[18]And ***he was very thirsty***, and he ***called upon the*** **LORD** and said, "***You have granted this great salvation*** by the ***hand of your servant***, and ***shall I now die*** of thirst and ***fall into the hands of the uncircumcised***?"

[19]And **God** ***split open the hollow place*** that is at **Lehi**, and ***water came out from it***. And ***when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived***. Therefore the name of it was called **En-hakkore**; it is at **Lehi** to this day.

[20]And ***he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years***.

A. Person to Be Revived (18)

"he was very thirsty"

-Samson had just slaughtered 1,000 Philistines (**15**)

-Weather was hot and dry during the harvest season (**1**)

-He was so dehydrated, he thought he might die:

"shall I now die"

-Compare to Elijah, who had won a triumph over the prophets of Baal only to feel near death shortly thereafter. *__1 Kings 19:4-8__

B. Prayer to Be Revived (18)

First mention of Samson praying in Judges

1. Selflessness of the Servant

Samson switches from "I" to "you" – ***Why?***

15:16 – "with the jawbone of a donkey have **I** struck down a thousand men."

15:18 – "**you** have granted this great salvation"

–***Mt 5:2-3; Rom 3:9-23; Lk 18:9-14; 2 Co 12:7; Rev 3:14-22***

2. Strength of the Sovereign

**Samson begins his prayer acknowledging God's greatness before he makes a request...*

"You have granted this great salvation" (**14**)

-Isa 40:27-31
-2Ch 14:9-11

Compare to the model prayer in **Mt 6:9-13**

3. Scorn from the Skeptics

"fall into the hands of the uncircumcised"

His capture would result in scorn for God (**16:23-24** – Dagon)

Compare this to Samson's attitude toward the Philistines in **14:1-3**

-Mt 5:13-16

C. Plan for Being Revived (19)

1. Provision of the Water from God

Clarification of the Provision

KJV – "God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw"

Lehi – Lit. "Jawbone"

Circumstances of the Provision

Hollow Place – Lit. "Mortar"

En-hakkore – "Caller's Spring" – Samson had called on God for water

God provided water as he had done for the Israelites in the wilderness (**Exod 17:6**)

2. Partaking of the Water by Samson

"when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived"

D. Product of Being Revived (20)

1. Readiness for Service

-This revival marked a spiritual change in Samson.

-It readied him to be judge of Israel

2. Rejected in Service

-Samson had previously been rejected by the men of Judah (15:9-13)

3. Results of Service

"days of the Philistines"

-The Philistines were in control before Samson was born and would continue to be in control after he died.

-This is consistent with what had been prophesied by the angel in **13:5**

"he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines"

4. Record of Service

Verse 20 is a dividing verse in the story of Samson. The Biblical record of Samson includes the events before the twenty years and several events at the end of the twenty years.

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*Outline for Life of Samson: *Butler, John G. (1992). Samson: The Weak Strong Man (Bible Biography Series, Number Six). Clinton, IA: LBC Publications*

Judges 15:9–17 (ESV)

9 Then the Philistines came up and encamped in Judah and made a raid on Lehi. 10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" They said, "We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him as he did to us." 11 Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so have I done to them." 12 And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you, that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines." And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not attack me yourselves." 13 They said to him, "No; we will only bind you and give you into their hands. We will surely not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

14 When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then ***the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him***, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. 15 And ***he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men***. 16 And Samson said,

"With the jawbone of a donkey,
heaps upon heaps,
with the jawbone of a donkey
have ***I struck down a thousand men***."

17 As soon as he had finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone out of his hand. And that place was called Ramath-lehi.

18 And ***he was very thirsty***, and he called upon the LORD and said**, "You have granted this great salvation by the hand of your servant, and shall I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"** 19 And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore the name of it was called En-hakkore; it is at Lehi to this day. 20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

I. Selflessness of the Servant

"You have granted this great salvation by the hand of your servant"

This prayer comes after Samson kills 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey. This power came from God's Spirit (v. 14), but Samson initially claimed the credit for himself:

15:16 - "with the jawbone of a donkey have **I** struck down a thousand men."

However, in his subsequent prayer, Samson gives God the credit for his deliverance from the Philistines (and even refers to himself as God's "servant":

15:18 – "**you** have granted this great salvation"

What caused Samson to switch from "I" to "you?" The difference is that Samson is now in need!

"he was very thirsty" – He even thought he might die!

Need is a fundamental element of human life. Need causes us to seek things that we don't already have. Without need, we won't go looking for something outside of ourselves or what we already have.

Illustration: (1869) Early in his career, Thomas Edison invented a vote-recording machine for use in legislative chambers. By moving a switch to the right or left, an official could vote for or against a proposal without leaving his desk. The machine would replace the tedious business of marking ballots, counting them, etc.

Elated with the prospects, Edison obtained a patent (U.S. Patent 0,090,646), his first (2,332 total patents worldwide), and headed for Washington. Eagerly he demonstrated his machine to the Chairman of Congressional Committees. This gentleman, while complimenting Edison on his ingenuity, promptly turned it down. "Filibustering and delay in the tabulation of votes are often the only means we have for defeating bad or improper legislation." he told Edison.

The young inventor was stunned. The invention was good; he knew it and the chairman knew it. Still, it wasn't wanted. Said Edison later: "There and then I made a vow that I would never again invent anything which was not wanted".

