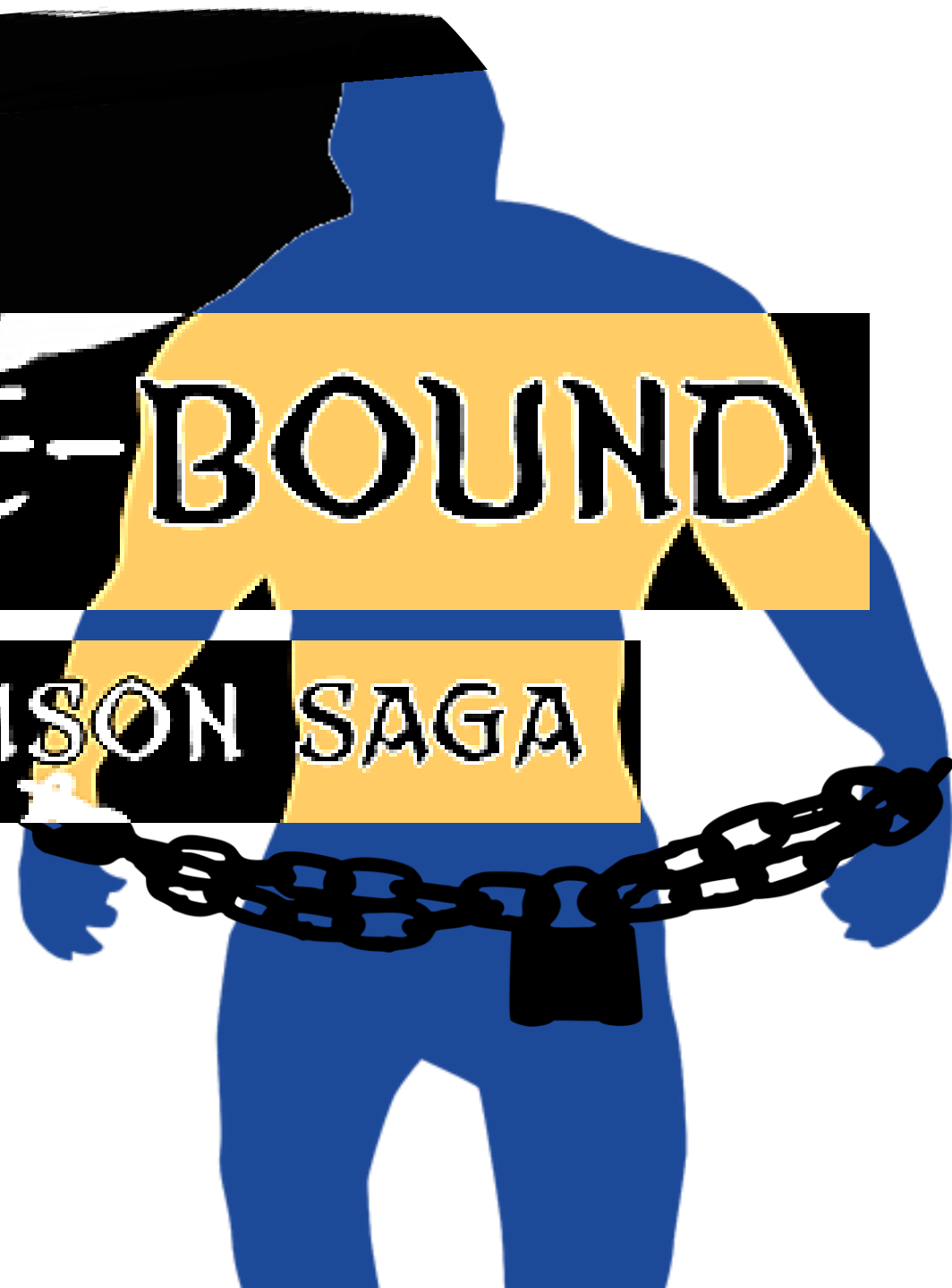


A black, scribbled, and textured mass representing Samson's long hair, located at the top left of the image.

