

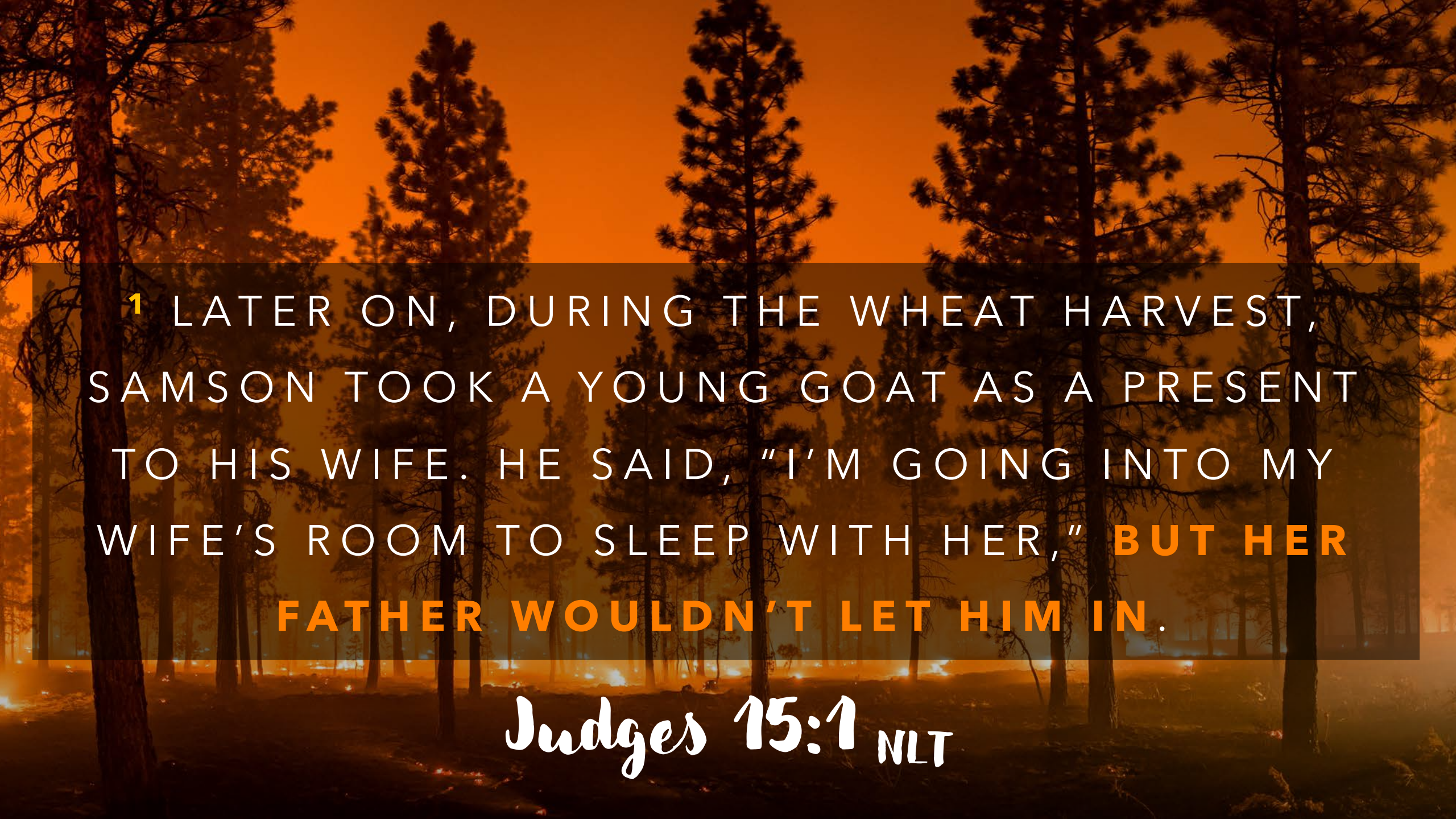
A dramatic, apocalyptic scene. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit is seen from behind, holding a large, dark umbrella. He is looking out over a city that is engulfed in flames and smoke. The sky is dark and filled with numerous bright, streaking meteors or fireballs falling towards the ground. The overall atmosphere is one of impending disaster and chaos.

