

A dramatic scene of a whale's tail breaching the surface of a dark blue, stormy sea. The sky is filled with bright, jagged lightning bolts, and rain is falling diagonally across the frame. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

EPIC TALES

RELEARNING THE ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY

Samson and Delilah



EPIC TALES

Our main characters

Who was Samson?

Name means “of the sun.” He was the son of Manoah, born at Zorah. He was a “Nazarite unto God” from his birth, the first Nazarite mentioned in Scripture (Judges 13:3–5). He served for 20 years as the 15th Judge of Israel, beginning as a judge at approximately 20 years of age. He was a contemporary of Samuel.

Who was Delilah?

Name means “languishing”, assumed to be a Philistine woman who dwelt in the valley of Sorek (Judges 16:4–20).

- Easton's Bible Dictionary

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Setting of the story... Philistine Oppression

The Canaanite cults made deep inroads into Jewish life. The people became estranged from the spirit of the Torah. Divine punishment now came from the west. Situated along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, the Philistines, rude, warlike, and restless, had grown into a powerful nation. They began to push further inland where the land was more fertile. For many years they were a constant threat to the land of Israel. The Israelites, weakened by idolatry and disunion, were often defeated and subdued and had then to submit to merciless oppression. The burdens of war and servitude naturally fell most heavily upon the neighboring tribe of the Danites; but the burdens were felt by the whole nation. For many years the Israelites bore the hateful yoke, and they sent up their cries for help and rescue.

https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/464035/jewish/Samson.htm

EPIC TALES

Judges chapter 13

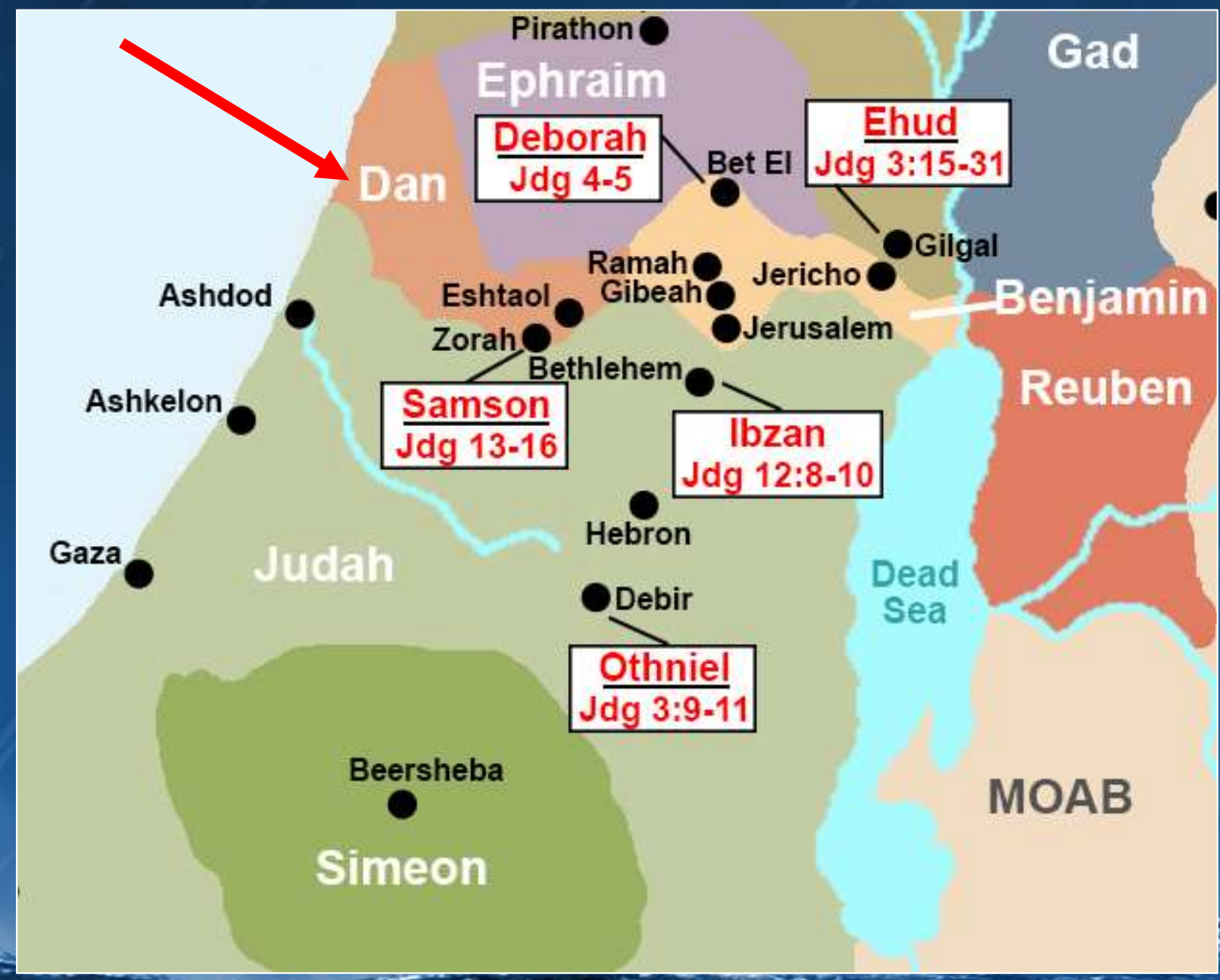


EPIC TALES


JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Gideon Major Judges
Tola Minor Judges

ConformingToJesus.com



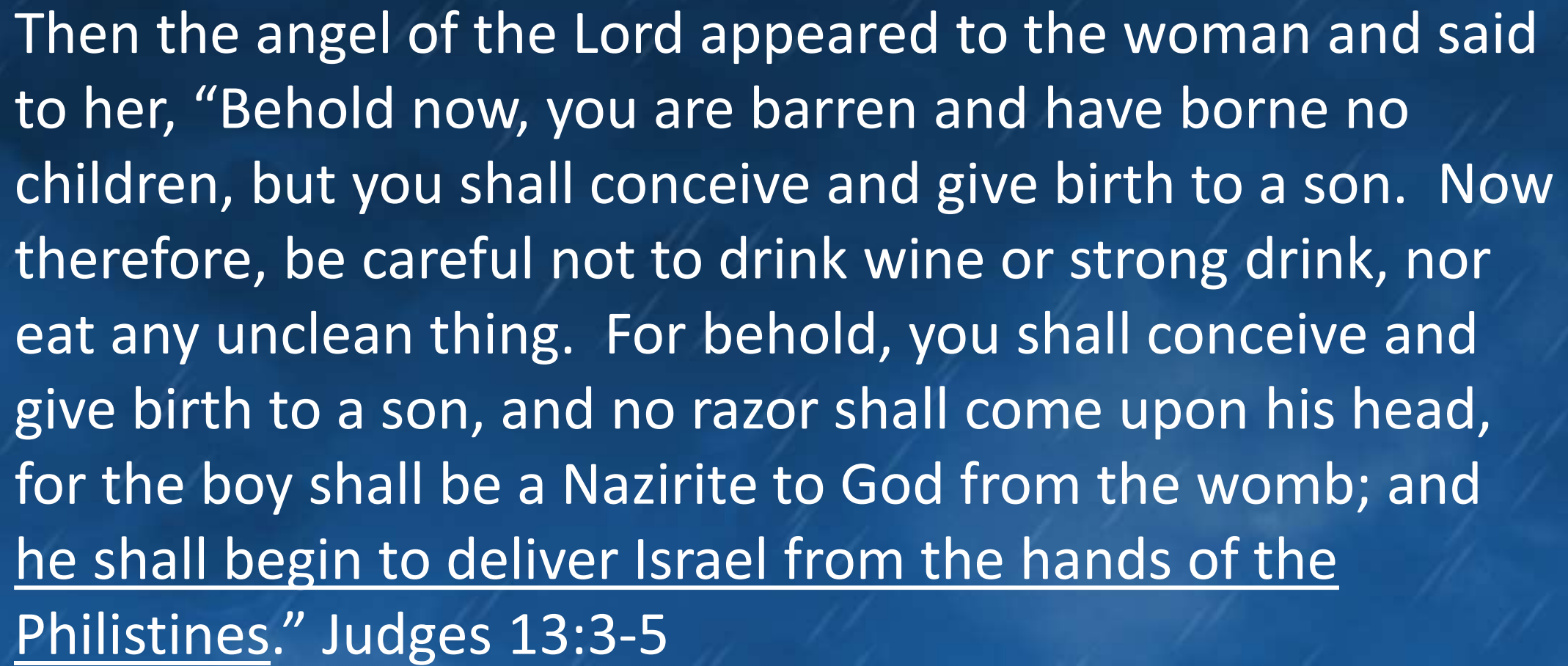
EPIC TALES

A close-up photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the dark blue ocean, creating white foam at the base. The background is a deep blue sky with light rays filtering through.

Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years. There was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites [tribe of Dan], whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no children. Judges 13:1-2

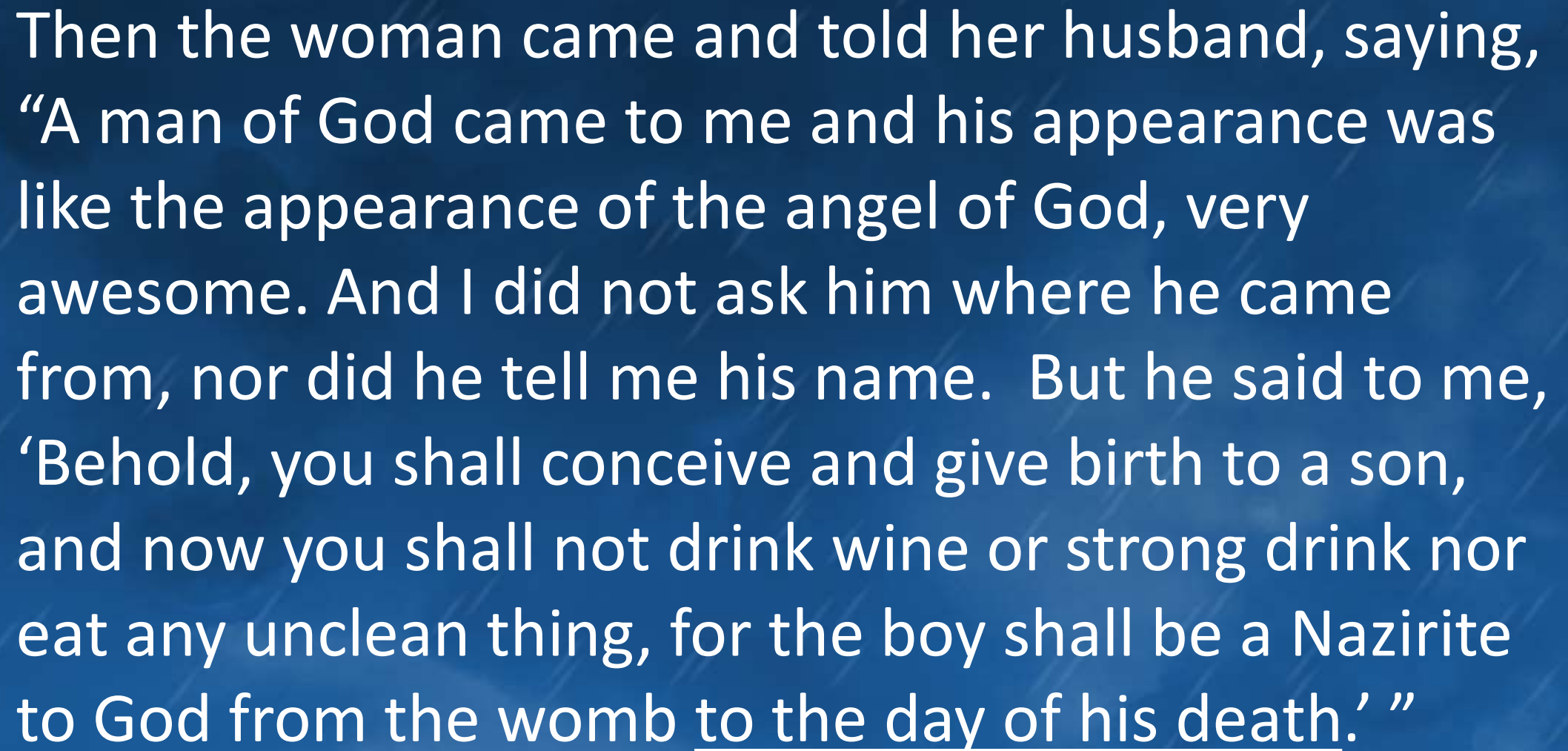
*Philistines organized a pentapolis or confederation of five cities—Gaza, Ashkelon, and Ashdod on the strategic coastal highway, and Gath and Ekron on the edge of the Judean foothills

EPIC TALES



Then the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son. Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.” Judges 13:3-5

* The completion of this task would be left to Prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 7:10–14) and King David (2 Samuel 5:17–25).