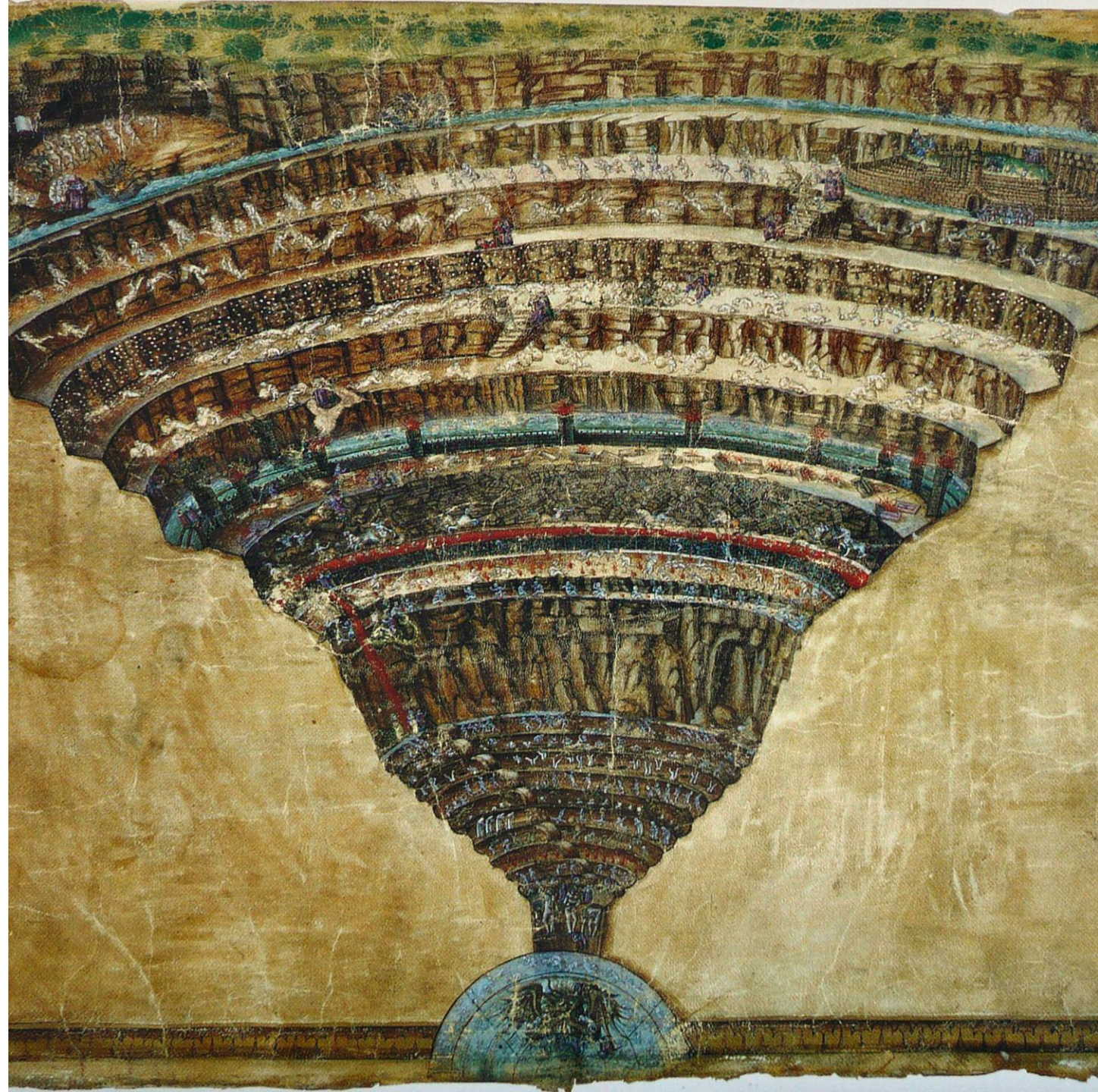
MUSCLE-BOUND

THE SAMSON SAGA