Avoiding Disaster

5. DEVELOP SELF-CONTROL



T1 *Revenge is uncontrollable.*
JUDGES 12:2-5



¹ LATER ON, DURING THE WHEAT HARVEST,
SAMSON TOOK A YOUNG GOAT AS A PRESENT
TO HIS WIFE. HE SAID, "I'M GOING INTO MY
WIFE'S ROOM TO SLEEP WITH HER," **BUT HER
FATHER WOULDN'T LET HIM IN.**

Judges 15:1 NLT



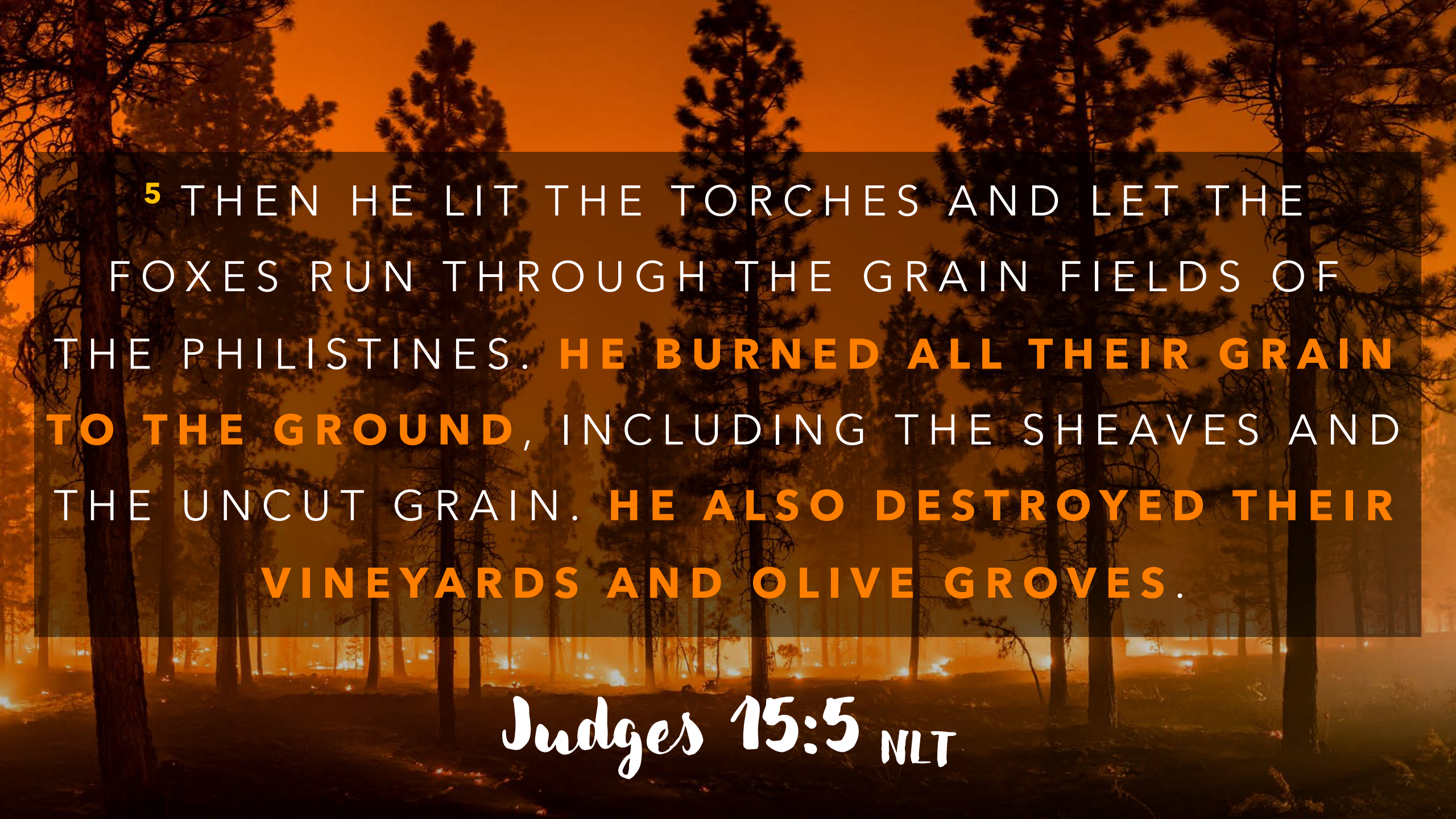
2 "I TRULY THOUGHT YOU MUST HATE HER," HER
FATHER EXPLAINED, "SO **I GAVE HER IN**
MARRIAGE TO YOUR BEST MAN. BUT LOOK, HER
YOUNGER SISTER IS EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL
THAN SHE IS. **MARRY HER INSTEAD.**"