A whale tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a splash of white water. The background is a clear, deep blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Then the woman came and told her husband, saying,
“A man of God came to me and his appearance was
like the appearance of the angel of God, very
awesome. And I did not ask him where he came
from, nor did he tell me his name. But he said to me,
‘Behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son,
and now you shall not drink wine or strong drink nor
eat any unclean thing, for the boy shall be a Nazirite
to God from the womb to the day of his death.’ ”

Judges 13:6-7

EPIC TALES

Nazirite vow

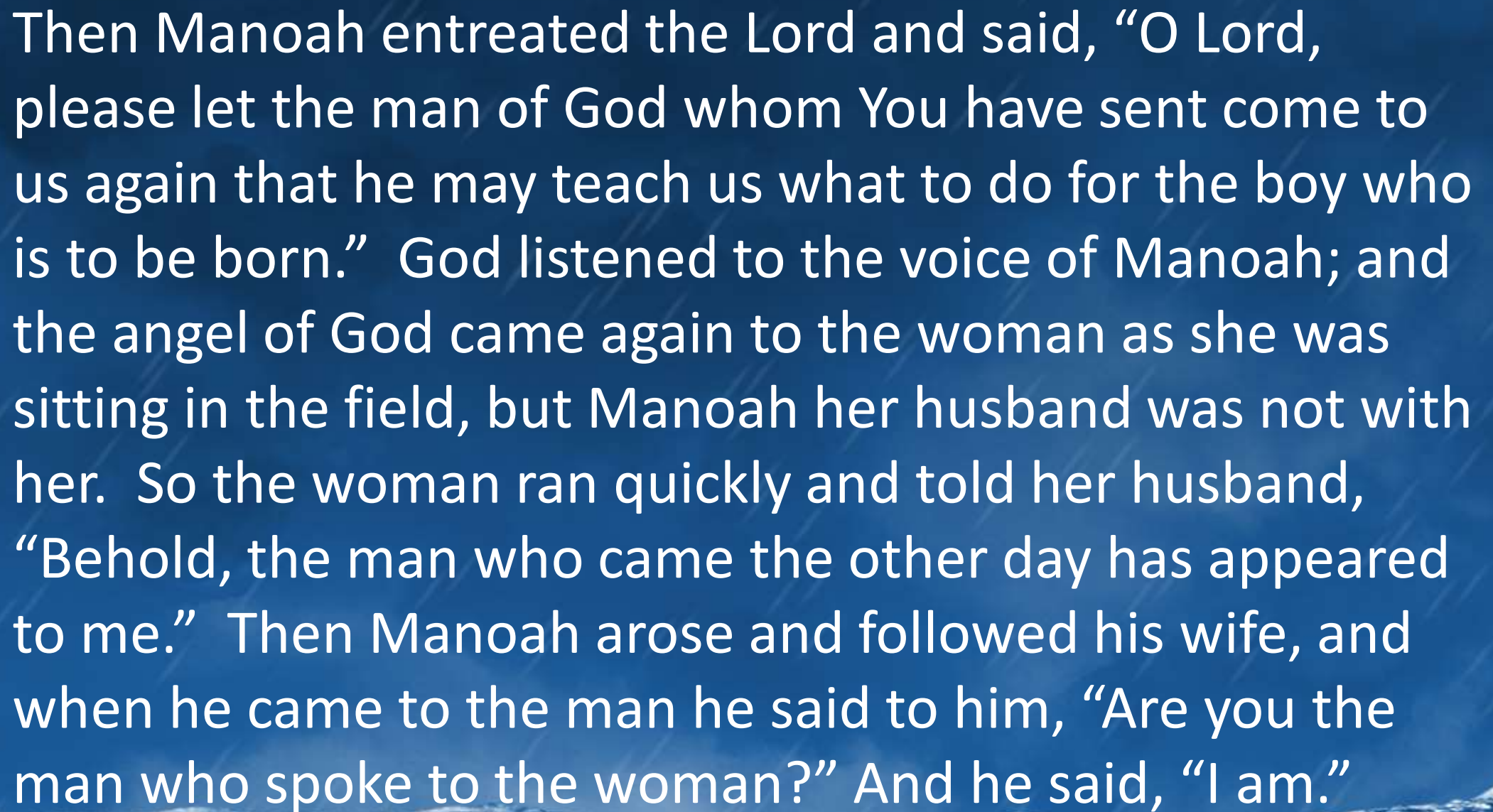
- Nazirite נָזִיר means “one who is separated, consecrated or devoted”
- Now this is the law of the Nazirite when the days of his separation נִזְר are fulfilled, he shall bring the offering to the doorway of the tent of meeting.
Numbers 6:13
- Nazirite vows were normally for a limited period of time but Samson was to be a Nazirite of God all his life

EPIC TALES

Nazirite vow – John the Baptist

And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.” Luke 1:11-16


EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail breaching the surface of the ocean. The tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the point of exit. The water is a deep blue, and the sky above is a lighter, clear blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Then Manoah entreated the Lord and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom You have sent come to us again that he may teach us what to do for the boy who is to be born.” God listened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again to the woman as she was sitting in the field, but Manoah her husband was not with her. So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, “Behold, the man who came the other day has appeared to me.” Then Manoah arose and followed his wife, and when he came to the man he said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to the woman?” And he said, “I am.”

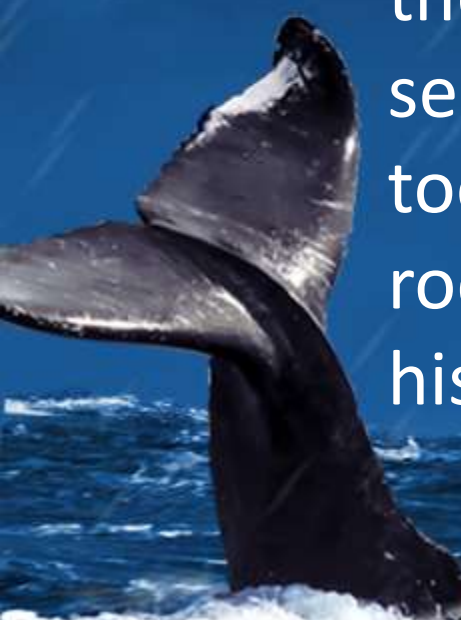
Judges 13:8-11

EPIC TALES

A close-up photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the dark blue ocean, creating white foam at the base. The background is a deep blue sky with faint, light-colored streaks.

Manoah said, “Now when your words come to pass, what shall be the boy’s mode of life and his vocation?” So the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Let the woman pay attention to all that I said. She should not eat anything that comes from the vine nor drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; let her observe all that I commanded.” Judges 13:12-14

EPIC TALES

A close-up photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the dark blue ocean, creating white foam at the base. The background is a vast, deep blue sea under a clear sky.

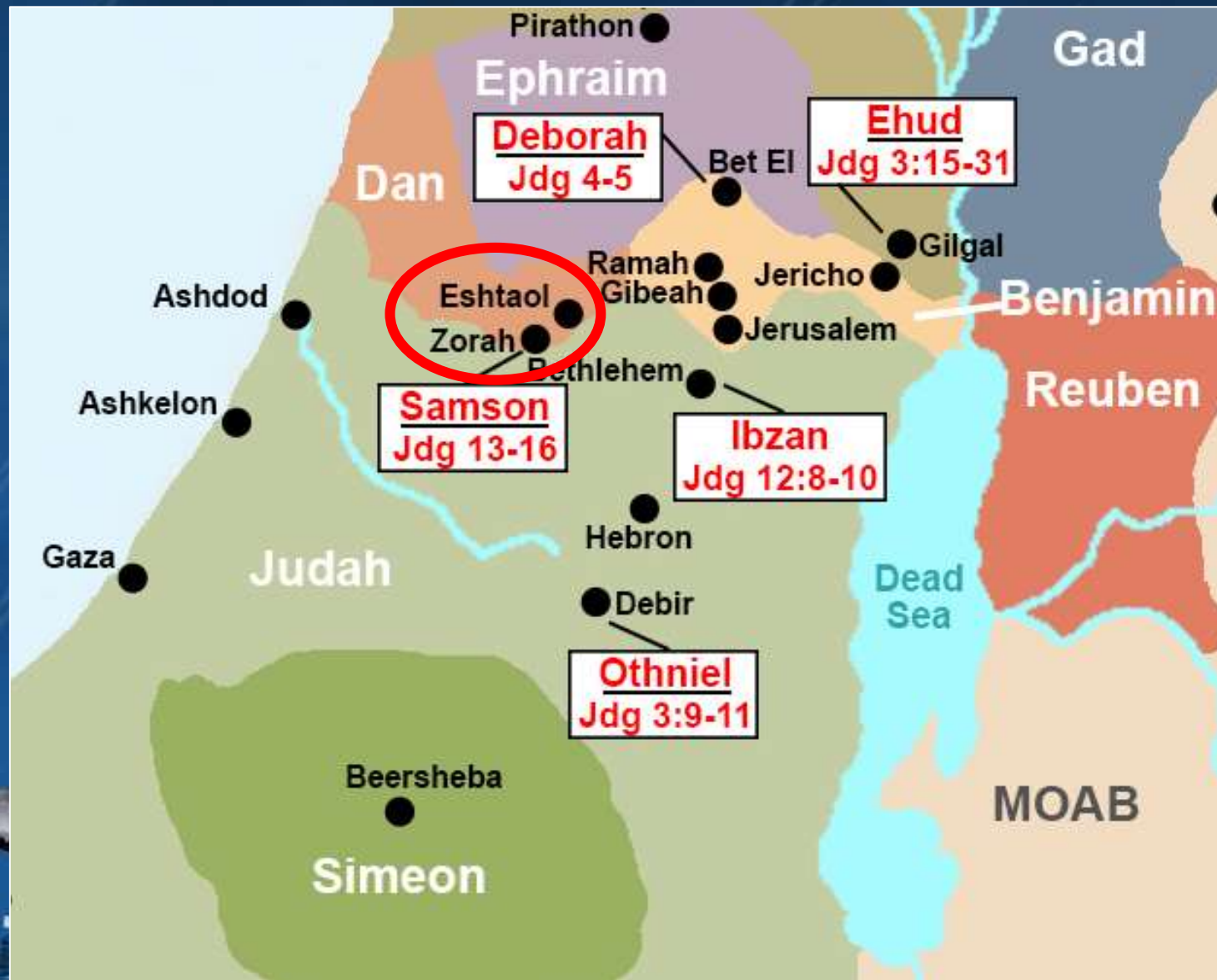
Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a young goat for you.” The angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the Lord.” For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the Lord. Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?” But the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” [פְּלִיאָה *paliy* incomprehensible] So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the Lord, and He performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on. Judges 13:15-19

EPIC TALES

For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. Now the angel of the Lord did not appear to Manoah or his wife again. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord. So Manoah said to his wife, “We will surely die, for we have seen God.” But his wife said to him, “If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have let us hear things like this at this time.” Judges 13:20-23

A close-up photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the water, set against a background of a blue sky with light rays.

EPIC TALES



Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol. Judges 13:24-25

EPIC TALES

Judges chapter 14



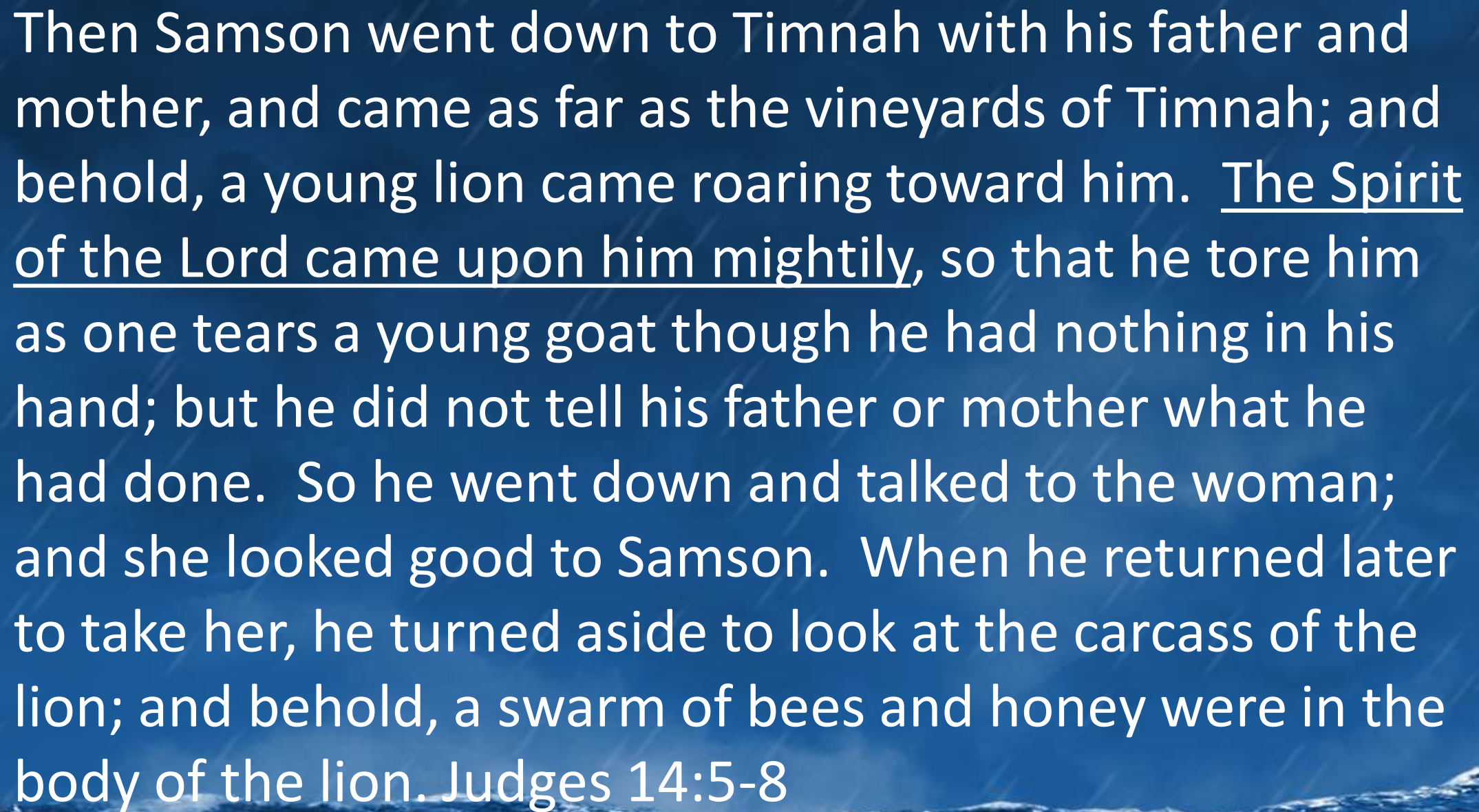
EPIC TALES

This marriage was not forbidden by the law of Moses, as the Philistines did not form one of the seven doomed Canaanite nations (Exodus 34:11–16; Deuteronomy 7:1–4)

– Easton's Bible Dictionary

Then Samson went down to Timnah [south of his hometown of Zorah] and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines. So he came back and told his father and mother, “I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.” Then his father and his mother said to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she looks good to me.” However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel. Judges 14:1-4

EPIC TALES

A whale tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean on the left side of the image. The water is a deep blue with white foam at the base of the tail. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

