

Samson's Saga

Divine Strength Meets Human Frailty

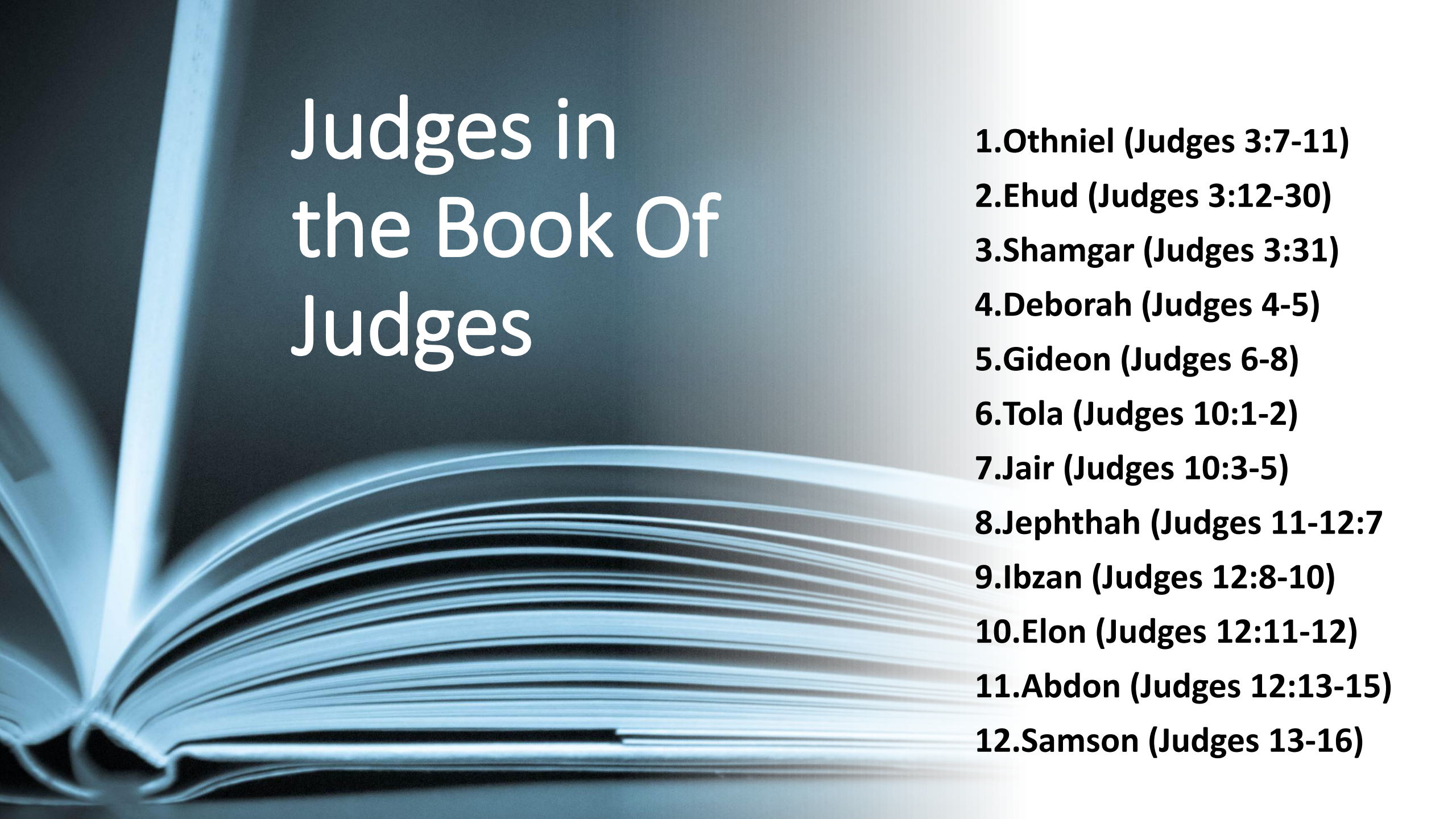
Judges 13-16



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Judges in the Book Of Judges