*While Samson's need was physical, we all **need** God spiritually. However, we will never seek him unless we realize it! This is fundamental to righteousness.*

Matthew 5:2–3 (ESV)
2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
3 **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

"To be poor in spirit is to have a humble opinion of ourselves; to be sensible that we are sinners, and have no righteousness of our own; to be willing to be saved only by the rich grace and mercy of God" (Barnes)

Paul's reminds the Roman readers of their spiritual poverty in Romans 1 & 2 – we must recognize our need before we begin searching for something to fill it. Paul summarizes this in chapter 3:

Romans 3:9 (ESV)
9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For **we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin**,

Romans 3:23 (ESV)
23 for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**,

The opposite of being "poor in spirit," or recognizing our spiritual need, is to be "proud of heart," and those are more like:

The Pharisee **- Luke 18:9–14 (ESV)**
9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'** 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Laodiceans **- Revelation 3:14–22 (ESV)**
14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.
15 " 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!
16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 17 **For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.** 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also

conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. [22] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' "

II. Strength of the Sovereign

"You have granted this great salvation by the hand of your servant"

Hand-in-hand with giving God the credit for his deliverance, Samson also begins his prayer acknowledging God's greatness before he makes his specific request. Why is this important?

Illustration: Marathon Preparation

There are at least a couple of unusual things about marathon training:

(1) At no time during training do I allow my legs to fully recover from the previous run. We frequently refer to this a "cumulative fatigue." So, there has not been a single run in training where I've been able to perform at full capacity. Therefore, I'm not really sure what full capacity feels like.

(2) Training for a marathon is unlike almost any other sport, because we never practice the actual race. A marathon is 26.2 miles, and the longest I've run in any training season for my 18 marathons is 22 miles. Also, say my goal is to average at least 8 minutes 30 seconds per mile for the race, most of my long training runs would be around 9 minutes 30 seconds per mile. This is to try and prevent injury during training, leading up to the race.

All of this means that while I have a goal finish time in mind, I'm not sure if I'm strong enough to accomplish this goal or overcome this challenge.

In life, we are going to face things that are much bigger than we are strong enough to face, and those situation may seem insurmountable. It is important that we be reminded of how big and powerful God is, because God is bigger than anything we are going to face in this life…

Isaiah 40:27-31 (ESV)

[27] Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?
[28]Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
[29]He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. [30]Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; [31]but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

How can we cultivate this feeling in our lives?

- Study of God's Word
- Praising God in Prayer

II Chronicles 14:9-11
[9]**Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots**, and came as far as Mareshah. [10]And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. [11]And Asa cried to the LORD his God, "**O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak**. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you."

Matthew 6:9–10 (ESV)
[9] Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, **hallowed be your name**. [10] Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Why is it important to start prayers off with praise to God?

-He is worthy!
-As a reminder to us of how great HE is!

III. Scorn from the Skeptics

"shall I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"

On the surface this may sound like selfishness, but why would Samson care about falling into the hands of the Philistines if he were dead? I believe his concern was for the scorn that would be directed towards Jehovah from the Philistines and praise that would be directed toward their false gods. Consider what happened when he was captured after his adventures with Delilah:

Judges 16:23–24 (ESV)
[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."

Do we ever think about the potential for scorn being directed towards God because of our actions out in the world? What about on social media? Constantly see Christians...

- Sharing pictures...
  - Flaunting their consumption of alcohol
  - Wearing revealing clothing

- Posting controversial or hateful things

- Getting into heated conversations with others about things in the world

- Showing a lack of compassion for others who are enduring tragedy

Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV)

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and **give glory to your Father who is in heaven**.

Person to Be Revived

1 Kings 19:4–8 (ESV)
4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a
broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my
life, for I am no better than my fathers." 5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And
behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 And he looked, and behold,
there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and
lay down again. 7 And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and
said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." 8 And he arose and ate and drank, and
went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

Prayer to be Revived

2 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)
7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the
revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me
from becoming conceited.

Matthew 6:9–13 (ESV)
9 Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Judges 16:24 (ESV)
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."

Judges 14:1–3 (ESV)
1 Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw one of the daughters of the Philistines. 2
Then he came up and told his father and mother, "I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines
at Timnah. Now get her for me as my wife." 3 But his father and mother said to him, "Is there
not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you must go

to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes."

Plan for Being Revived

4388. מַכְתֵּשׁ **maktesh** (509d); from 3806; *mortar*:—hollow(1), mortar(1).[1]

4847 מַכְתֵּשׁ (*măḵ·tēš*): n.masc. [see also 4847.5]; ≡ Str 4388, 4389; TWOT 1061a—**1.** LN 1.51–1.59 **hollow place**, i.e., an area just under the ground, where a spring is located (Jdg 15:19+), note: though possible to translate "molar tooth in the jaw bone," it makes no sense, and so the geographical location is preferred; **2.** LN 6.118–6.151 **mortar**, i.e., a grinding container device pressing against a pestle bowl, and so crushing the material in the container (Pr 27:22+)
מַכְתֵּשׁ (*măḵ·tēš*): n.pr. [served by 4847]; ≡ Str 4388, 4389;—LN 93-place (loc.) (kjv, nkjv, asv)

> **Maktesh**: district of Jerusalem (Zep 1:11+); (Tanakh) **Machtesh;** (niv) **the market district;** (nasb, rsv, nrsv, nab) **Mortar;** (njb) **the Hollow;** (neb, reb) Lower Town, note: "hollow, mortar, and lower" are all possible appellatives (names) based on the meaning in Hebrew, yet a definite location is required from the context, see 4847 מלא (*ml'*): see 4848[2]

5875. עֵין הַקּוֹרֵא **En Haqqore** (896c); from 5871a and 7121; "spring of the one calling," location of a miraculous spring:—En-hakkore(1).[3]

Exodus 17:6 (ESV)
[6] Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Product of Being Revived

Judges 13:5 (ESV)
[5] for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

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[1] Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.
[2] Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.
[3] Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.