Judges 15:2 NLT



³ SAMSON SAID, "THIS TIME I CANNOT BE
BLAMED FOR EVERYTHING I AM GOING TO DO
TO YOU PHILISTINES." ⁴ THEN HE WENT OUT
AND **CAUGHT 300 FOXES. HE TIED THEIR TAILS
TOGETHER** IN PAIRS, AND HE FASTENED A
TORCH TO EACH PAIR OF TAILS.

Judges 15:3-4 NLT



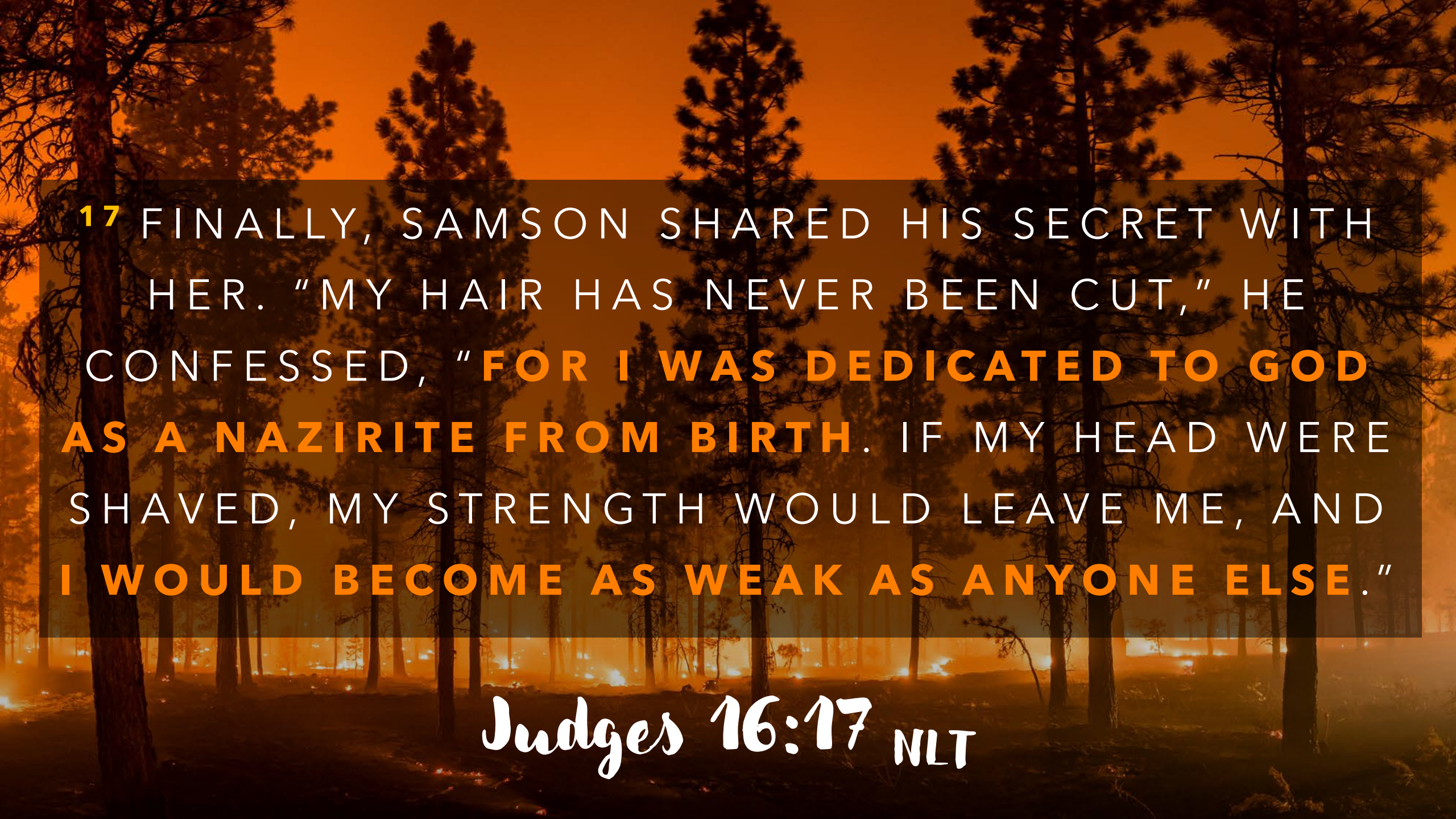
5 THEN HE LIT THE TORCHES AND LET THE
FOXES RUN THROUGH THE GRAIN FIELDS OF
THE PHILISTINES. **HE BURNED ALL THEIR GRAIN
TO THE GROUND**, INCLUDING THE SHEAVES AND
THE UNCUT GRAIN. **HE ALSO DESTROYED THEIR
VINEYARDS AND OLIVE GROVES.**

