

Samson and the Hair Cutter: Two Merging Realities

By Noel Joshua Hadley

3/21/23

I GIVE you several pieces of artwork for your consideration. Nearly every one of them is hundreds of years old. Some even date back to the late Middle Ages. Look them over carefully and tell me what you see. I am not attempting to trick you. Each and every one of them depict the same scene. It's rather straight forward if you ask my opinion about it. In my former reality, it was always **Sampson** and **Delilah**, not **Samson** and the **Hair Cutter**. Yes, I too remember Sampson with a 'p'. That is how we used to refer to the big guy in a galaxy far, far away. If you too remember the added 'p' then I would urge you to attempt and find any Biblical translation which spells it that way on your own time because I have other pressing matters to attend to.

Examine the artwork again and tell me what you see. A woman is cutting Sampson's hair while soldiers look on. That's the scene I'm observing. I'm asking you so that we can all be certain. It's okay, she has a name, and you can say it. We are gazing in upon a very important moment in the life of Sampson and Delilah. In a couple of them the soldiers are absent but then the artist goes out of his way to show her looking offscreen, indicating that they lie in wait until the deed is done. What is consistent in every retelling is that Sampson is lulled to sleep on Delilah's knees and it she alone who is taking the scissors to his head. Well, here is the twist to the latest episode of The Twilight Zone. It never happened. Somebody cut his hair alright, though we are never given a name. What seems more certain than ever now is that it wasn't her. Read it for yourself.

Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and **called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head**. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

Judges 16:19 [New King James Bible]

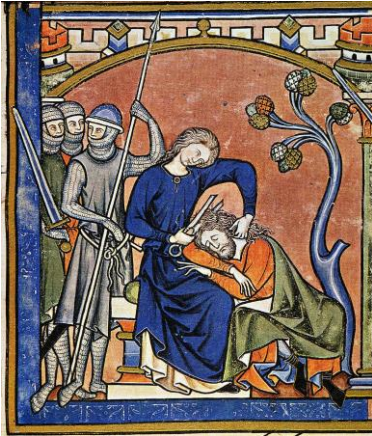
Well, darn. We had it wrong. Looks like Delilah didn't go through with it after all. She called for the barber. You'd think these master painters would read the story for themselves before reenacting the scene with models, but you know how it goes: We are so knowledgeable now. Yes, that must be it. Thank God for the Intel-net, always pointing out how ignorant the ancients were. Another thing I don't recall is the seven locks of hair. Is there ancient commentary upon that because the seven number

sounds important for any Biblical scholar. Medieval artists in particular would pick up on details such as that.



The Morgan
@MorganLibrary

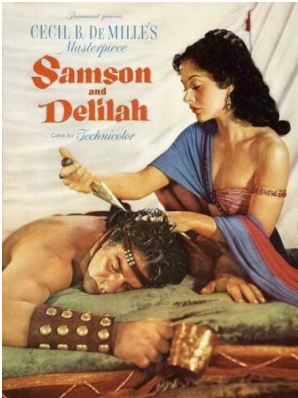
Why is Delilah giving Samson a haircut? This image is in the Crusader Bible, now on view: bit.ly/CrusaderBible



There are other depictions though I think this one may prove to be my favorite in the bunch. It derives from the Morgan Bible. If that title is unfamiliar to you then you may have heard about the Crusaders Bible. It's an illuminated manuscript which is thought to have originated in medieval Paris, *circa* 1250, consisting entirely of pictures detailing specific Biblical events. Once again, soldiers are standing by while Delilah cuts the Nazarene prize fighters' hair clean off, and they got it wrong. Oops. Because Delilah never took the scissors to anybody, you know. Apparently, it's been an ongoing problem lasting for centuries. The Morgan Library is even Tweeting out a distress message, wondering why it is that Delilah is giving the haircut. LOL. Because the Morgan Bible is usually so accurate in their illustrations. Except for this one, apparently. I'm so glad we have the Ministry of Truth to let us in on centuries worth of collective false memories, aren't you?



More recently, the hair cutting controversy was depicted in The History Channel's 'The Bible' miniseries. The episode in question was released on **March 10, 2013**, and what is happening? Again, it's not a trick question. Sampson's got dreadlocks, and it is Delilah who is taking a knife to them. I'm not seeing the barber anywhere in the room. The problem with residue such as this one is that I will be told 'The Bible' producers as well as its evangelical audience were too Biblically illiterate to notice. Well then, I should probably point out that [Religion News Science](#) released an article within a week of the broadcast detailing what inaccuracies they uncovered. I *checked*. Delilah cutting Sampson's hair was not on the list.

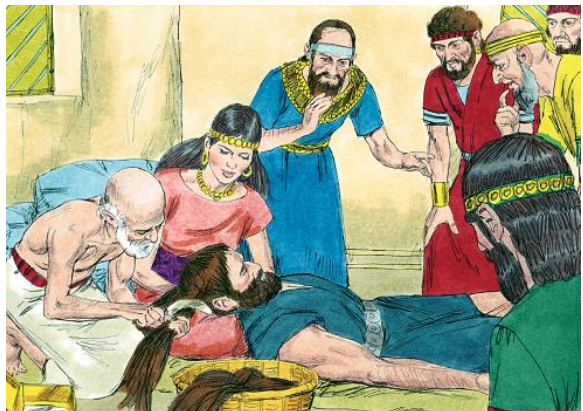
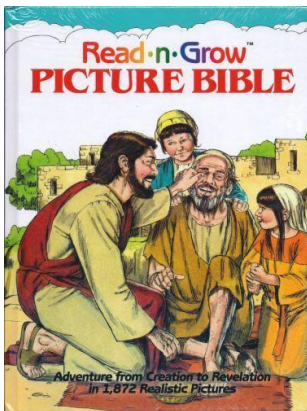