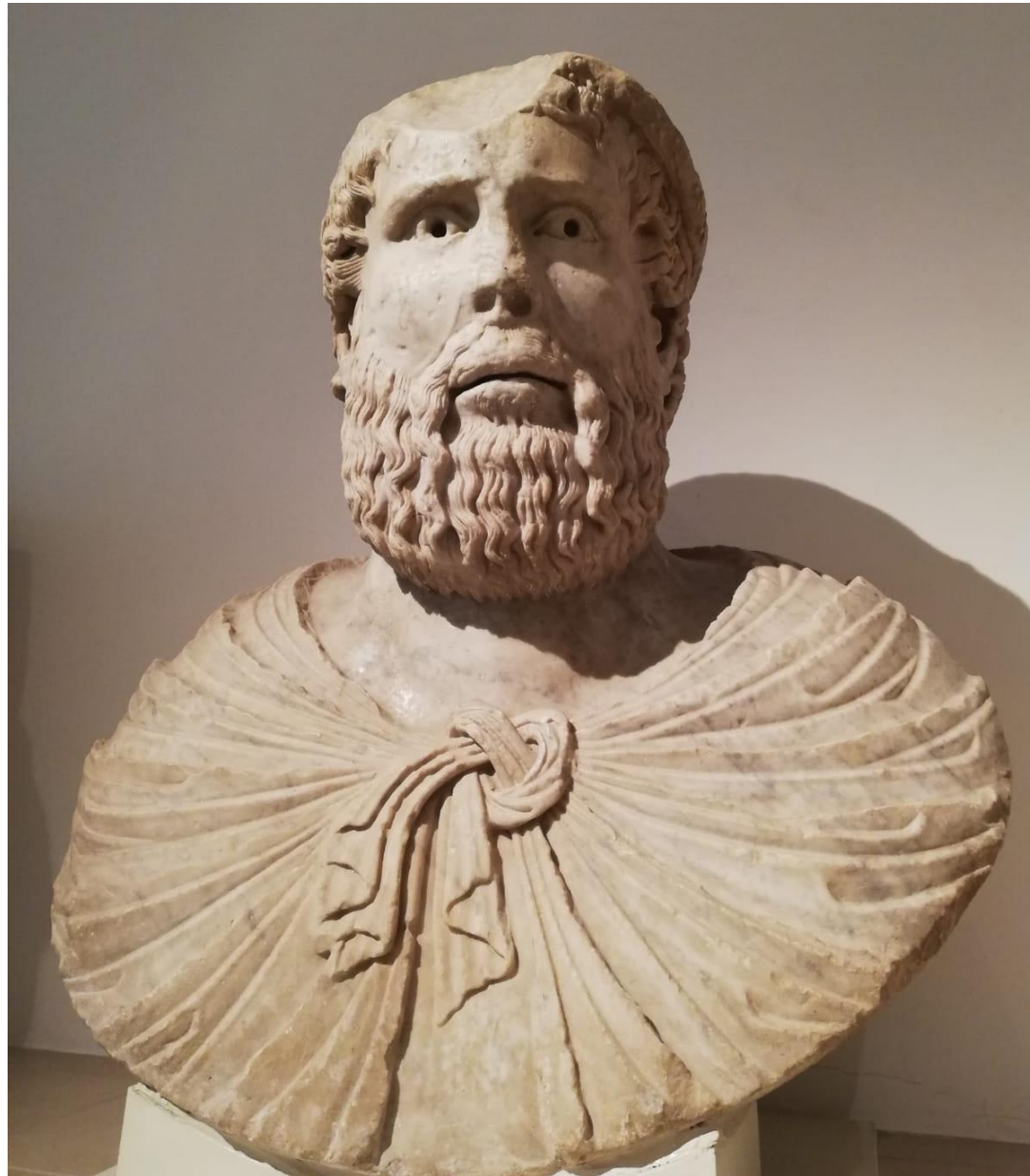
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