- 1.Othniel (Judges 3:7-11)**
- 2.Ehud (Judges 3:12-30)**
- 3.Shamgar (Judges 3:31)**
- 4.Deborah (Judges 4-5)**
- 5.Gideon (Judges 6-8)**
- 6.Tola (Judges 10:1-2)**
- 7.Jair (Judges 10:3-5)**
- 8.Jephthah (Judges 11-12:7)**
- 9.Ibzan (Judges 12:8-10)**
- 10.Elon (Judges 12:11-12)**
- 11.Abdon (Judges 12:13-15)**
- 12.Samson (Judges 13-16)**

Samson's Saga

- 1. The Life and Calling of Samson**
- 2. Samson's Character Weakness and Downfall**
- 3. True Strength and Redemption in God**
- 4. Lessons from Samson's Life**



1. The Life and Calling of Samson



1. The Life and Calling of Samson

A. Calling as a Nazirite and mission

Judges 13:5 (NIV84)

5 because you will conceive and give birth to a son. **No razor** may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazirite, **set apart** to God from birth, and he will begin the **deliverance of Israel** from the hands of the Philistines.”

1. The Life and Calling of Samson

A. Calling as a Nazirite and mission

B. Supernatural Strength and Accomplishments

Judges 14:6 (NIV84)

6 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.

Judges 16:3 (NIV) -Gaza

3 But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

1. The Life and Calling of Samson

A. Calling as a Nazirite and mission

B. Supernatural Strength and Accomplishments

Judges 15:14–15 (NIV84)

14 As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. 15 Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.

2. Samson's Character Weakness and Downfall



2. Samson's Weakness and Downfall

A. Samson's character flaws

Judges 14:1–3 (NIV84)

14 Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. 2 When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife."

3 His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?"

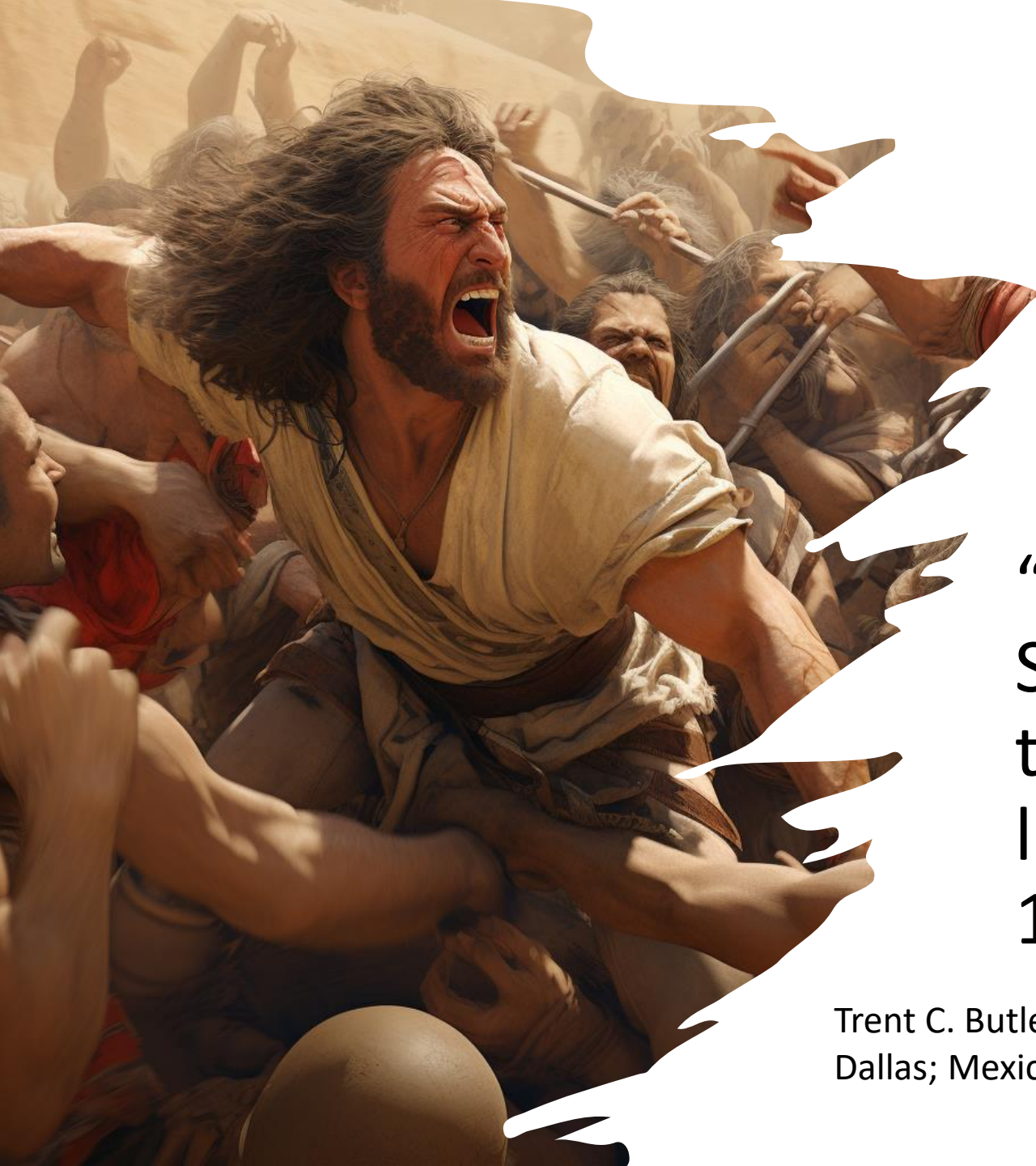
But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me."



