

## Chapter 15

*Samfon tying firebrandes to foxes tayles burneth the Philifthiims corne. 6. They burne his wife and her father. 8. He beateth them and hideth him felfe. 10. His owne countrimen to get peace with the Philifthimes, take and bind him, fo meaning to deliuer him. 14. But he breaketh the cordes, and with the iaw bone of an affe killeth a thoufand of his enemies. 18. Being exceding drie, is refreshed with water, from the tooth of the fame iaw.*

**A**nd after a certaine time, when the dayes of wheate harueft were at hand, Samfon came, meaning to vifite his wife, and he brought her a kidde of goates. And when he would enter into her chamber as he was wont, her father prohibited him, faying: <sup>2</sup> I thought that thou hadft hated her, and therefore I deliuered her to thy freind: but she hath a fifter, which is yonger & fayrer then she, let this be thy wife in fteade of her. <sup>3</sup> To whom Samfon answered: From this day there fhall be no fault in me againft the Philifthimes: for I wil doe you euils. <sup>4</sup> And he went, and <sup>a</sup>)caught three hundred foxes, and he coupled them tayle to tayle, and tyed fyrebrandes in the middes: <sup>5</sup> which kindling with fyre, he let them goe, that they might runne abroad hither and thither. Who immediately went on into the corne of the Philifthimes. Which being fette on fire, both the corne now caried together, and that which yet ftoode in the ftalke, was al burnt, in fo much, that the flame confumed the vineyardes alfo and the oliuetes. <sup>6</sup> And the Philifthijmes faid: Who hath done this thing? To whom it was faid: Samfon the fonne in law of the Thamnathate: becaufe he tooke his wife, and gaue her to an other, he hath wrought thefe thinges. And the Philifthims went vp, and burnt both the woman and her father. <sup>7</sup> To whom Samfon faid: Although you haue

---

<sup>a</sup> Being Iudge of the people he had helpe of others to take fo manie foxes with nettes, or otherwife, being great ftore in that countrie.

done these thinges, notwithstanding yet wil I requite reuenge of you, and then I wil reft. <sup>8</sup> And he froke them with a great plague, fo that aptonied they laid the calfe of the leg vpon the thigh. And going downe he dwelt in the caue of the rocke Etam. <sup>9</sup> Therefore the Philiftijms going vp into the Land of Iuda camped in the place, which afterward was called Lechi, that is, the iaw bone, where their armie was fpred abroad. <sup>10</sup> And they of the tribe of Iuda faid to them: Why are you come vp againft vs? Who answered: That we may bind Samfon, we are come, and may repay him the thinges that he hath wrought againft vs. <sup>11</sup> There went downe therfore three thoufand men of Iuda, to the caue of the flint Etam, and faid to Samfon: Knoweft not thou that the Philiftijms reigne ouer vs? Why wouldest thou doe this thing? To whom he faid: As they did to me fo haue I done to them. <sup>12</sup> To bind thee, quoth they, we are come, and to deliuer thee into the handes of the Philiftijms. To whom Samfon: Sweare, quoth he, & promife me that you kil me not. <sup>13</sup> They faid: We wil not kil thee, but wil deliuer thee bound. And they bound him with two new cordes, and tooke him from the rocke Etam. <sup>14</sup> Who when he was come to the place of the Iawebone and the Philiftijms shouting were come againft him, the Spirit of our Lord fel vpon him: and as flax is wont to be confumed at the fauour of fyre, fo the bandes wherwith he was bound, were diffipated and loofed. <sup>15</sup> And finding a iawe bone, to witte, the iawe bone of an affe, which lay there, catching it, <sup>a</sup>he flewe therwith a thoufand men, <sup>16</sup> and faid: In the iawe bone of an affe, in the iawe of the colt of fhe affes haue I deftroyed them, and haue ftrooke a thoufand men. <sup>17</sup> And when he had ended these wordes finging, he threw the iaw bone out of his hand, and called the name of that place Ramathlechi, which is interpreted the lifting vp of the iawbone. <sup>18</sup> And being very thirftie, he cried to our Lord, and faid: Thou haft

---

<sup>a</sup> A notorious miracle to kil fo manie with fo meane a weapon without other helpe of man. And by common reafon as vncredible, as the great myfteries of Catholique Religion.

geuen in the hand of thy feruant this very great faluation and victorie: and behold I die for thirft, and shal fal into the handes of the vncircumcised. <sup>19</sup> Our Lord therefore <sup>a</sup>opened a great tooth in the iawe of the affe, & there iffued out of it waters. Which being drunke, he refreshed his fpirit, and receiued ftrengh againe. Therefore the name of that place was called: The fountaine of him that inuocated from the iawbone, vntil this prefent day. <sup>20</sup> And he iudged Ifrael in the daies of the Philifthijms twentie yeares.

---

<sup>a</sup> It was a greater miracle to draw water out of a drie bone, then out of the earth or ftones: but al things are poffible to God, which he pleafeth to do.