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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1470 ~ Samson and the Foxes.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

A few years ago in a country town, a senior high school girl in her last year did some part time work at a local supermarket. She had studied hard and made good results. She dreamed of going to university the next year in her chosen course. One week while working at the store, the girl realised she did not have enough money to buy something she really wanted. She was tempted to help herself from the cash register. When she thought no one was looking, she slipped a twenty-dollar note into her clothing. At the time, she seemed to get away with it.

The next time she wanted more money for herself, it was easier to take it from the store. In time, the police were called. Investigations were made and she was charged with thirty-five offences. Oh! What an embarrassment for her and her family! Everyone at her school knew. Worse than that, she had to leave school. Her hopes for the next year were gone. In the Bible book of Galatians, Chapter 6, it says: "Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant."

And this was true for the Israelite people too. They again turned away from loving and respecting Almighty God to worship forbidden idols. One of the ways God judges evil is to withdraw His protection and allow evil to come against what is evil. So the Philistine people harassed the Israelites and they experienced despair.

But God remained faithful to the Israelites despite their evil activities. He continued to shape their lives by using other nations around them to correct and discipline them. When a strong leader or judge ruled them, they followed the Lord God. But when they had no leader, they worshipped idols and turned to do "what was right in their own eyes".

At the time of our drama, God had seen their distress from 40 years of trouble with the Philistines. God promised a deliverer to save them and a baby was born in special circumstances. Even from his birth, Samson was set apart to serve the Lord. His hair was never to be cut and he was to drink no wine. As Samson grew, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him with amazing strength to do the work God had called him to do.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

The Israelites had been told not to intermarry with the surrounding nations. Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman and asked his father to arrange the marriage. His parents were very concerned yet they organised the wedding for him. Although wrong, the Lord God later used this marriage as an opportunity to work against the Philistines.

The Bible is the Christian's guide to following God's way. In the Bible book 2 Corinthians, Chapter 6, it says: "Don't team with those who are unbelievers. How can goodness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God."

Samson was overcome with passion for this woman, even though marrying her violated God's commands.

In the Bible book Galatians, Chapter 5, it says: "As for you, my brothers, you were called to be free. But do not let this freedom become an excuse for letting your physical desires control you. Instead let love make you serve one another... Let the Spirit direct your lives and you will not satisfy the desires of your human nature."

When things did not go Samson's way, he became very angry and reacted badly by taking revenge. Sometimes we can learn to be wise by watching other people and how they handle different situations. In the Bible book Proverbs, Chapter 15, we are taught: "A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up." And in Chapter 22 we are advised: "Don't make friends with people who have hot, violent tempers. You might learn their habits and not be able to change."

For those people born with a hot temper there is good news in the Bible book of Galatians Chapter 5. After making a firm commitment to follow the Lord Jesus, each person becomes a child of God and is given God's Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit we can overcome the sin of a hot temper. The Holy Spirit will produce fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in us, as we keep in step with the Spirit. Samson suffered much personal turmoil and pain by marrying a Philistine woman. But he was confident in God's promise to free Israel from their enemies. This would happen by the power of Almighty God and not Samson's strength. The Israelites made Samson a judge over them and he served them for 20 years. His name is listed in the book of Hebrews, Chapter 11's hall of faith. The account of Samson's life is found in the book of Judges, Chapters 13 to 16.

Whenever we sin, we get ourselves into more trouble than we bargained for. Sometimes people have the mistaken idea that Satan wants to give people pleasure. Satan no more wants to give us pleasure than a cricket bowler wants to give a batsman runs. Satan hates us and wants to inflict as much suffering into our lives as he possibly can. Satan offers the pleasure of sin only to inflict suffering later and to make that suffering permanent.

Are you tired of trying to defeat evil thinking and bad deeds in your life? Start trusting in the Lord Jesus, for He has won the victory over all evil through His death on the cross. Only He can save you and keep you in the narrow path that leads to eternal life. We live in this world with its godless systems, but we must take care not to get caught up in the world's evil ways – by betraying friends, telling lies, dishonesty, adultery or the worship of wealth. These things will rob us of our spiritual strength. Our desire to please the Living God will quickly fade.

In the Bible book 1 Peter, Chapter 2, it says: "Get rid of all evil; no more lying or hypocrisy or jealousy or insulting language. Like new born babies desire the sincere milk of God's Word ... so you can grow spiritually strong." This is the way God wants us all to be.

MUSIC - <u>Integrity Music</u>.

That was Chris Thomason singing The Lord is My Strength and My Shield.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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