2. Samson's Weakness and Downfall

A. Samson's character flaws

- Pride
- Impatient
- Abuse of his great strength
- Entitled
- Spoilt only child



“The Spirit will come upon Samson more than upon any of the other judges, but with the least effect (Judges 14:6, 19; 15:14)”

Trent C. Butler, *Judges*, vol. 8, Word Biblical Commentary (Nashville; Dallas; Mexico City; Rio De Janeiro; Beijing: Thomas Nelson, 2009), 330

2. Samson's Weakness and Downfall

B. Samson's downfall-the story of Delilah (Judges 16:4-21)

Judges 16:4–5 (NIV84)

4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. 5 The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver."

1949

CECIL B. DeMILLE'S MASTERPIECE

Samson and Delilah

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2. Samson's Weakness and Downfall

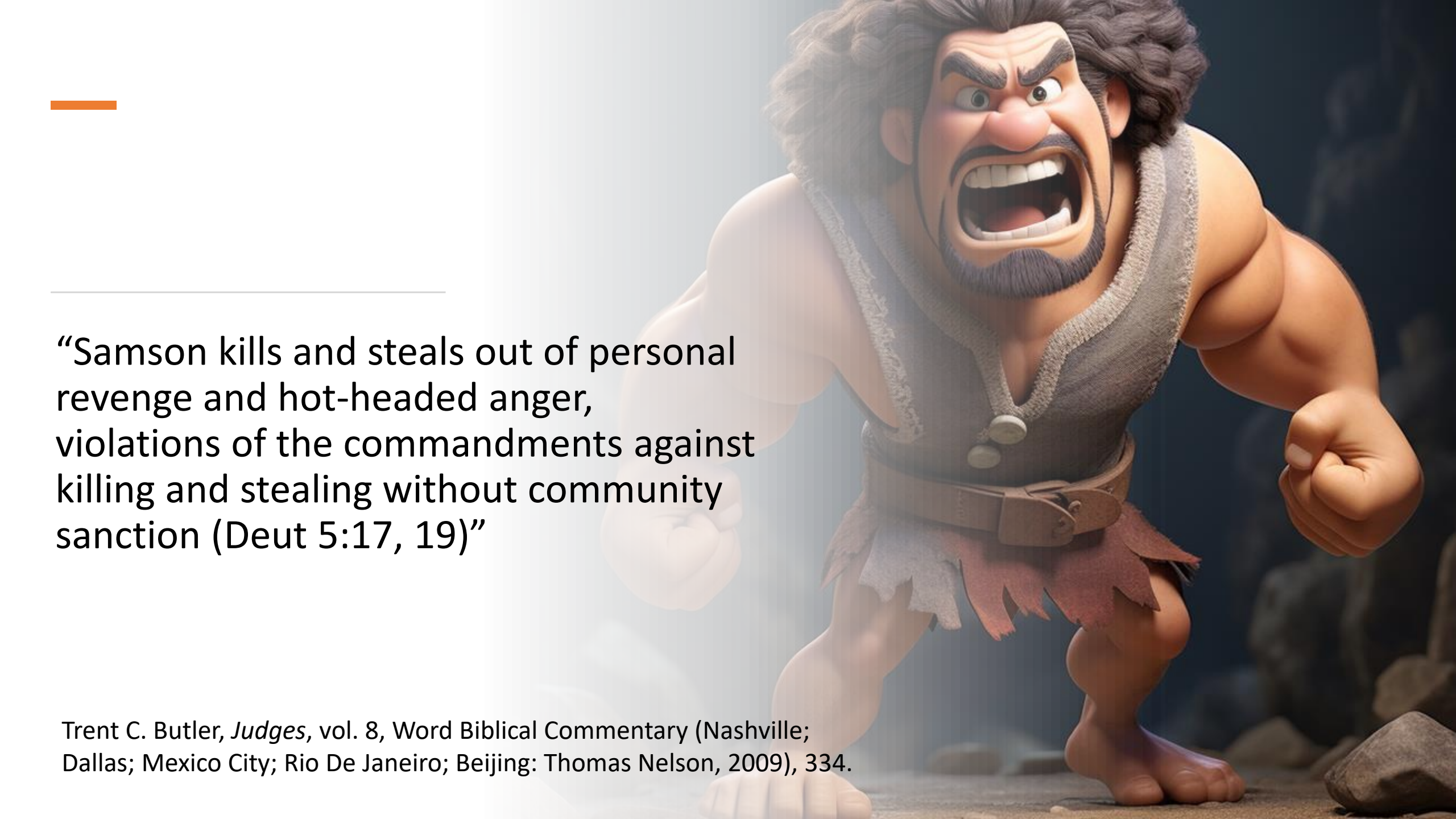
C. Severing of Samson's connection with God (Judges 16:20)

Judges 16:19–20 (NIV84)

19 Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.

20 Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!"

He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.



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“Samson kills and steals out of personal revenge and hot-headed anger, violations of the commandments against killing and stealing without community sanction (Deut 5:17, 19)”

Trent C. Butler, *Judges*, vol. 8, Word Biblical Commentary (Nashville; Dallas; Mexico City; Rio De Janeiro; Beijing: Thomas Nelson, 2009), 334.

3. True Strength and Redemption in God



3. True Strength and Redemption in God

A. True strength comes from our connection with God

Judges 16:21–22 (NIV)

21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. 22 But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

3. True Strength and Redemption in God

B. Samson's prayer and redemption in the temple of the Philistines

Judges 16:28–30 (NIV84)

28 Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” 29 Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, 30 Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

3. True Strength and Redemption in God

C. God's strength made perfect in our weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV84)

9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.



4. Lessons from Samson's Life

4. Lessons from the Life of Samson

A. The importance of using our God-given talents wisely (Matthew 25:14-30)

Matthew 25:26–30 (NIV) Parable of the Talents

26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 “ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

4. Lessons from the Life of Samson

B. The dangers of relying on our strength instead of God's

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (NIV)

9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

4. Lessons from the Life of Samson

C. The peril of losing sight of our divine purpose

Matthew 16:26 (NIV)

26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?



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Judges 13-16