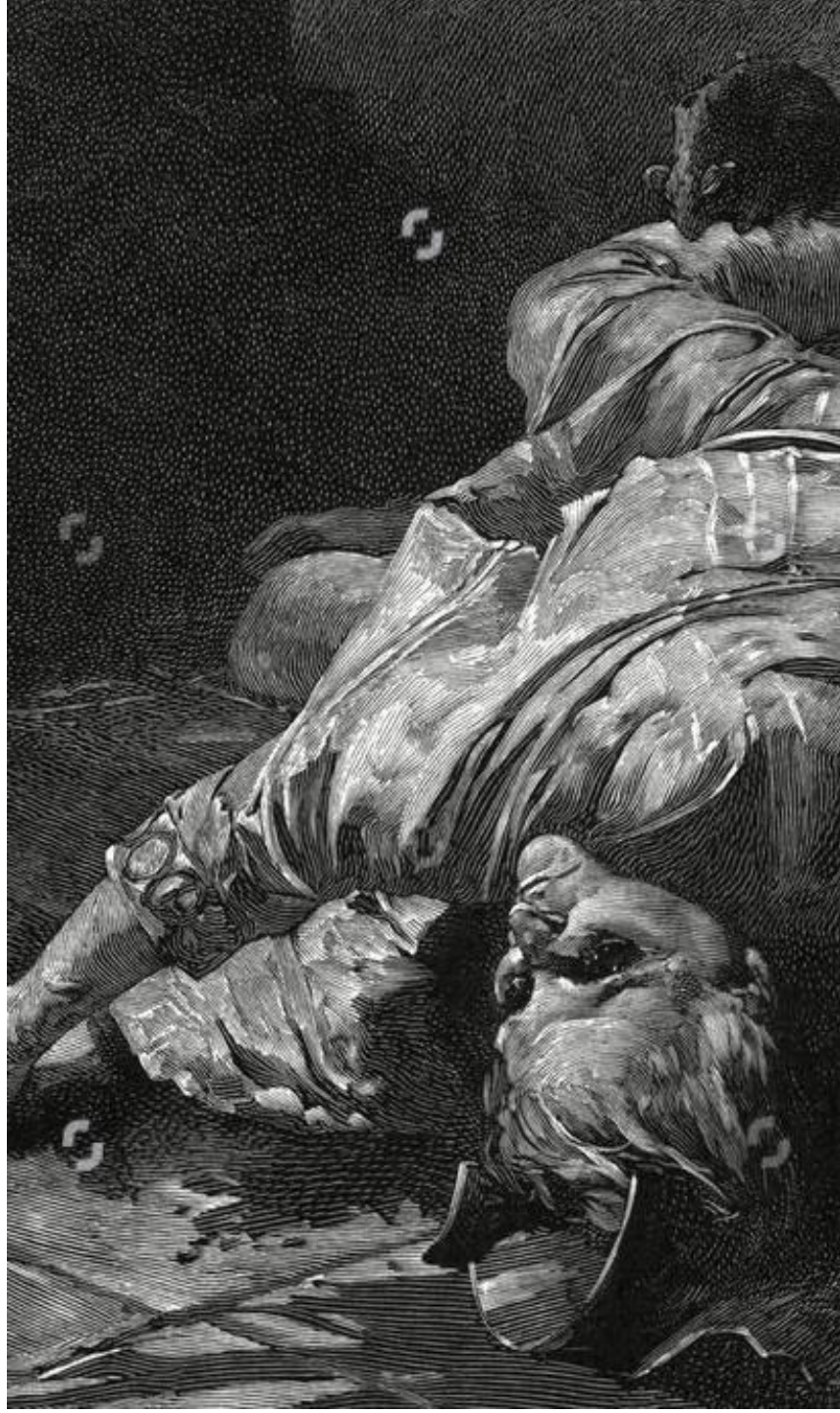














