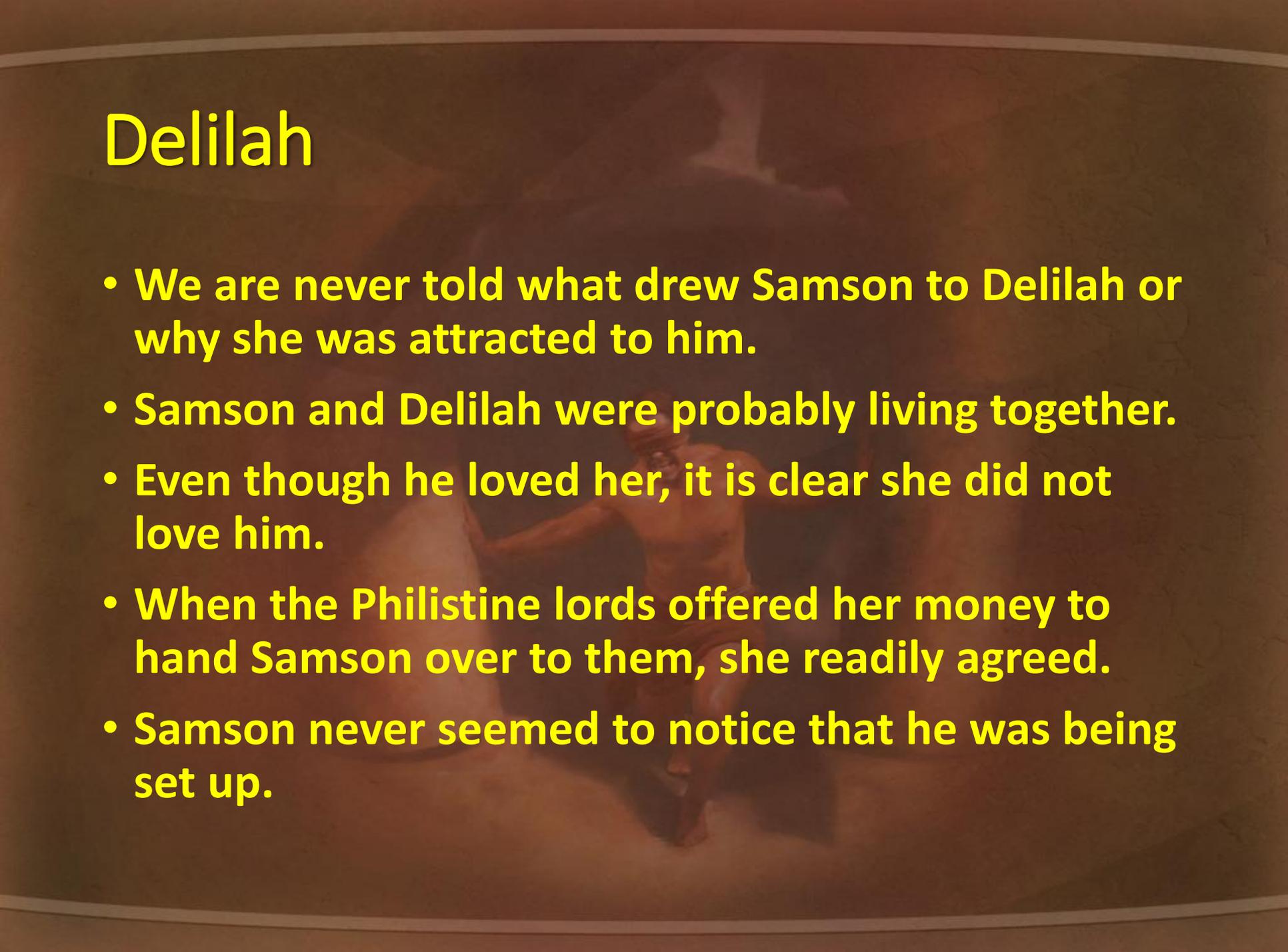




The Final Chapter

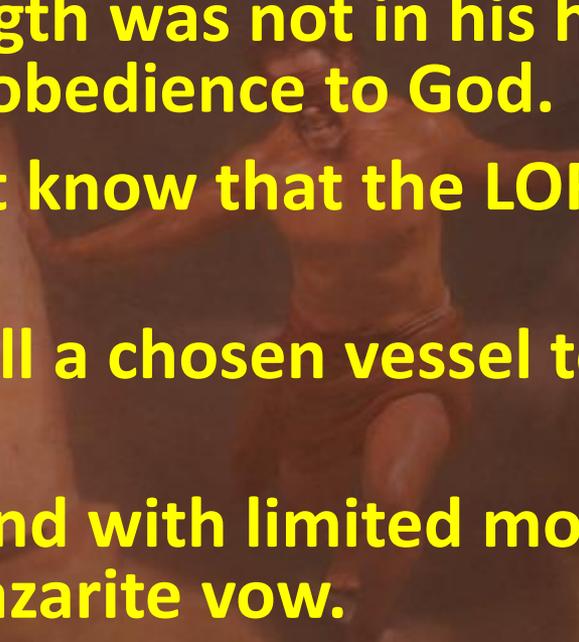
Judges 16

Delilah



- We are never told what drew Samson to Delilah or why she was attracted to him.
- Samson and Delilah were probably living together.
- Even though he loved her, it is clear she did not love him.
- When the Philistine lords offered her money to hand Samson over to them, she readily agreed.
- Samson never seemed to notice that he was being set up.

Samson's Downfall

- Samson did not know that Delilah was trying to betray him.
 - Samson's strength was not in his hair; his strength came from his obedience to God.
 - Samson did not know that the LORD had departed from him.
 - Samson was still a chosen vessel to and for the LORD.
 - Handicapped and with limited mobility, Samson renewed his Nazarite vow.
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Holiday Celebration

- The five lords of the Philistines decided to make a great sacrifice to their national god, Dagon.
- The Philistines began praising Dagon for all he had done!
- They called for Samson so he could perform for them.
- They sang Dagon's praises since Samson was rendered, basically, unfit for combat!
- The Philistines brought Samson out and set him between the main pillars that kept the temple in place.

The Downfall

- The size or dimensions of the temple are unknown.
- There was a rather large crowd in the temple that day.
- Even though Samson could not see, he could hear, and most of all, he could pray.
- God answered Samson's prayer, not to avenge Samson's eyes, but to vindicate His Name.

Conclusion

- The last thing Samson did on this earth was to *“push with all his might”* which caused the temple to come crashing down.
- Samson’s life is a warning to honor God and glorify His Name, or you will spend your strength in futile pursuits destined to fail.
- We can never overestimate the grace and mercy of God.
- Samson is proof that God can, and does, use imperfect people.