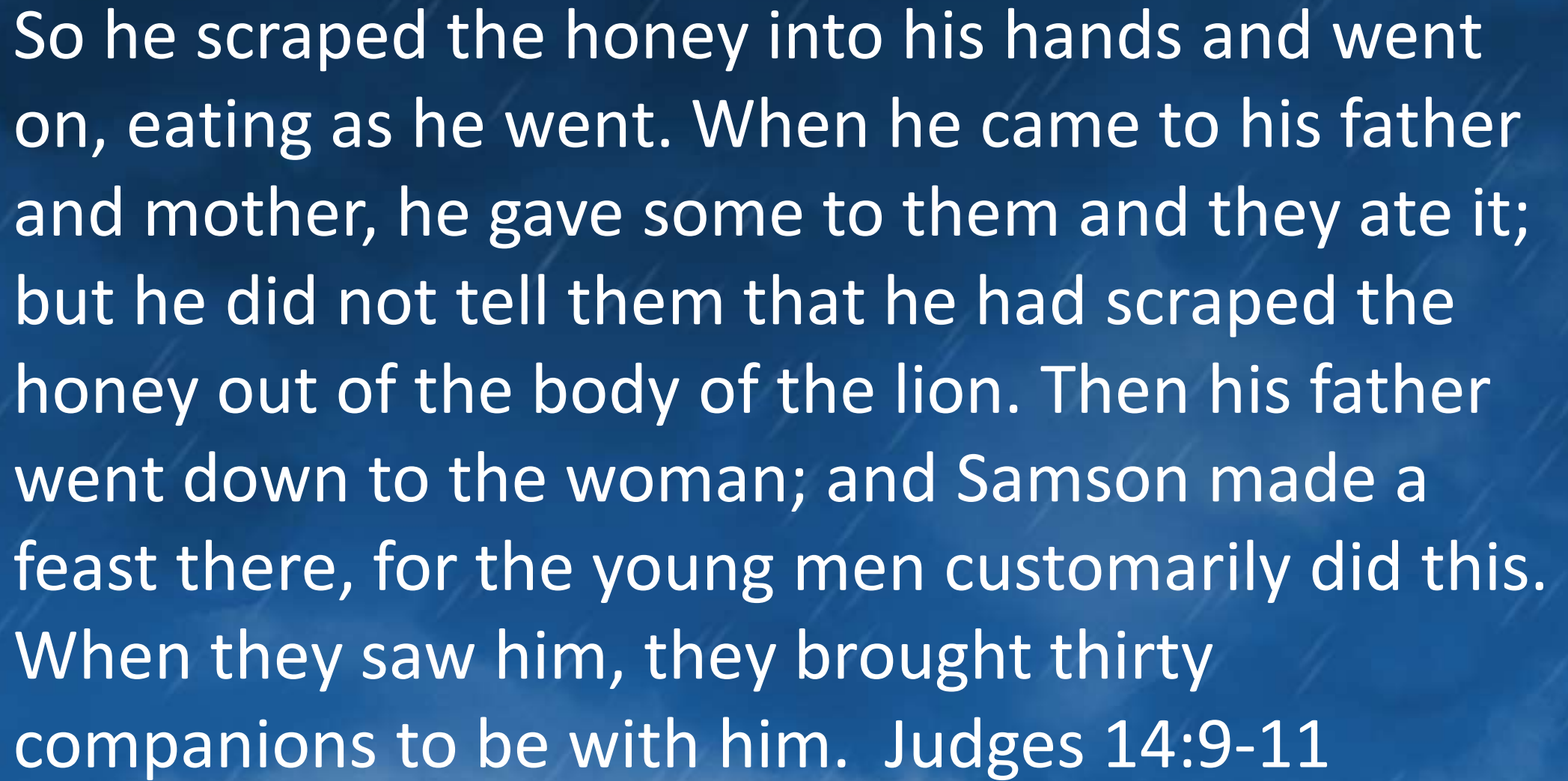
Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion came roaring toward him. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a young goat though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done. So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson. When he returned later to take her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion. Judges 14:5-8

EPIC TALES



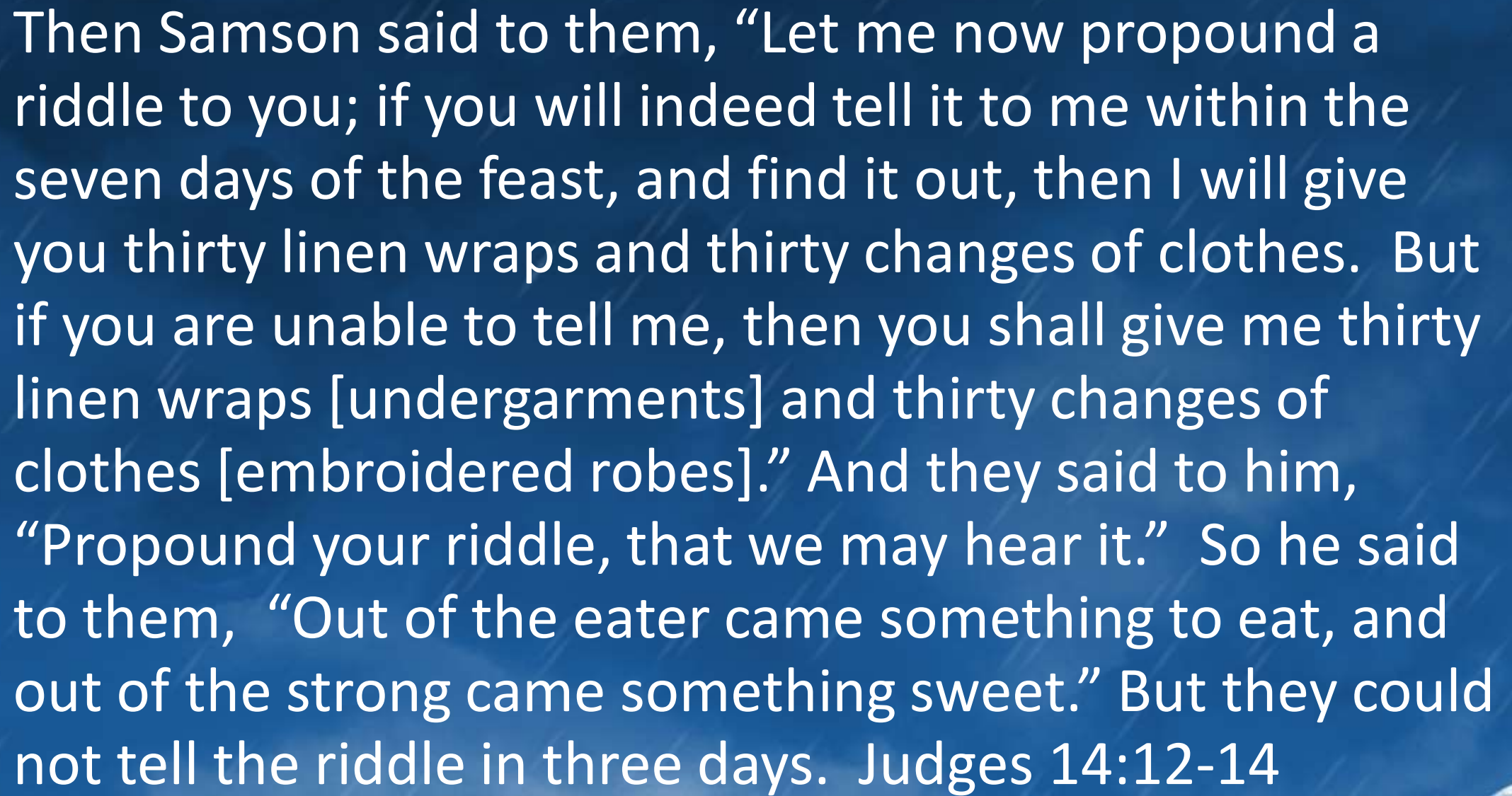
*Samson Slaying
the Lion (1628)*
by Peter Paul
Rubens

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail breaching the surface of the ocean. The tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the base where it meets the water. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

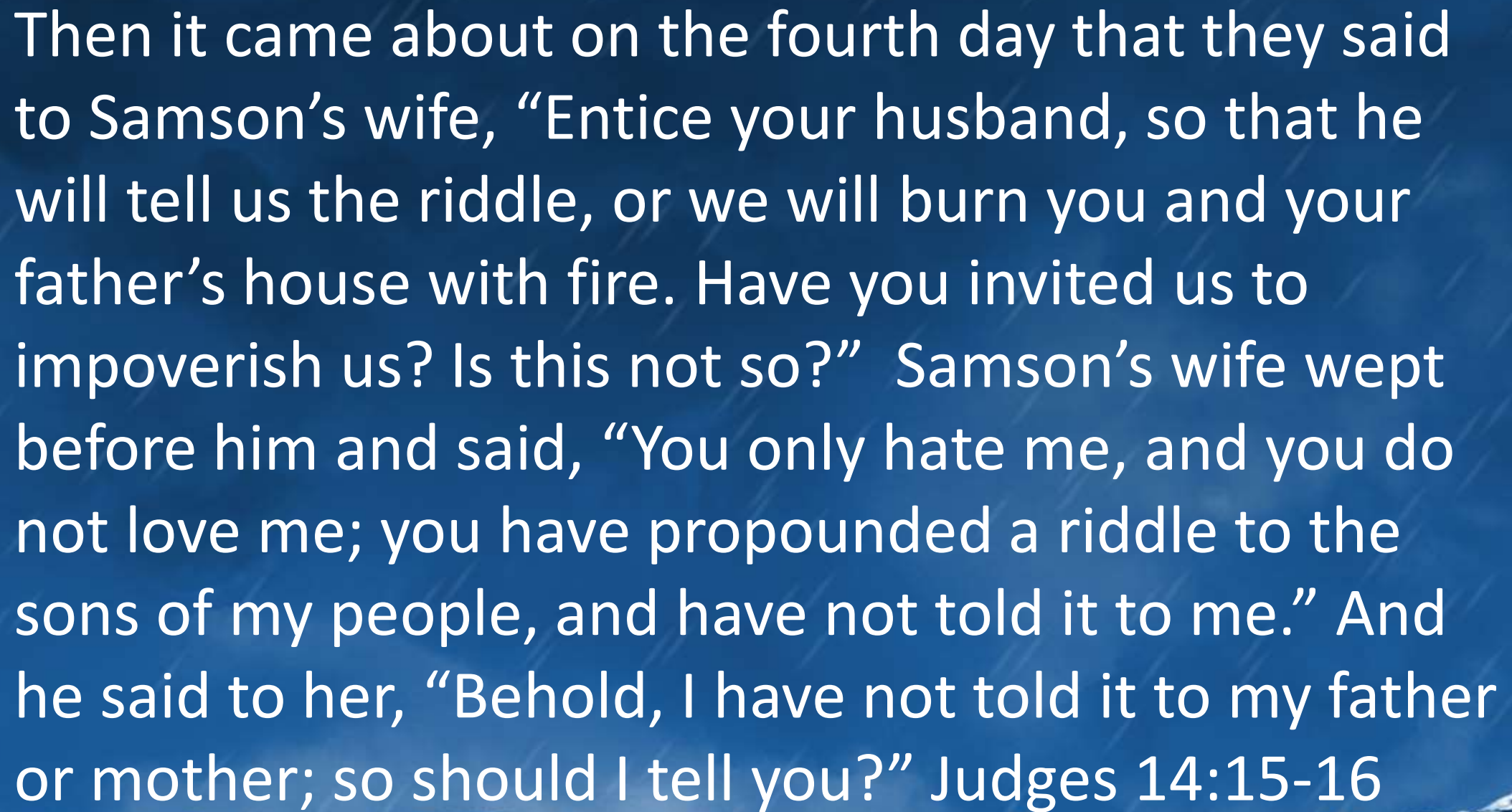
So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them and they ate it; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion. Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this. When they saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him. Judges 14:9-11

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean. The tail is dark and has a lighter patch near the top. The water is a deep blue with white foam from the waves.

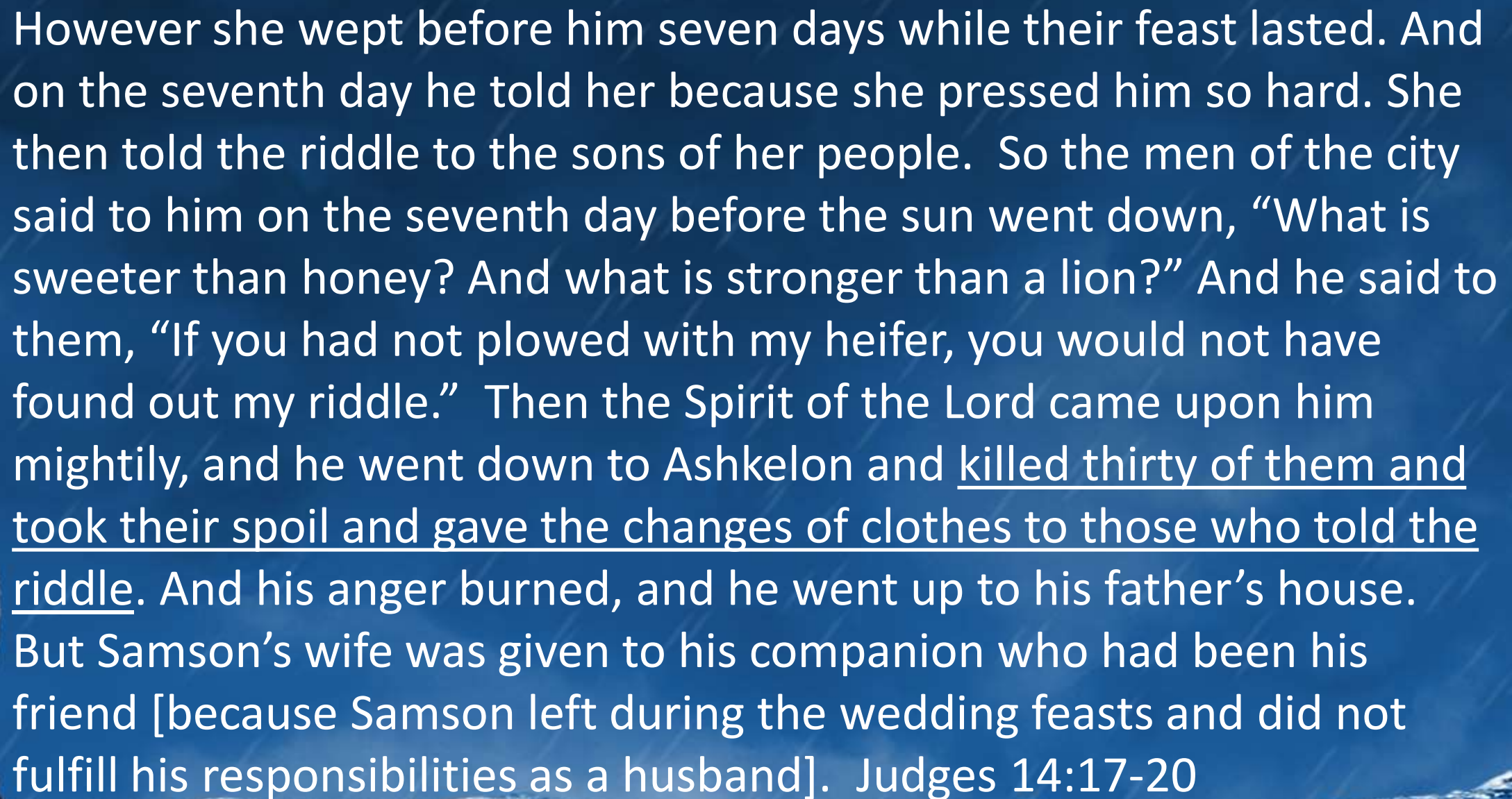
Then Samson said to them, “Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes. But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps [undergarments] and thirty changes of clothes [embroidered robes].” And they said to him, “Propound your riddle, that we may hear it.” So he said to them, “Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet.” But they could not tell the riddle in three days. Judges 14:12-14