Bound for Redemption

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A black, scribbled, and textured mass representing Samson's long hair, located at the top left of the image.A blue silhouette of a muscular man, Samson, shown from the back. He is wearing a yellow singlet and has a black chain with a padlock around his waist.

MUSCLE-BOUND

THE SAMSON SAGA

SEPTEMBER 2021

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Judges 16:4-31 (ESV): “After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. **5** And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, ‘Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver.’”

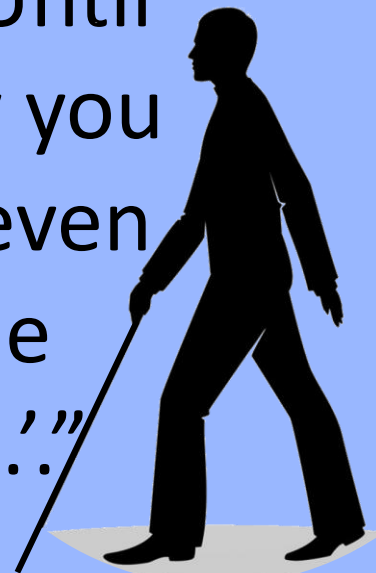




Judges 16:6-15 (ESV): “So Delilah said to Samson, ‘Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you.’ **7** Samson said to her, ‘If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.’ **8** Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she bound him with them. **9** Now she had men lying in ambush in an inner chamber. And she said to him, ‘The Philistines are upon you, Samson!’ But he snapped the bowstrings, as a thread of flax snaps when it touches the fire. So the secret of his strength was not known....”



“...**10** Then Delilah said to Samson, ‘Behold, you have mocked me and told me lies. Please tell me how you might be bound.’ **11** And he said to her, ‘If they bind me with new ropes that have not been used, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.’ **12** So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, ‘The Philistines are upon you, Samson!’ And the men lying in ambush were in an inner chamber. But he snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread. **13** Then Delilah said to Samson, ‘Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound.’ And he said to her, ‘If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web and fasten it tight with the pin, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.’”



“...**14** So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his head and wove them into the web. And she made them tight with the pin and said to him, ‘The Philistines are upon you, Samson!’ But he awoke from his sleep and pulled away the pin, the loom, and the web. **15** And she said to him, ‘How can you say, “I love you,” when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies.’”





Judges 16:16-18 (ESV): “And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. **17** And he told her all his heart, and said to her, ‘A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man.’ **18** When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, ‘Come up again, for he has told me all his heart.’ Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands.”





Judges 16:19-20 (ESV): “She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. **20** And 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 left him.”



Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV): “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.”



John 6:47 (ESV): “Truly, truly, I say to you,
whoever believes has eternal life.”



Judges 16:21-25 (ESV): “And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison. **22** But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. **23** Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, ‘Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand.’...”



“...**24** And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, ‘Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us.’ **25** And when their hearts were merry, they said, ‘Call Samson, that he may entertain us.’ So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars.”





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Main Point:

WE CAN DO THIS
THE HARD WAY
OR
THE LORD'S WAY.



Proverbs 14:12-14 (ESV): “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. **13** Even in laughter the heart may ache, and the end of joy may be grief. **14** The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways.”