Judges 15:5 NLT

A close-up photograph of a man's face, which is completely obscured by his hands. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt. His hands are pressed against two thick, dark vertical bars, likely from a prison cell. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the skin of his hands and face, and deep shadows in the creases of his hands and behind the bars. The background is a blurred, greyish-blue, suggesting an outdoor setting with a wall or fence. The overall mood is one of despair, shame, and helplessness.

T2 Sin has unavoidable
consequences.

JUDGES 16:17-20



17 FINALLY, SAMSON SHARED HIS SECRET WITH HER. "MY HAIR HAS NEVER BEEN CUT," HE CONFESSED, "**FOR I WAS DEDICATED TO GOD AS A NAZIRITE FROM BIRTH.** IF MY HEAD WERE SHAVED, MY STRENGTH WOULD LEAVE ME, AND **I WOULD BECOME AS WEAK AS ANYONE ELSE.**"

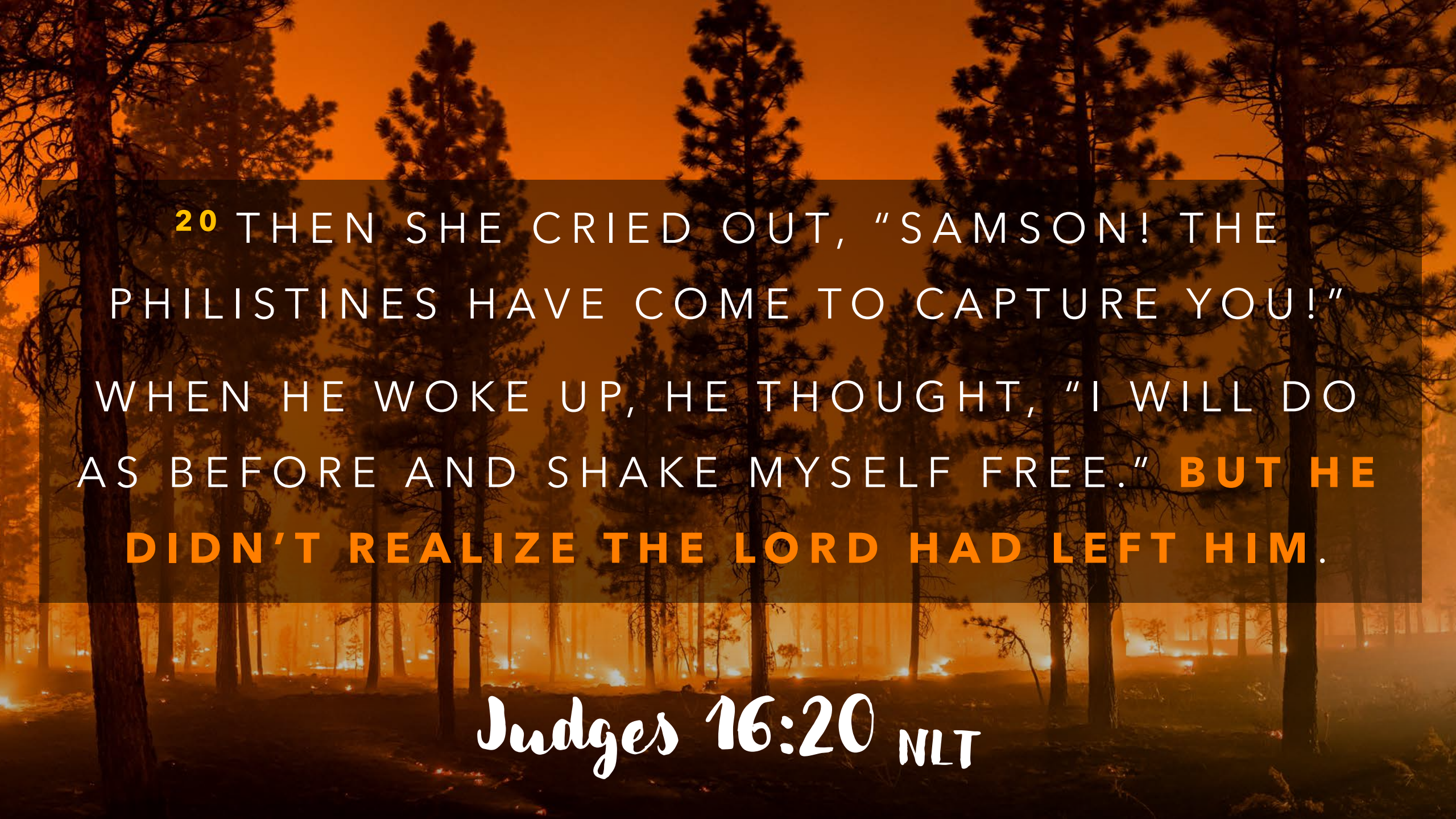
Judges 16:17 NLT

18 DELILAH REALIZED HE HAD FINALLY TOLD HER THE TRUTH, SO SHE SENT FOR THE PHILISTINE RULERS. "COME BACK ONE MORE TIME," SHE SAID, "FOR HE HAS FINALLY TOLD ME HIS SECRET." SO **THE PHILISTINE RULERS RETURNED WITH THE MONEY IN THEIR HANDS.**

Judges 16:18 NLT

19 DELILAH LULLED SAMSON TO SLEEP WITH HIS HEAD IN HER LAP, AND THEN SHE CALLED IN A MAN TO SHAVE OFF THE SEVEN LOCKS OF HIS HAIR. **IN THIS WAY SHE BEGAN TO BRING HIM DOWN**, AND HIS STRENGTH LEFT HIM.