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, set against a background of a blue sky with light rays. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Then it came about on the fourth day that they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband, so that he will tell us the riddle, or we will burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us to impoverish us? Is this not so?" Samson's wife wept before him and said, "You only hate me, and you do not love me; you have propounded a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told it to me." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not told it to my father or mother; so should I tell you?" Judges 14:15-16

EPIC TALES

A whale tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a splash of white water. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

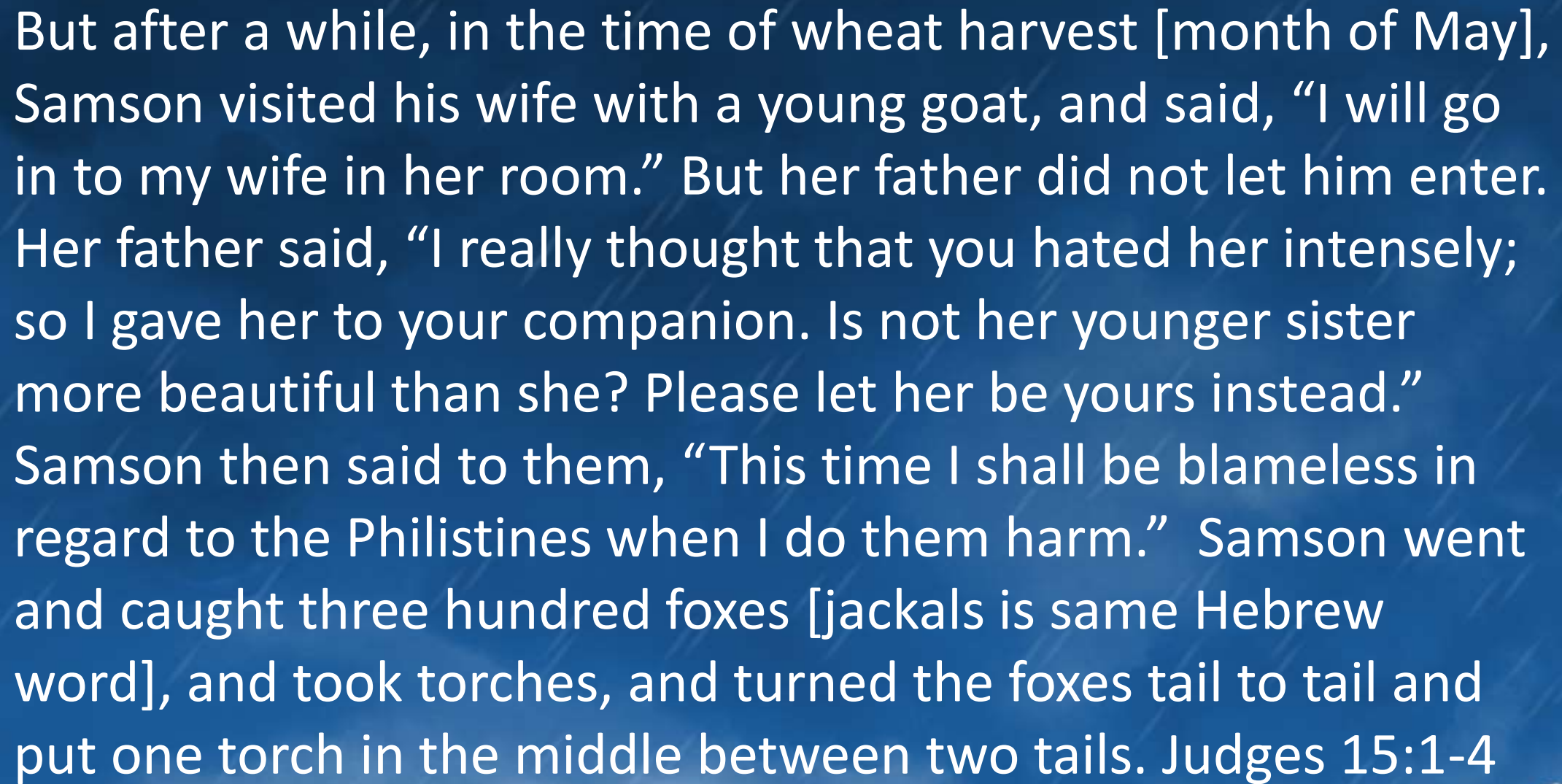
However she wept before him seven days while their feast lasted. And on the seventh day he told her because she pressed him so hard. She then told the riddle to the sons of her people. So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, “What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?” And he said to them, “If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle.” Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil and gave the changes of clothes to those who told the riddle. And his anger burned, and he went up to his father’s house. But Samson’s wife was given to his companion who had been his friend [because Samson left during the wedding feasts and did not fulfill his responsibilities as a husband]. Judges 14:17-20

EPIC TALES

Judges chapter 15

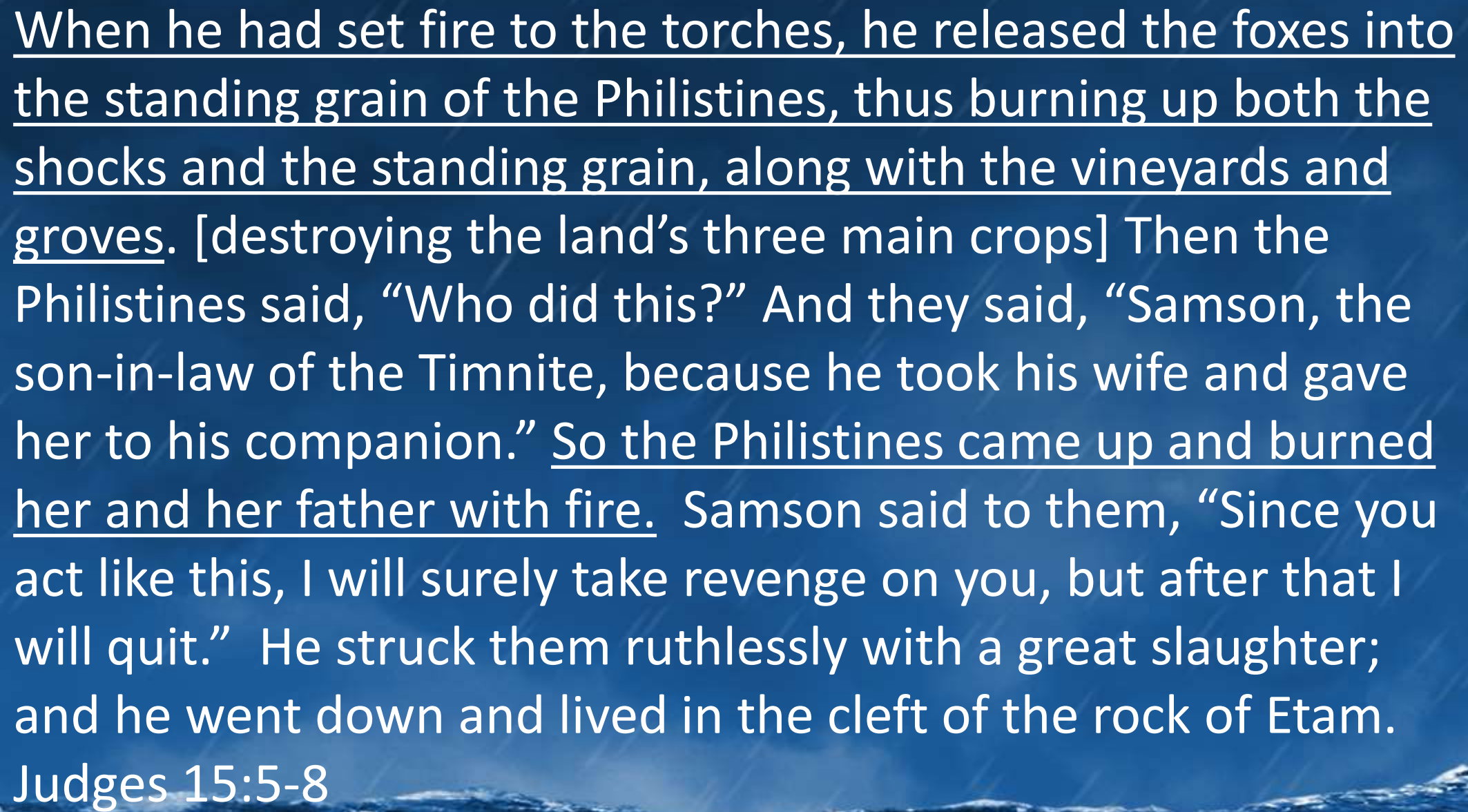


EPIC TALES



But after a while, in the time of wheat harvest [month of May], Samson visited his wife with a young goat, and said, “I will go in to my wife in her room.” But her father did not let him enter. Her father said, “I really thought that you hated her intensely; so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please let her be yours instead.” Samson then said to them, “This time I shall be blameless in regard to the Philistines when I do them harm.” Samson went and caught three hundred foxes [jackals is same Hebrew word], and took torches, and turned the foxes tail to tail and put one torch in the middle between two tails. Judges 15:1-4

EPIC TALES

A whale tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a splash of white water. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

When he had set fire to the torches, he released the foxes into the standing grain of the Philistines, thus burning up both the shocks and the standing grain, along with the vineyards and groves. [destroying the land's three main crops] Then the Philistines said, "Who did this?" And they said, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he took his wife and gave her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire. Samson said to them, "Since you act like this, I will surely take revenge on you, but after that I will quit." He struck them ruthlessly with a great slaughter; and he went down and lived in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

Judges 15:5-8

EPIC TALES

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

Arson balloons from Gaza spark 23 fires in southern Israel

Qatari envoy to Palestinian enclave briefly leaves Strip to speak with Israeli officials amid attempts to broker calm

By TOI STAFF

29 August 2020, 7:50 pm | 3



Illustrative: View of a fire near kibbutz Be'eri, caused by incendiary balloons launched from the Gaza Strip, on August 13, 2020. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Home > News

Incendiary balloons spark dozens of fires in southern Israel

Explosive-laden balloons land near children's playground, residential house in Eshkol Regional Council

By i24NEWS and ILH Staff — Published on 08-27-2020 09:33 — Last modified: 08-27-2020 13:36



A fire in southern Israel caused by incendiary balloons sent over by terrorists from Gaza | Photo: Israel Fire and Rescue Services

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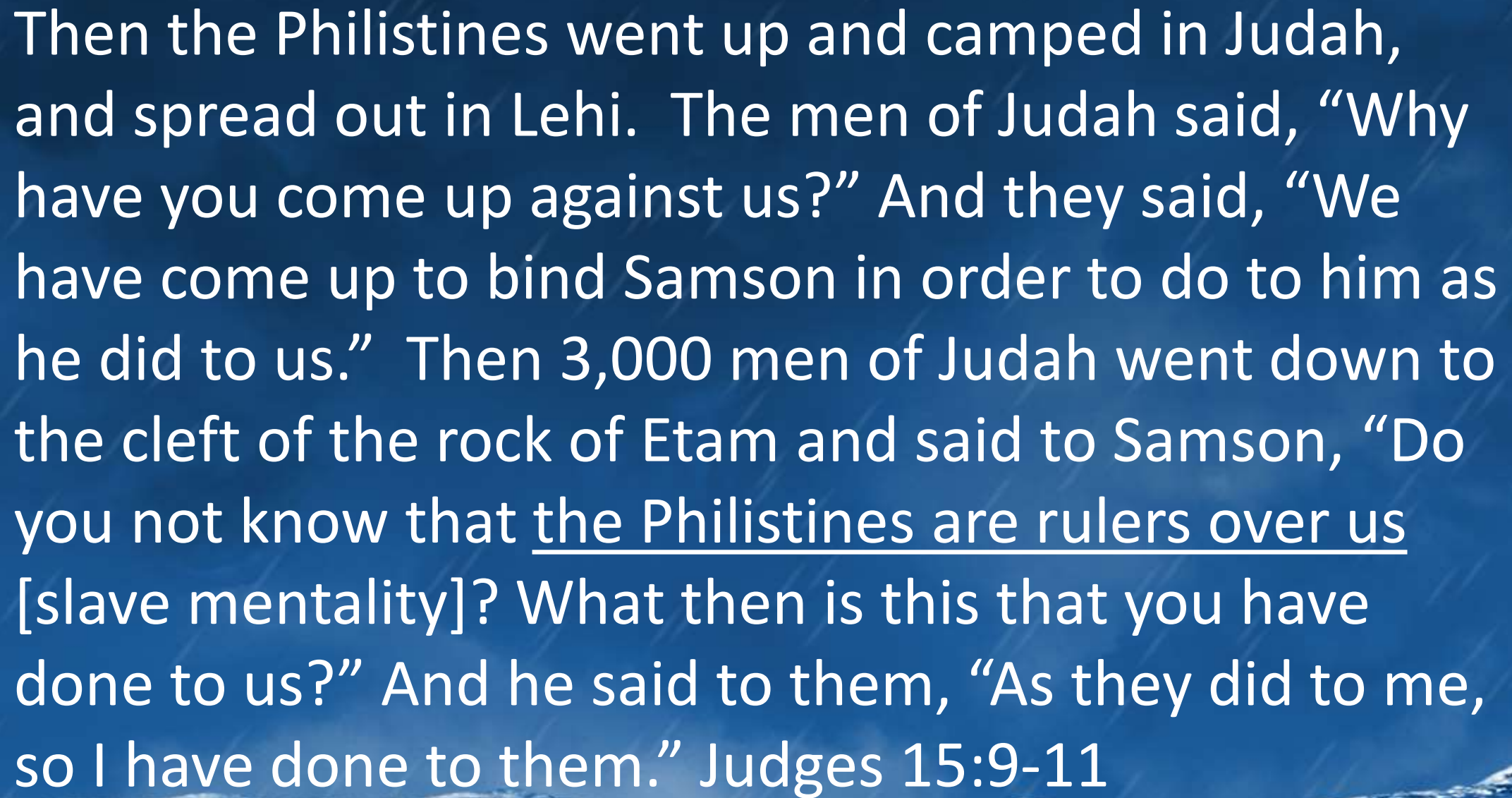
'For far t...
Palestini...
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Peace wi...
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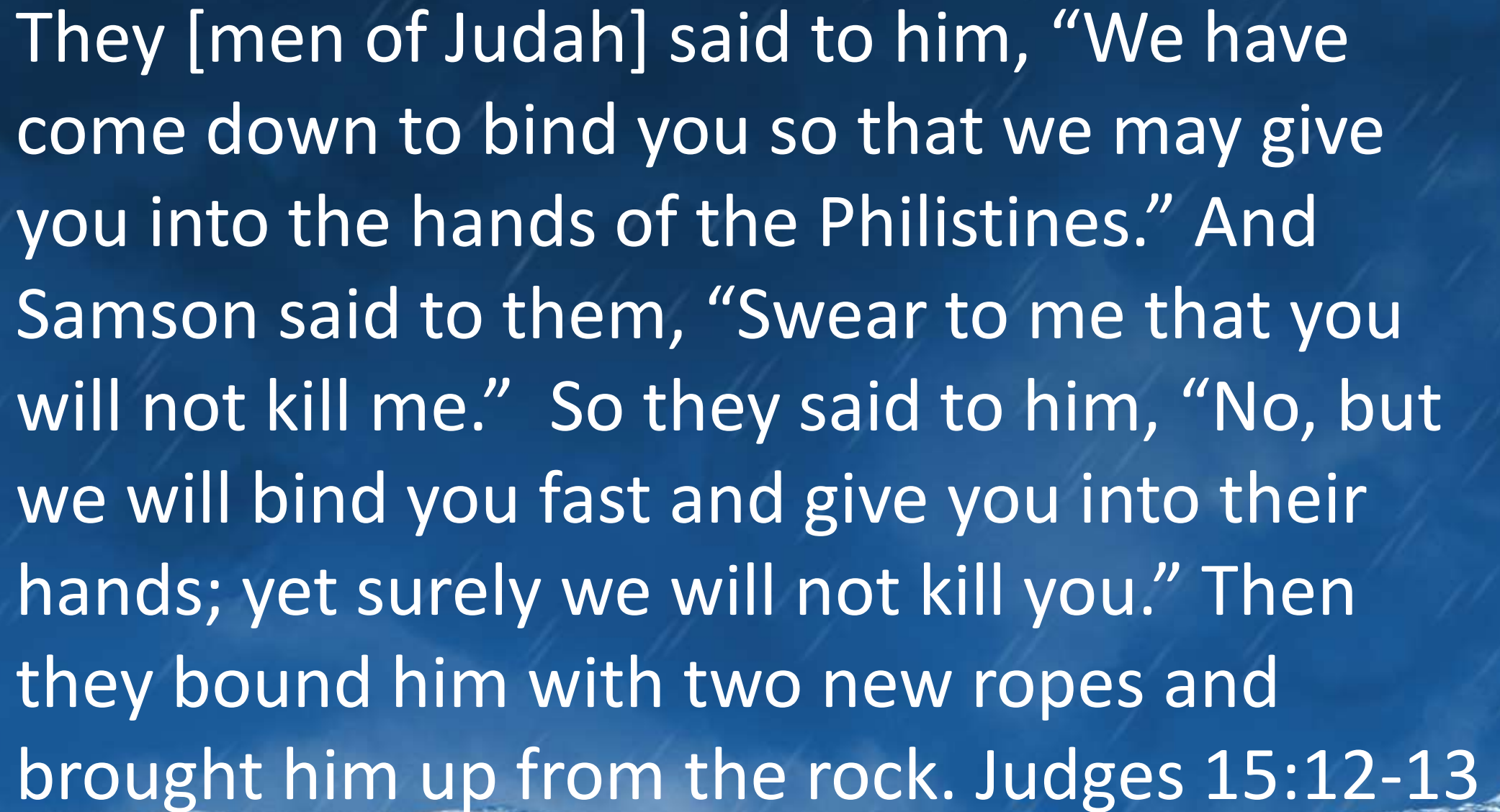