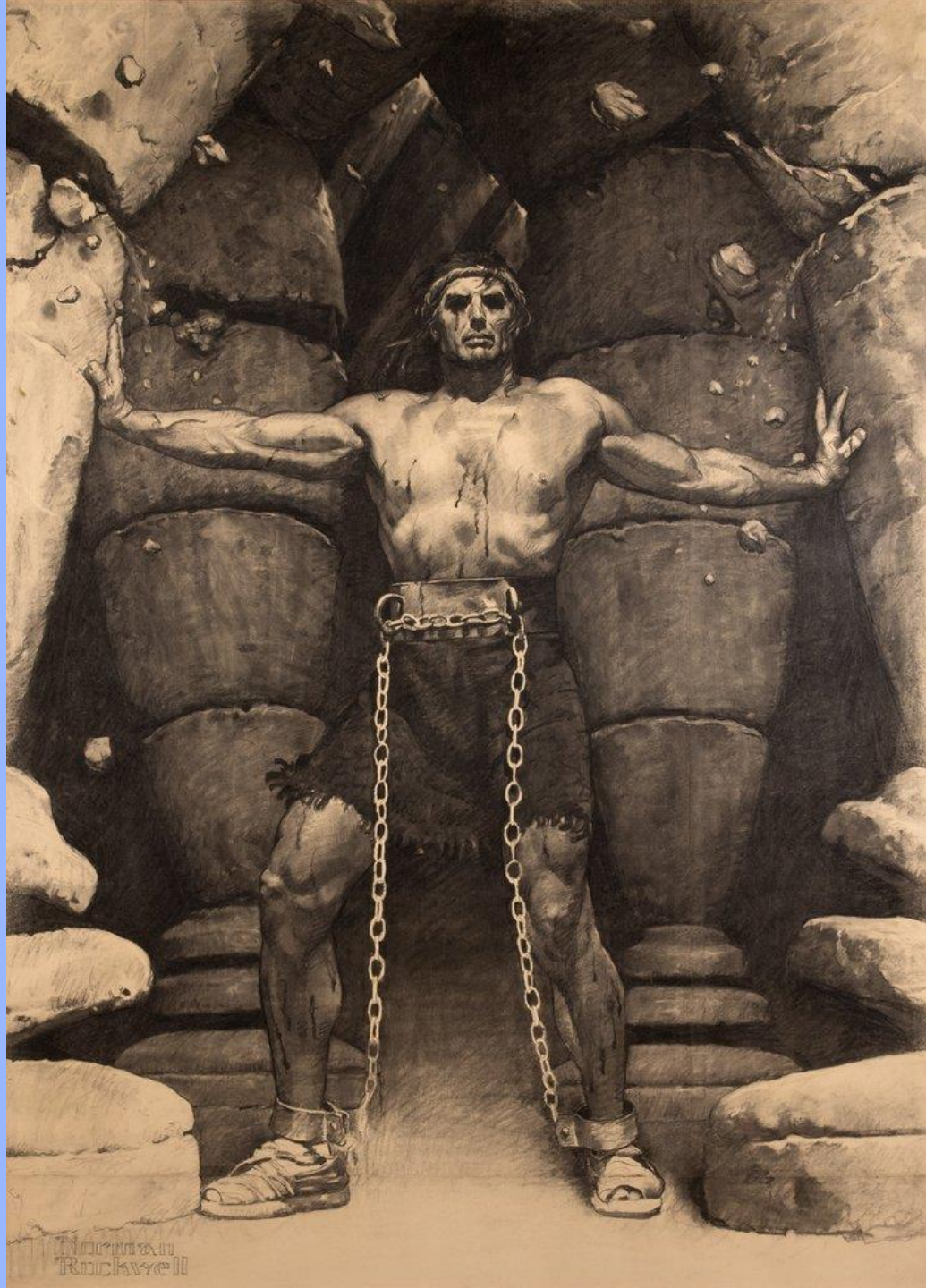


Judges 16:23-30 (ESV): “**26** And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, ‘Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them.’
27 Now the house was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about 3,000 men and women, who looked on while Samson entertained. **28** Then Samson called to the LORD and said, ‘O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.’...”



“...**29** And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. **30** And Samson said, ‘Let me die with the Philistines.’ Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.””





Bound for Redemption

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Application:

EVEN WHEN YOU LOSE THE CAPACITY

ACHIEVE

GOD'S

PLAN,

BELIEVE

GOD

CAN.





“The policeman asked me, ‘was I discharged?’ and when I said, ‘yes,’ that’s when he started beating me with a billy near across the top of my head. After that, I grabbed his billy, wrung it out of his hand. Another policeman came up and threw his gun on me, told me to drop the billy, or he’d drop me, so I dropped the billy. He knocked me unconscious. He hollered, get up. When I started to get up, he started punching me in the eyes with the end of his billy.”

(From Isaac Woodard’s sworn affidavit on April 23, 1946)