Judges 16:19 NLT



20 THEN SHE CRIED OUT, "SAMSON! THE
PHILISTINES HAVE COME TO CAPTURE YOU!"
WHEN HE WOKE UP, HE THOUGHT, "I WILL DO
AS BEFORE AND SHAKE MYSELF FREE." **BUT HE
DIDN'T REALIZE THE LORD HAD LEFT HIM.**

Judges 16:20 NLT

T3 Humility can take
us to our purpose.

NUMBERS 16:21-30



21 SO THE PHILISTINES CAPTURED HIM AND
GOUGED OUT HIS EYES. THEY TOOK HIM TO
GAZA, WHERE **HE WAS BOUND WITH BRONZE**
CHAINS AND FORCED TO GRIND GRAIN IN THE
PRISON. **22** BUT BEFORE LONG, **HIS HAIR BEGAN**
TO GROW BACK.

Judges 16:21-22 NLT

23 THE PHILISTINE RULERS HELD A GREAT FESTIVAL, OFFERING SACRIFICES AND PRAISING THEIR GOD, DAGON. THEY SAID, "OUR GOD HAS GIVEN US VICTORY OVER OUR ENEMY SAMSON!"

24 WHEN THE PEOPLE SAW HIM, THEY PRAISED THEIR GOD, SAYING, "**OUR GOD HAS DELIVERED OUR ENEMY TO US!** THE ONE WHO KILLED SO MANY OF US IS NOW IN OUR POWER!"

Judges 16:23-24 NLT

25 HALF DRUNK BY NOW, **THE PEOPLE DEMANDED,**
"BRING OUT SAMSON SO HE CAN AMUSE US!" SO,
HE WAS BROUGHT FROM THE PRISON TO AMUSE
THEM AND THEY HAD HIM STAND BETWEEN THE
PILLARS SUPPORTING THE ROOF. **26** SAMSON SAID
TO THE YOUNG SERVANT WHO WAS LEADING HIM
BY THE HAND, "PLACE MY HANDS AGAINST THE
PILLARS THAT HOLD UP THE TEMPLE. I WANT TO
REST AGAINST THEM."

Judges 16:25-26 NLT



27 NOW THE TEMPLE WAS COMPLETELY FILLED
WITH PEOPLE. ALL THE PHILISTINE RULERS WERE
THERE, AND **THERE WERE ABOUT 3,000 MEN
AND WOMEN ON THE ROOF WHO WERE
WATCHING AS SAMSON AMUSED THEM.**

Judges 16:27 NLT



28 THEN SAMSON PRAYED TO THE LORD,
"SOVEREIGN LORD, REMEMBER ME AGAIN. O
GOD, PLEASE STRENGTHEN ME JUST ONE MORE
TIME. WITH ONE BLOW LET ME PAY BACK THE
PHILISTINES FOR THE LOSS OF MY TWO EYES."

Judges 16:28 NLT

29 THEN SAMSON PUT HIS HANDS ON THE TWO
CENTER PILLARS THAT HELD UP THE TEMPLE.
PUSHING AGAINST THEM WITH BOTH HANDS, **30** HE
PRAYED, "LET ME DIE WITH THE PHILISTINES." AND
**THE TEMPLE CRASHED DOWN ON THE PHILISTINE
RULERS AND ALL THE PEOPLE. SO HE KILLED
MORE PEOPLE WHEN HE DIED THAN HE HAD
DURING HIS ENTIRE LIFETIME.**

Judges 16:29-30 NLT

Upper Room Questions:

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:21-30

LEARN: WHAT ARE THE TRUTHS, THEMES, COMMANDS,
& PROMISES GOD WANTS YOU TO LEARN?

EXAMINE: WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

APPLY: HOW DOES GOD WANT YOU TO CHANGE?

PRAY: HOW CAN YOU PRAY THESE PRINCIPLES BACK
TO JESUS?

ARTICLE WHAT IS SEXUAL IMMORALITY??