to contribute. These will be used by Kids Club to help them fill their shoeboxes. This is in addition to the Christmas Shoebox drive in the fall.

PRAYERS & PRAISES

For the Church

Pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee as they pray and search for a pastor to succeed Pastor Jay, when he retires.

Prayer Requests

Nancy Tedford Healing
Joyce Miers Healing
Joyce Prosser Healing (submitted by Jim Prosser)
Lesley Weller Life Circumstances (submitted by Carole Faeth)
Janet Corty Healing
Corrine Dickman Healing (submitted by Jean Burnett)
Desi & Jacob Wright Healing (submitted by Jim Hemsley)
Phil Landis Healing
Bill Malcolm Praise for his swift knee surgery recovery
Phil Imsdahl Healing (Micaela Pasinger's grandfather)

Bereavement

Fr. J's and family of Kimberly Souza (Sharleen Phillips' sister)
Family and friends of Bette Kyle (Lori Rhoden's mother)

Our New Neighbors

Pray for the new neighbors who have moved in

On Active Military Tour of Duty

Noah Arias, Terran Billharz, Cody Carr, Matthew Cunningham, Westin Hart, Chase Lemon, Levi Sanchez, Gary Hogman, Maille Mathieu, Brian Zordell, Margaret Guthrie, Benjamin Guthrie, Chandler Bryant, Caleb Mize & Jacob Simpkins

Prayer Requests

Name of Person to pray for: _____

Concern or Update _____

Submitted by _____

Date _____

☐ For Church-wide prayer

☐ For Pastor/Staff Prayer

☐ Post on the Realm

Prayer submissions will be listed for 4 weeks; if an extension is desired please request with an update. Put your request in the offering plate or in the prayer request box located on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.