Bereaver...
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A whale tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean on the left side of the image. The water is a deep blue with white foam at the base of the tail. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image in white font.

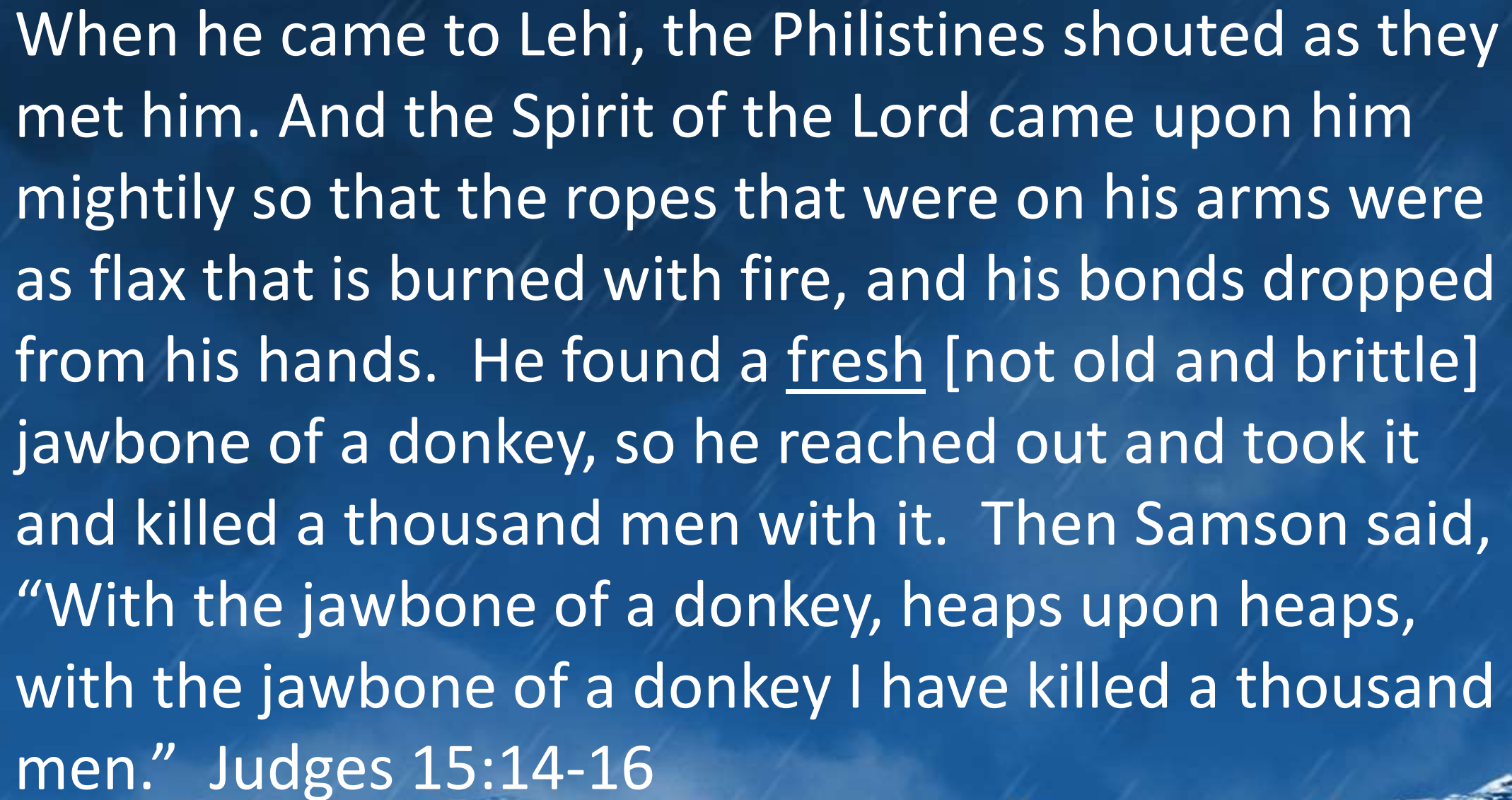
Then the Philistines went up and camped in Judah, and spread out in Lehi. The men of Judah said, “Why have you come up against us?” And they said, “We have come up to bind Samson in order to do to him as he did to us.” Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam and said to Samson, “Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us [slave mentality]? What then is this that you have done to us?” And he said to them, “As they did to me, so I have done to them.” Judges 15:9-11

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the ocean, set against a blue sky and sea background. The whale's tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the base where it meets the water. The ocean is a deep blue with white-capped waves.

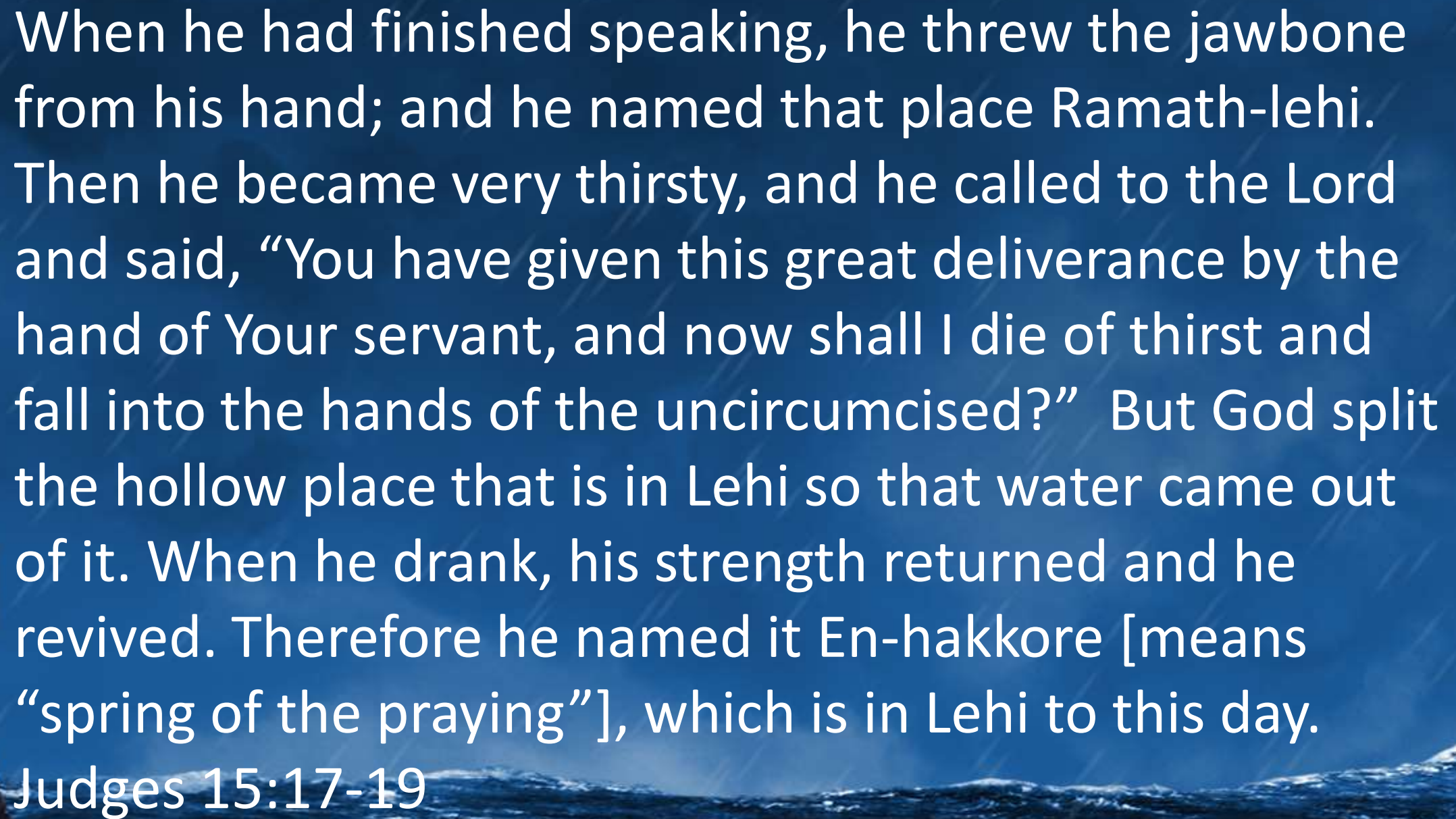
They [men of Judah] said to him, “We have come down to bind you so that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines.” And Samson said to them, “Swear to me that you will not kill me.” So they said to him, “No, but we will bind you fast and give you into their hands; yet surely we will not kill you.” Then they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. Judges 15:12-13

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the ocean, set against a blue sky and sea background. The whale's tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the base where it meets the water. The ocean is a deep blue with white-capped waves.


When he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily so that the ropes that were on his arms were as flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds dropped from his hands. He found a fresh [not old and brittle] jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out and took it and killed a thousand men with it. Then Samson said, “With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey I have killed a thousand men.” Judges 15:14-16

EPIC TALES

A whale's tail fluke is seen breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a splash of white water. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

When he had finished speaking, he threw the jawbone from his hand; and he named that place Ramath-lehi. Then he became very thirsty, and he called to the Lord and said, “You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant, and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?” But God split the hollow place that is in Lehi so that water came out of it. When he drank, his strength returned and he revived. Therefore he named it En-hakkore [means “spring of the praying”], which is in Lehi to this day.
Judges 15:17-19

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the ocean, set against a blue sky with light rain or mist. The whale is dark grey, and the water is a deep blue with white foam at the base of the tail.

So he [Samson] judged Israel twenty
years in the days of the Philistines.
Judges 15:20

*Scholars assume he began as a judge at age 20

*The 20 years (about 1069–1049 BC) would cover
Samson's adult life until his death in Gaza.

-Bible Knowledge Commentary

EPIC TALES

What did the Judges of Israel do?

Shoftim שופטים, a magistrate or ruler rather than one who judges in a trial. Presided over the affairs of the Israelites during the interval between the death of Joshua and the accession of Saul (Judges 2:18), a period of general anarchy and confusion. The office of judges or regents was held during life, but it was not hereditary, neither could they appoint their successors. Their authority was limited by the law alone, and in doubtful cases they were directed to consult the divine King through the priest by Urim and Thummim (Numbers 27:21). Their authority extended only over those tribes by whom they had been elected or acknowledged. There was no income attached to their office, and they bore no external marks of dignity. The only cases of direct divine appointment are those of Gideon and Samson, and the latter stood in the peculiar position of having been from before his birth ordained 'to begin to deliver Israel.' Deborah was called to deliver Israel, but was already a judge. Samuel was called by the Lord to be a prophet but not a judge, which ensued from the high gifts the people recognized as dwelling in him; and as to Eli, the office of judge seems to have devolved naturally or rather ex officio upon him." Of five of the judges, Tola (Judges 10:1), Jair (3), Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon (12:8–15), we have no record at all beyond the bare fact that they were judges.