Samson & Delilah - [9/13]

If it's a semi-coherent Biblically literate audience that you're seeking, then look no further than The War generation. **Cecil B. DeMille** released 'Samson and Delilah' in **1949**, when radios rather than televisions still dominated the American household, and just look at what he put on the

cover why don't you? Mm-hmm, nobody was cast into the part of the barber. I confess to having watched this movie 30 years ago now. It's been a while. But then you should know I tracked down the scene on YouTube and can happily report the movie poster isn't false advertising. It's lifted from an actual scene in the movie. Delilah lowers the curtains and betrays her lover all by her lonesome. At no point does anybody's arms reach into the frame with scissors.

Another thing I'll have you know is that I watched the **Peter Jackson** 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy upon their release and the nerds were bringing along copies of the book. They would nitpick every little detail which didn't line up with the fine print. Literacy still exists in some circles. The theology fan boys in particular though. I've seen how these things go. Somebody would have taken one look at the movie poster from the sidewalk and said: "Chapter and verse, sir. Chapter and verse."



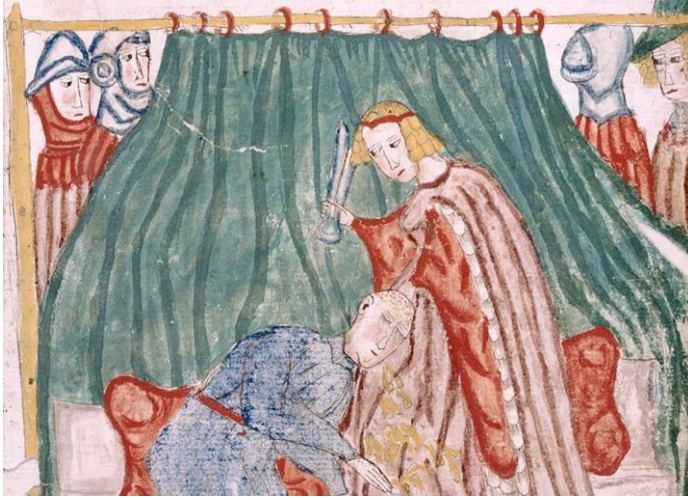
But wait, what's this? Oh no, for the love of YAH, please no. The 'Read n Grow PICTURE BIBLE' shows an illustration of Samson's haircut and finally for once the barber shows face. It was released in **1984** and I had my very own copy. Throughout the Eighties I attended a private Christian school in Hawthorne, California. It was King James only. I kept a copy of Read n Grow on my desk anyways and flipped through its pages regularly. I'm telling you I have no memory of this particular scene. I can recall many pictures within but this one is a big fat *nope*. I still have a copy by the way. Maybe it *was* always there. What is certain is that you cannot claim I am the basket case of a false narrative *via* faulty Sunday school illustrations because if anything Read n Grow gets it right in this present reality.



What in tarnation? On top of the other depictions already shown to you, your basic Google search will spit out these images, right into the frying pan of controversy. There is the barber we've all been looking for. These must also be the art pieces derived from the "chapter and verse" people. They are the far and few between who managed to take the Bible seriously. No wonder we've never seen them before. I'll speak for myself when saying there's a first for everyone. They're news to me. Man, I've really fallen behind with the latest history books.



But then here are some more illustrations deriving from the reality which I'd hang my hat to if it were still remotely possible to do so. So much gore. Specific too. Often, we are given a precise order of events. It is always Delilah who cuts off the hair in each and every storybook picture while the soldiers wait in hiding. Only afterwards do they approach him, first and foremost to relieve him of his eyesight.



The origins of this one in particular can be traced to **1455** Paris, back when artists knew how to paint a picture with a thousand words, and now I've come to a decision. It beats out the Crusaders Bible for my favorite in the bunch. Breathtaking, ain't it? *Yep*, it's like I've often stated, nothing says Millennial Kingdom quite like Delilah giving Samson a haircut.



Oh look, an old political cartoon, circa **1809**. The woman is **Mary Anne Clarke**, mistress of Prince **Frederick Augustus**, who happens to be the second son of **King George III**. She is cutting off his donkey tail, thereby weakening his powers. And just in case the reference is lost on his audience some 200 years into the future, the artist was kind enough to tell us Delilah cutting off the hair of **Sampson** with a 'p' is what's being referenced. It's funny because it's true.

Look, we could sit here arguing all day regarding Biblical illiteracy and who the guilty party members are, but after all we've been through. It seems to me that placing other options on the table are equally viable. Given the multiverse theory, I for one think it's entirely possible and in fact more probable than not that both renditions to the story were accurate in their own respective timelines. Some of you will tell me this is the Word of God we're dealing with and one of the timelines is a liar. How so? There are certainly liars in this scenario, aka our Controllers, but the author of Judges needn't be it.

I will remind you of what we've already learned with JFK's assassination convertible. In one reality, John Connally's wife went along for the ride whereas in another she didn't. Both may be very accurate. In both scenarios Kennedy and Connally and nobody else were shot. You could say the same thing with Sampson and Delilah. In one timeline she was so vindictive as to personally play the part of the barber whereas in another she was weak and called for help. Small differences which resemble our own day-to-day decisions. Do you suppose there is a version of reality out there where she didn't go through with it?