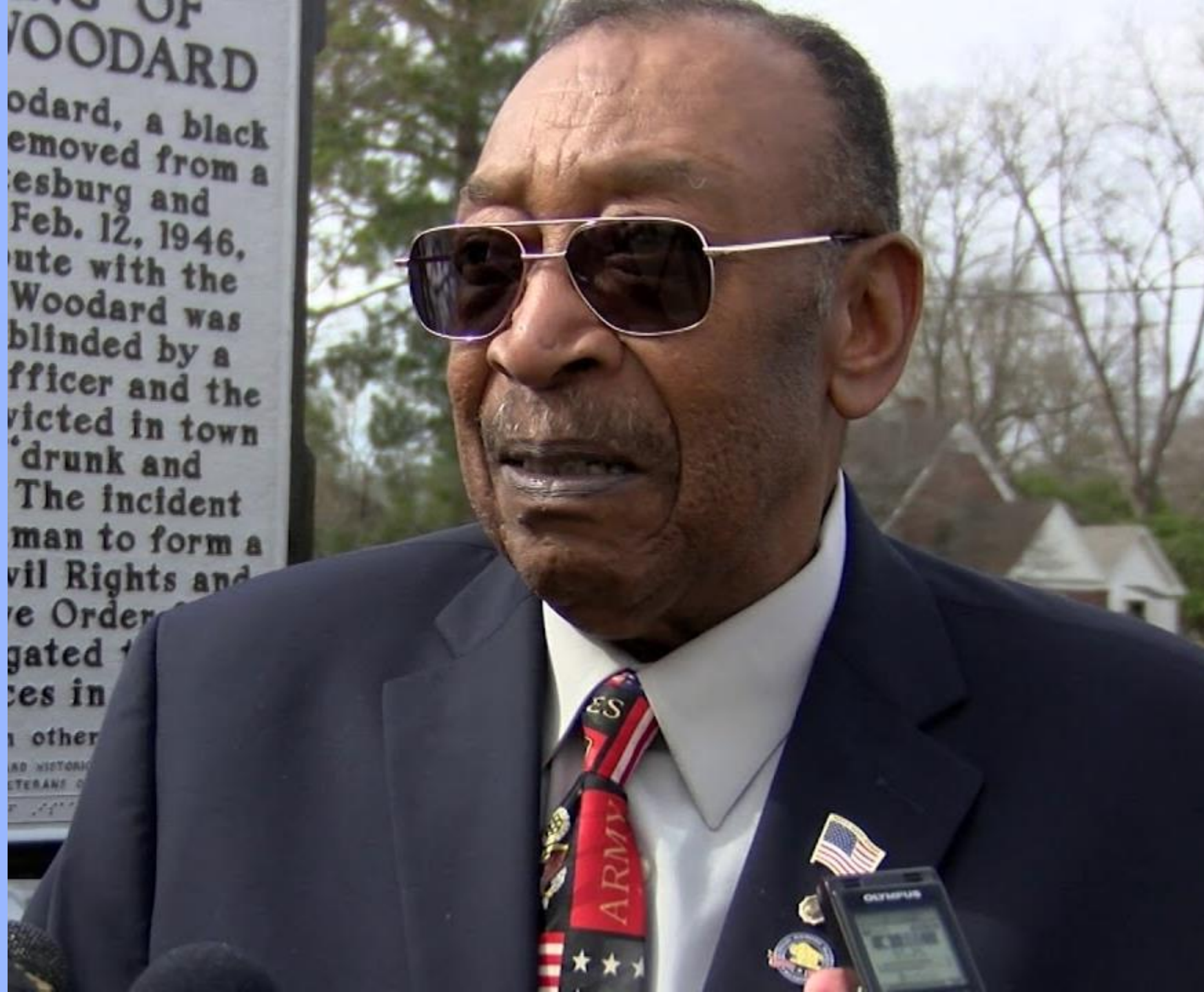




“If the loss of my sight will make people in America get together to prevent what happened to me from ever happening again to any other person, I would be glad.”

(Isaac Woodard, as quoted in Olivia B. Waxman’s article *How a 1946 Case of Police Brutality Against a Black WWII Veteran Shaped the Fight for Civil Rights* on time.com, March 30, 2021)







Hebrews 11:32-34 (ESV): “And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – **33** who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, **34** quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.”



Mark 9:23 (ESV): “All things are possible
for one who believes.”



John 5:24 (ESV): “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”



Romans 4:20-22 (ESV): “No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, **21** fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **22** That is why his faith was ‘counted to him as righteousness.’”



Bound for Redemption

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A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer next to a large wooden cross against a sunset sky. The person is wearing a helmet and is positioned to the left of the cross. The cross has a small plaque on top. The sky is a mix of blue, purple, and orange, with the sun low on the horizon. The foreground shows some grass and rocks.

When in Rome

“My kingdom is not
of this world.”

The Heights Church
Fall 2021