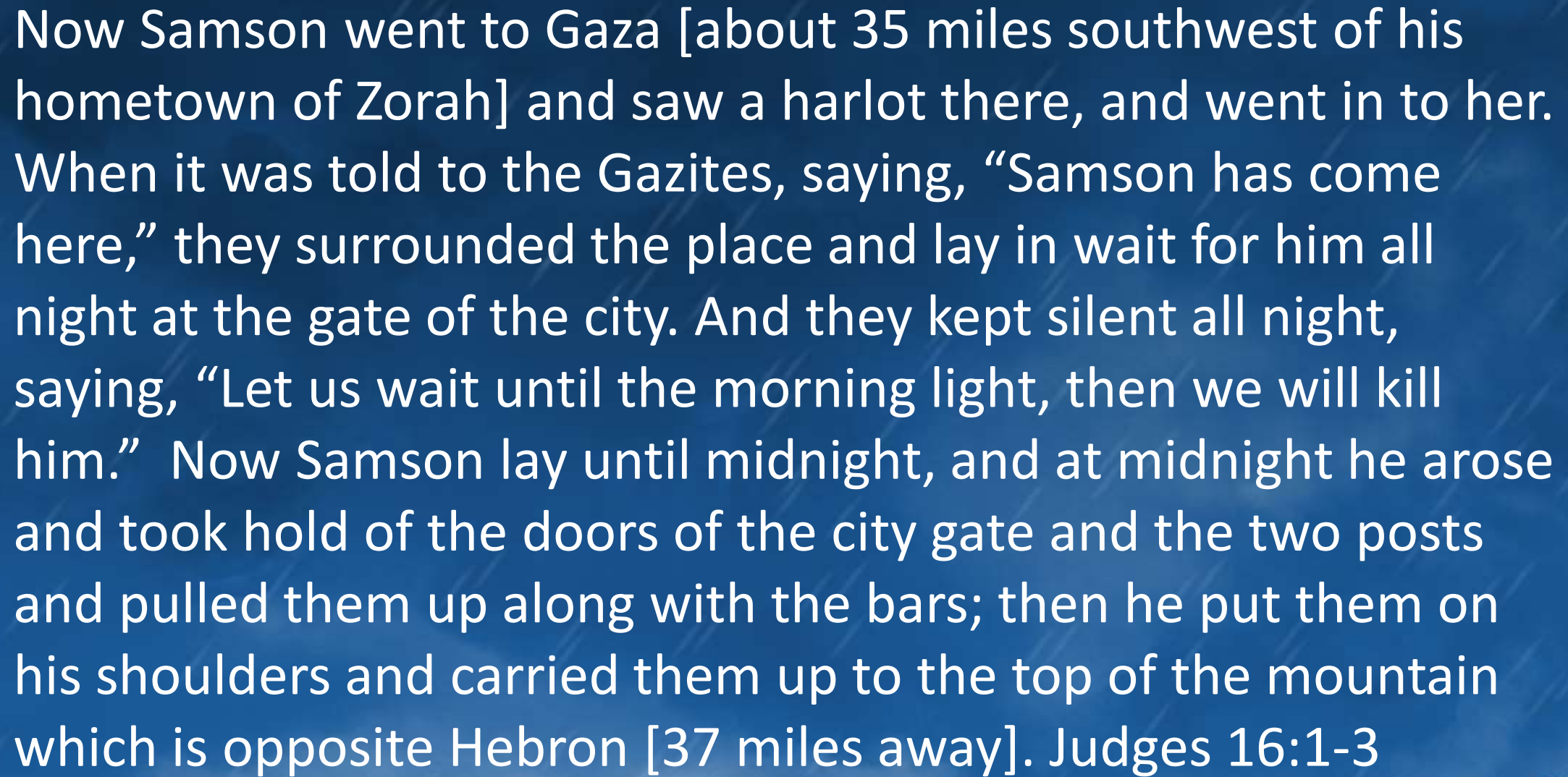
– Easton's Bible Dictionary

EPIC TALES

Judges chapter 16

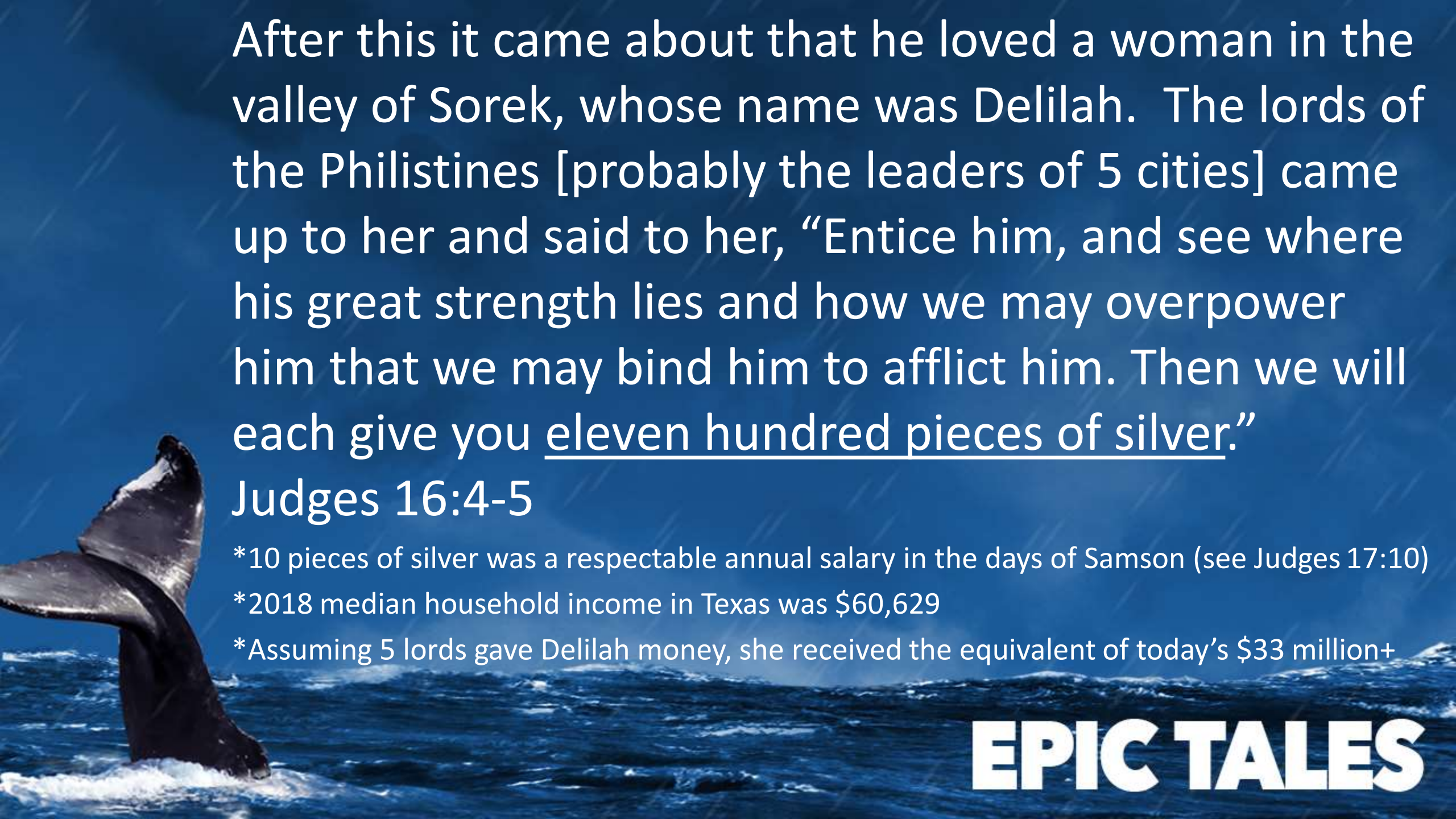


EPIC TALES

A whale's tail fluke is seen breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a splash of white water. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Now Samson went to Gaza [about 35 miles southwest of his hometown of Zorah] and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. When it was told to the Gazites, saying, “Samson has come here,” they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. And they kept silent all night, saying, “Let us wait until the morning light, then we will kill him.” Now Samson lay until midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the city gate and the two posts and pulled them up along with the bars; then he put them on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of the mountain which is opposite Hebron [37 miles away]. Judges 16:1-3

EPIC TALES

A whale tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a splash of white water. The background is a clear, deep blue sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

After this it came about that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. The lords of the Philistines [probably the leaders of 5 cities] came up to her and said to her, “Entice him, and see where his great strength lies and how we may overpower him that we may bind him to afflict him. Then we will each give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.”

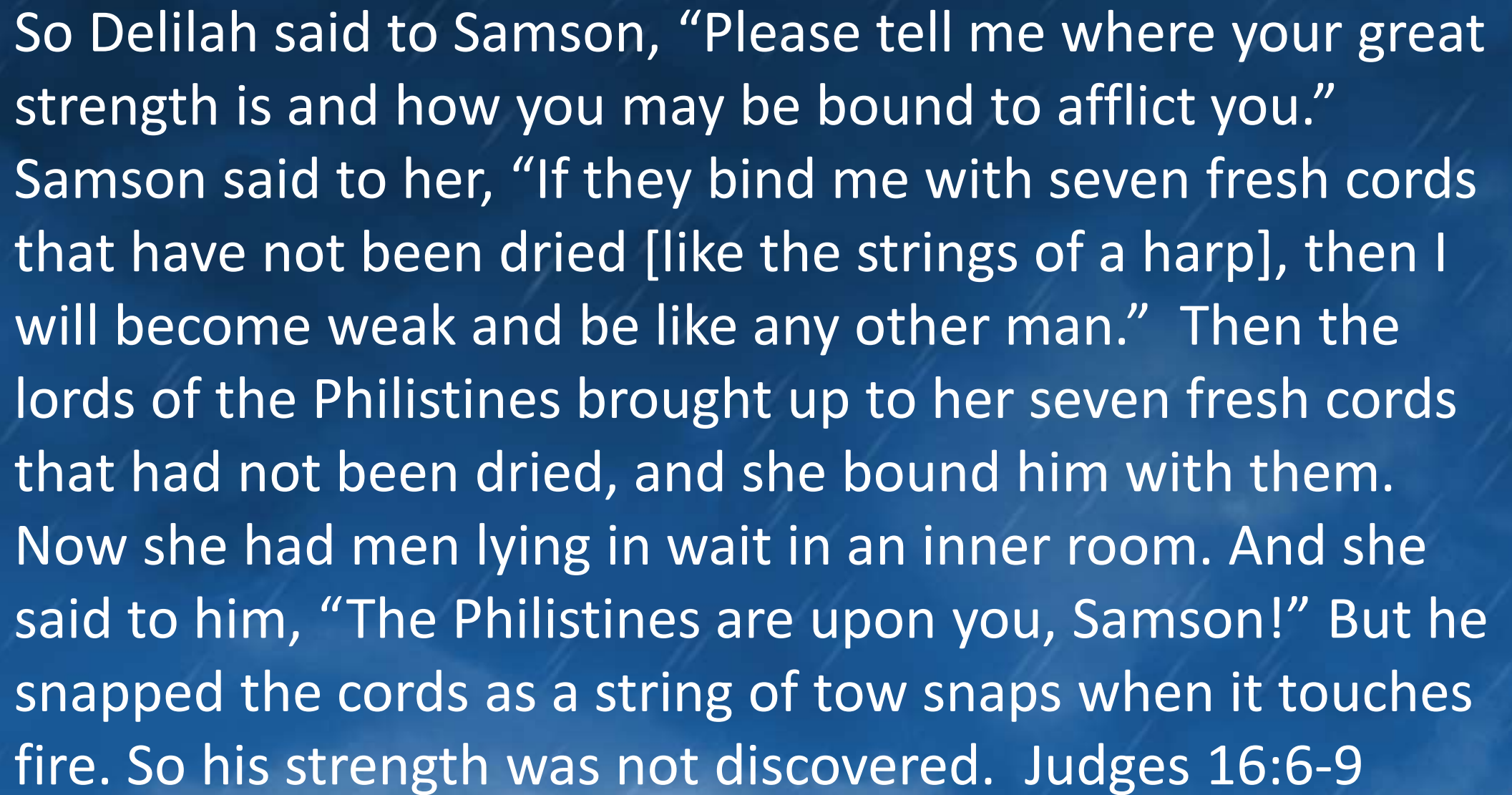
Judges 16:4-5

*10 pieces of silver was a respectable annual salary in the days of Samson (see Judges 17:10)

*2018 median household income in Texas was \$60,629

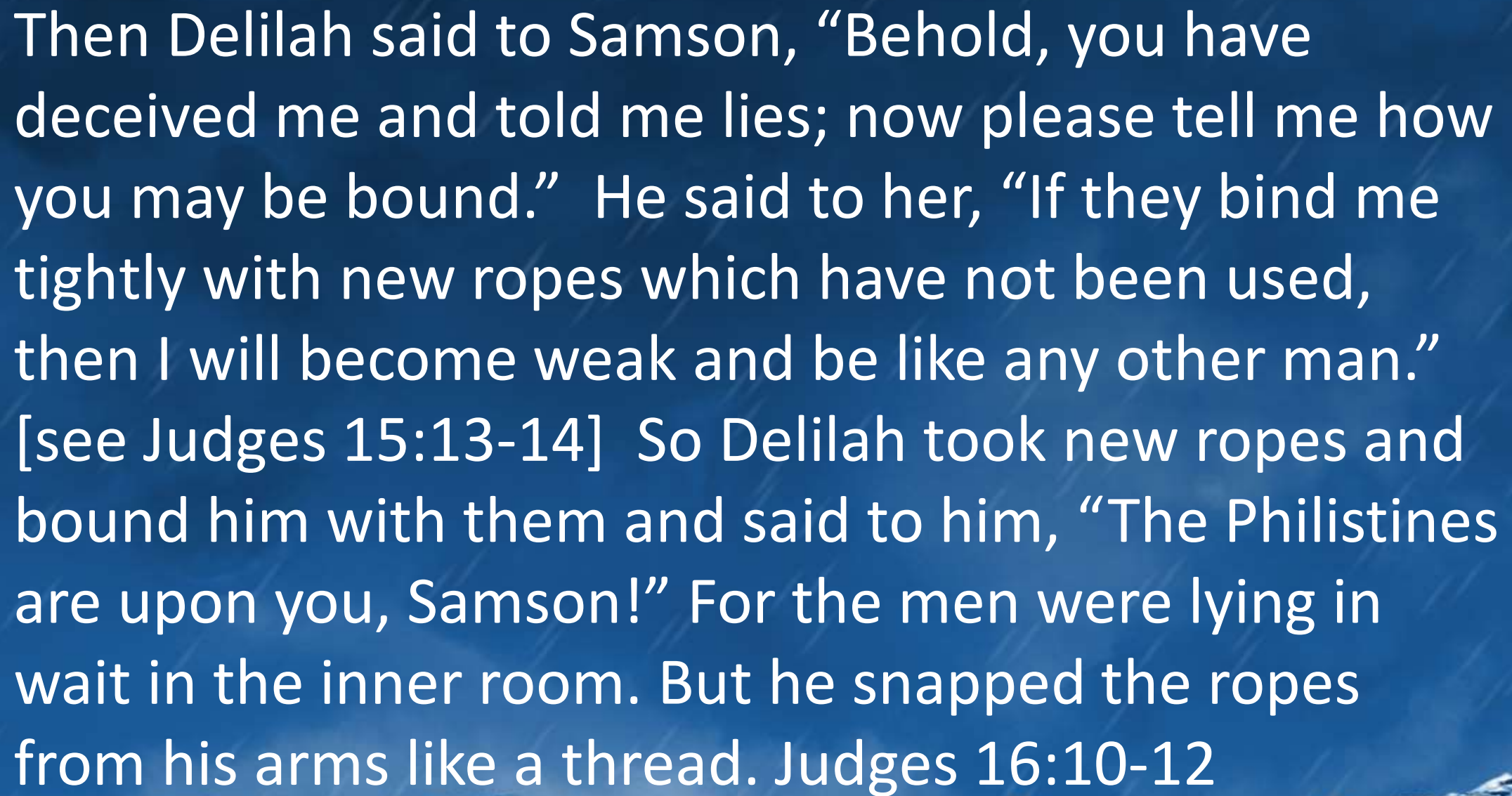
*Assuming 5 lords gave Delilah money, she received the equivalent of today’s \$33 million+

EPIC TALES



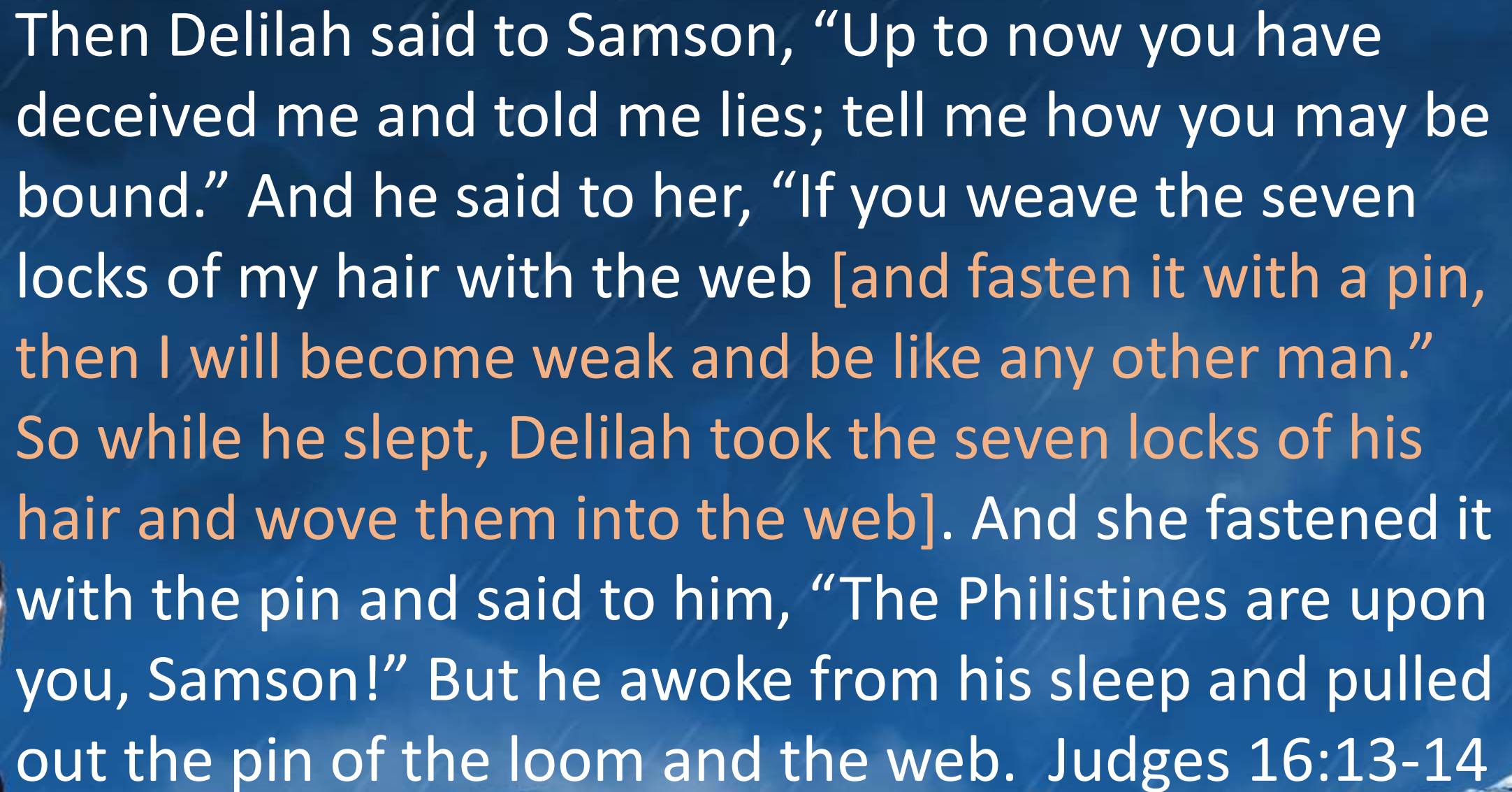
So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength is and how you may be bound to afflict you.” Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh cords that have not been dried [like the strings of a harp], then I will become weak and be like any other man.” Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh cords that had not been dried, and she bound him with them. Now she had men lying in wait in an inner room. And she said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” But he snapped the cords as a string of tow snaps when it touches fire. So his strength was not discovered. Judges 16:6-9

EPIC TALES

A whale's tail fluke is visible on the left side of the image, breaking the surface of the blue ocean. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

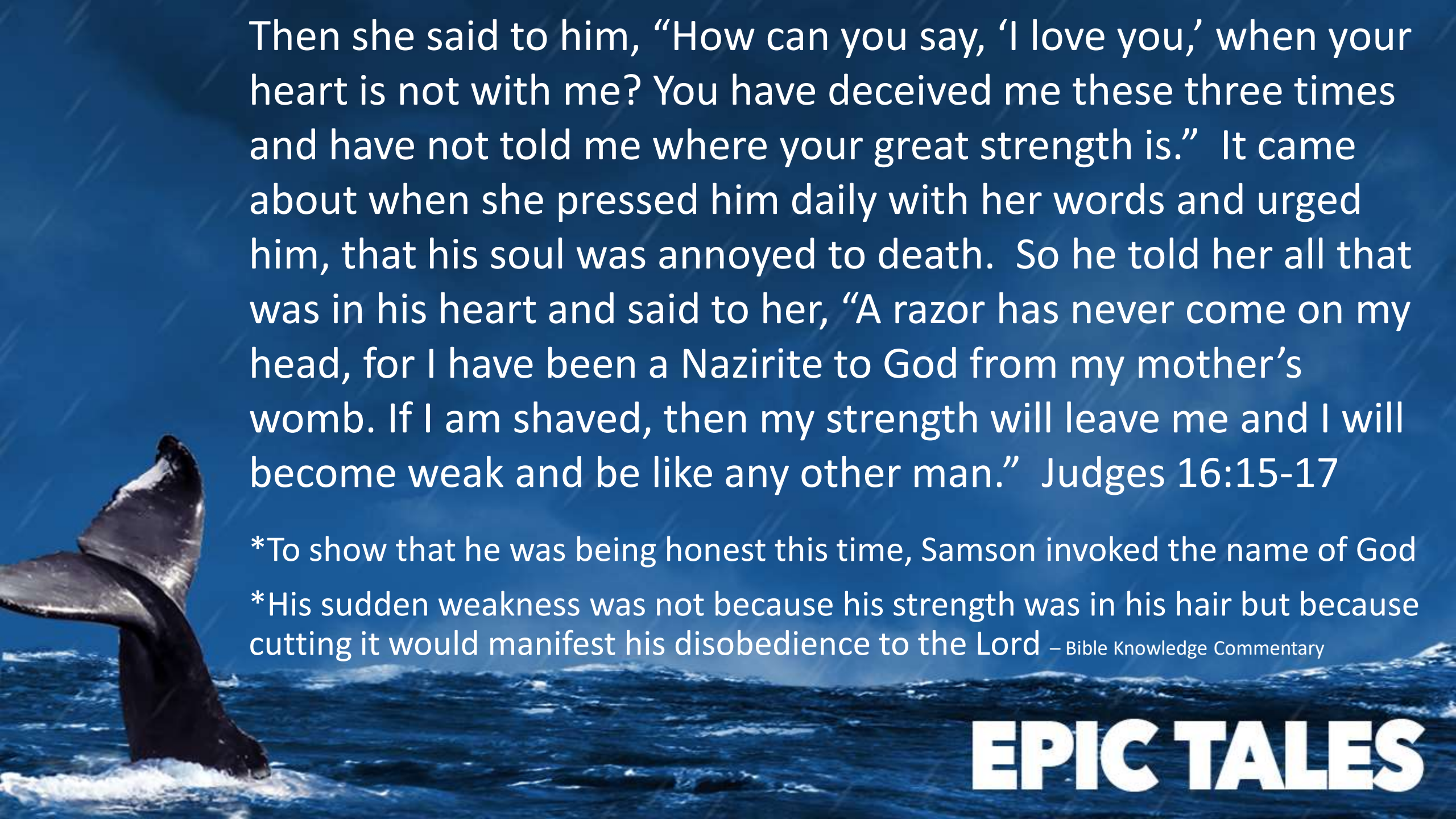
Then Delilah said to Samson, “Behold, you have deceived me and told me lies; now please tell me how you may be bound.” He said to her, “If they bind me tightly with new ropes which have not been used, then I will become weak and be like any other man.” [see Judges 15:13-14] So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” For the men were lying in wait in the inner room. But he snapped the ropes from his arms like a thread. Judges 16:10-12

EPIC TALES

A blue whale's tail is visible on the left side of the image, emerging from the dark blue ocean. The background is a deep blue sky with some light rays or lens flare effects.

Then Delilah said to Samson, “Up to now you have deceived me and told me lies; tell me how you may be bound.” And he said to her, “If you weave the seven locks of my hair with the web [and fasten it with a pin, then I will become weak and be like any other man.” So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his hair and wove them into the web]. And she fastened it with the pin and said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” But he awoke from his sleep and pulled out the pin of the loom and the web. Judges 16:13-14

EPIC TALES

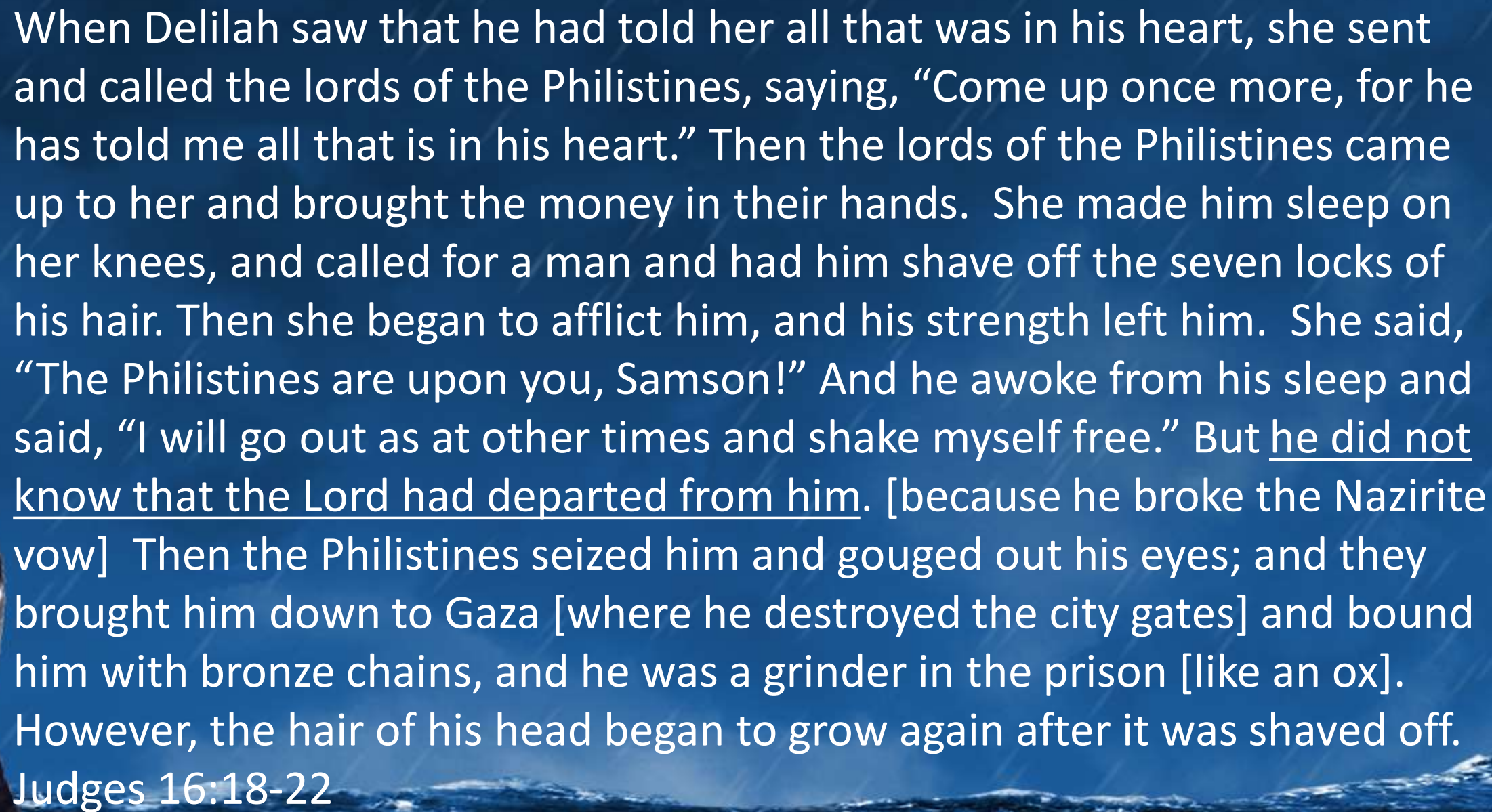
A whale tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean on the left side of the image. The water is a deep blue with white foam at the base of the tail. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart is not with me? You have deceived me these three times and have not told me where your great strength is.” It came about when she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, that his soul was annoyed to death. So he told her all that was in his heart and said to her, “A razor has never come on my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will leave me and I will become weak and be like any other man.” Judges 16:15-17

*To show that he was being honest this time, Samson invoked the name of God

*His sudden weakness was not because his strength was in his hair but because cutting it would manifest his disobedience to the Lord – Bible Knowledge Commentary

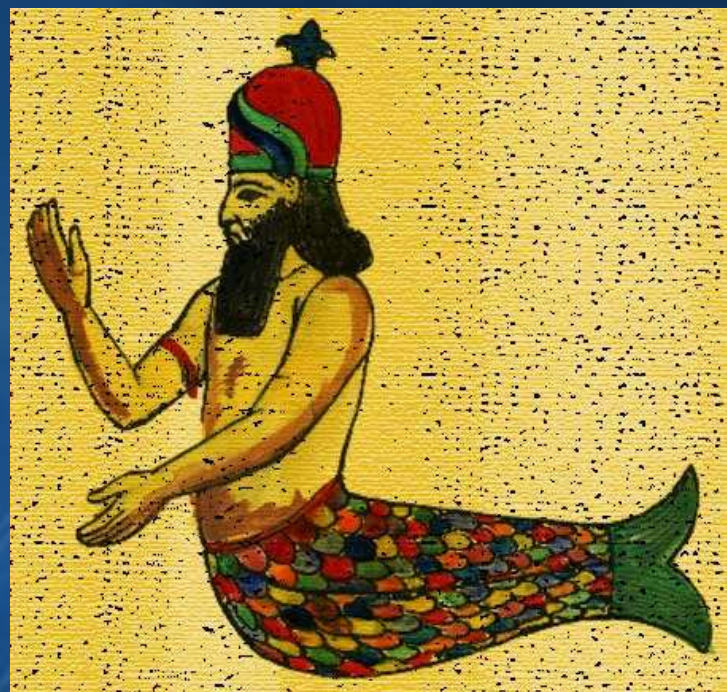
EPIC TALES



When Delilah saw that he had told her all that was in his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up once more, for he has told me all that is in his heart.” Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. She made him sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his hair. Then she began to afflict him, and his strength left him. 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 departed from him. [because he broke the Nazirite vow] Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza [where he destroyed the city gates] and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison [like an ox]. However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it was shaved off.

Judges 16:18-22

EPIC TALES




Now the lords of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice, for they said, “Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hands.” When the people saw him, they praised their god, for they said, “Our god has given our enemy into our hands, even the destroyer of our country, who has slain many of us.” Judges 16:23-24

* Idol god Dagon looked like part-man and part-fish; the grain deity

EPIC TALES

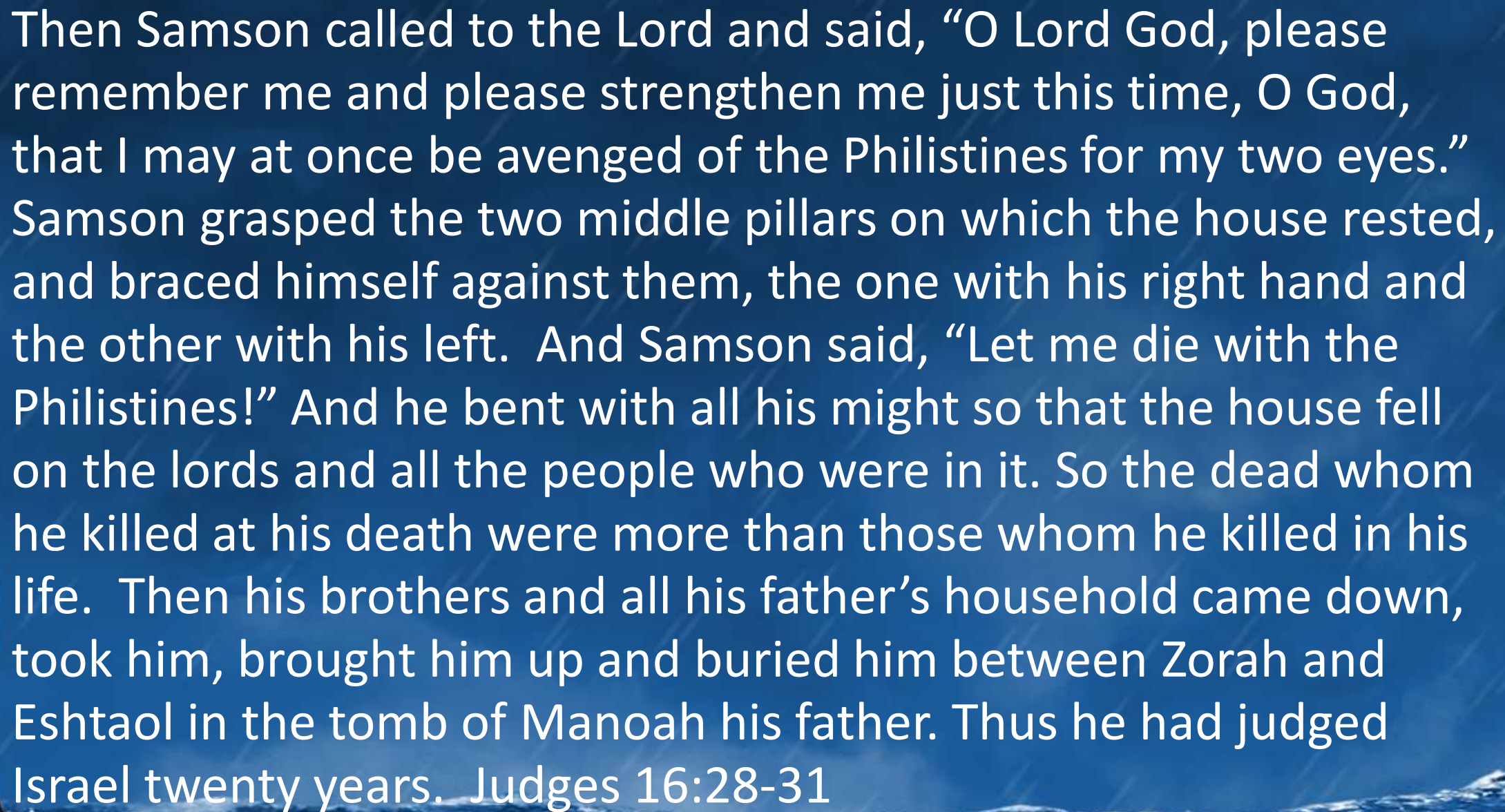


A whale's tail is visible on the left side of the image, emerging from the blue ocean. The background is a deep blue sky with a subtle pattern of light rays.

It so happened when they were in high spirits, that they said, “Call for Samson, that he may amuse us.” So they called for Samson from the prison, and he entertained them. And they made him stand between the pillars. Then Samson said to the boy who was holding his hand, “Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them.” Now the house was full of men and women, and all the lords of the Philistines were there. And about 3,000 men and women were on the roof looking on while Samson was amusing them.

Judges 16:25-27

EPIC TALES

A whale's tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a splash of white water. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.” Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left. And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life. Then his brothers and all his father’s household came down, took him, brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. Thus he had judged Israel twenty years. Judges 16:28-31

EPIC TALES

Why did God let us know so much about Samson?

- The dysfunctional lessons need to be taught as much or more than the functional ones
- His life is a warning
- His life is a case study of how not to live and still be a hero
- At times, he is angry and lustful and vengeful and yet God's Word says "the Spirit of the Lord is upon him"

A large whale tail is visible on the left side of the image, emerging from the dark blue ocean. The background is a deep blue sky with light rays or rain streaks.

EPIC TALES

Samson the Judge and Jesus the Messiah

Samson's and Jesus' births were both foretold by angels, who predicted that they would save their people. Samson was born to a barren woman, and Jesus was born of a virgin. Samson defeated a lion; Jesus defeated Satan, whom 1 Peter 5:8 describes as a "roaring lion looking for someone to devour." Samson's betrayal by Delilah has also been compared to Jesus' betrayal by Judas Iscariot. Delilah and Judas were paid in pieces of silver for their deeds. Samson was "blinded, insulted and enslaved" prior to his death, and that Jesus was "blindfolded, insulted, and treated as a slave" prior to His crucifixion. Samson's death among the wicked compares with Jesus being crucified between two thieves.

- Ebenezer Cobham Brewer

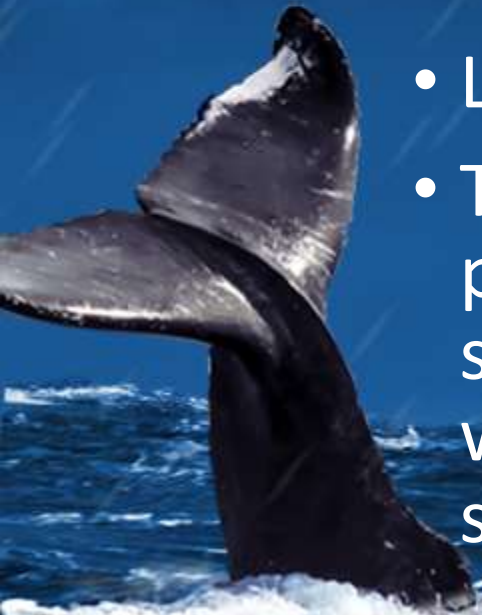
EPIC TALES

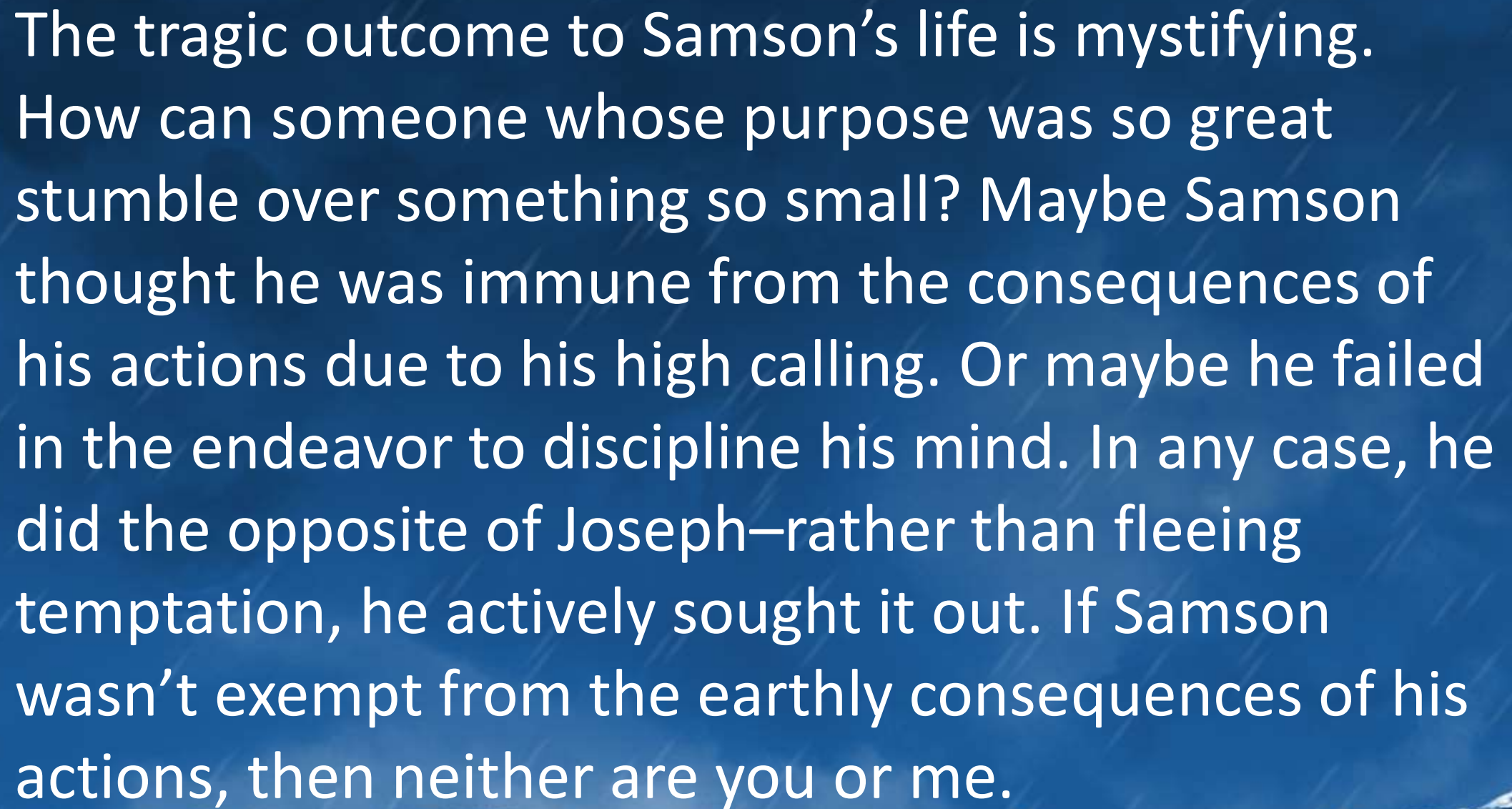


Lessons from Samson's life

- Samson was driven by his lust and was blind to it
- Even people with the Spirit of the Lord can fall into sin
- Don't think you are not susceptible to sin
- Don't think that the rules don't apply to you as a leader
- Don't think you can get away with doing wrong
- Don't live by bad judgment, don't miss all the signs
- Learn from your mistakes
- Though Samson had great ability and was endowed with physical power by the Holy Spirit, he gave in to temptation several times and suffered the consequences. His life is a stern warning to others who are prone to follow the path of sensuality.

EPIC TALES





The tragic outcome to Samson's life is mystifying. How can someone whose purpose was so great stumble over something so small? Maybe Samson thought he was immune from the consequences of his actions due to his high calling. Or maybe he failed in the endeavor to discipline his mind. In any case, he did the opposite of Joseph—rather than fleeing temptation, he actively sought it out. If Samson wasn't exempt from the earthly consequences of his actions, then neither are you or me.

<https://defeatlust.com/2020/02/21/the-story-of-samson-in-the-bible/>

EPIC TALES

A dramatic scene of a whale's tail breaching the surface of a dark blue, stormy sea. The sky is filled with lightning bolts, and rain is falling diagonally across the frame. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

EPIC TALES

RELEARNING THE ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY