

I WANNA KNOW ABOUT SAMSON'S STRENGTH

Written by

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INTRO

B-roll **MONTAGE** of a BUILDING imploding, a raging STORM, a WHALE in the ocean, a snarling LION, and beautiful satellite footage of SPACE.

CALEB (V.O.)

A guy shoves a building down with his bare hands, one word and a storm stops, a dude gets swallowed by a whale, lions just chill with a guy, and a vast universe is created by just... words.

EXT. HOT AIR BALLOON - DAY

Caleb stands in the basket of a hot air balloon 2,000 feet up. One heck of a view.

CALEB

All that is in here.

He holds up a BIBLE.

CALEB (CONT'D)

The Bible is packed with extraordinary stories! I'm Caleb Morgan and I wanna know, how is this stuff possible?! Modern day experts are going to help me understand our world better...

He turns to the awesome view.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Look at all that... So incredible...

(turns back to camera)

...so I can understand my faith and how God works in the world!

(invites the audience with a gesture)

C'mon!! I wanna know!

OPENER

TITLE SEQUENCE. Think cut and paste images from the opening montage, Caleb in various poses, and other imagery that hints at future episodes, all jittering with a stop motion feel set to something reminiscent of happy 80's pop/rap (maybe an early Reliant K feel...?).

Something like Spider-man: Far From Home end credits.

End on title text: I WANNA KNOW ABOUT SAMSON'S STRENGTH

ACT ONE

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

Caleb stands somewhere we can't quite make out.

CALEB

What's up guys! Ever heard of Samson? He had a great head of hair.

Caleb stops, flashes a smiles and primps his own hair a little.

CALEB (CONT'D)

And his strength was off the charts! He tore apart lions with his bare hands, destroyed armies with a donkey jaw bone-- who does that?? --and just, shoved a building down.

Cut to WIDE. Caleb is standing in front of a bulldozer. An operator sits inside.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Today, we need something like this to tear down buildings. But Samson... God gave him the gift of strength. But what does it mean to be strong? Is it all muscles or is there some other kind of strength? And just how strong was Samson? I want to know... could one man really destroy a building with his bare hands? I thought maybe these guys could help me find out.

CUT TO STUDIO SLOW MO of THE CONQUERORS demonstrating feats of strength.

CALEB (CONT'D)

They look pretty strong, am I right?

CONQUERORS (O.S.)

C'mon guys!

Cut WIDER. The Conquerors hold a rope tied to the bulldozer. The Conquerors start to COUNTDOWN.

CONQUERORS (CONT'D)

3... 2...

CALEB

Wait! Hold up guys, hold up...

The Conquerors sag and throw up their hands. Lots of "aw man!" and "c'mon!" mumblings.

Caleb moves between the Conquerors and the bulldozer.

CALEB (CONT'D)

(to camera)

See, we can't actually tear down a building so we're going to see if these guys can win against the machine that tears down the buildings. Man versus machine. Tug-of-war style!

CLOSE ON Caleb.

CALEB (CONT'D)

But real quick, let's grab a few story stats and get to know Samson a little better.

TEXT and meme-like IMAGES pop up on-screen as he lists and points to Story Stats: Book of Judges, Nazarite Vow (Numbers 6:1-21), No grapes, no corpses, no haircuts, Weakness: Women!

CALEB (CONT'D)

His story is in the book of Judges.

(pause)

When he was born, God gave him a special mission and set him apart from the rest of the Israelites with something called the Nazarite Vow. "Nazarite" literally means "set apart" and the very few people who take this vow follow specific rules--

(pause)

...no drinks made from grapes, no touching dead bodies (really, who would want to do that? Yuck.), and no cutting off those luscious locks.

(pause)

But Samson had a weakness: women. Someone named Delilah tricked him into breaking his vow with that first haircut.

CONQUERORS (O.S.)

Caleb!

WHIP to epic slo-mo shots of THE CONQUERORS flexing, mean-mugging, prepping their massive hands, and picking up a rope.

CALEB

Bring it on, guys!

(to camera)

Let's find out what it takes to be strong. Meet, the Conquerors.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

B-ROLL PACKAGE: THE CONQUERORS

Lots of epic slo-mo shots of The Conquerors as they perform their specialized feats of strength.

CALEB (V.O.)

The Conquerors are a group of strongmen that bend bars with their teeth, rip phonebooks in half, snap baseball bats, fold frying pans, and break bricks. And they use everything they do to talk about who God is and how he works in our lives.

INT. GYM - DAY

SEGMENT OUTLINE:

-Introductions (brief). Caleb jumps right into a challenge. He claims he's ready to tear a phone book in half. Tries. Fails.

-What is strength? The guys address the difference between a bodybuilder and a strongman. Maybe talk about the science of muscles (fibrous, ripping versus training the brain to use muscles), how to train muscles for strength (low reps, increasing weight).

-Are there other kinds of strength? Where does real strength come from? (Talk about mental strength and endurance and maybe just hint at real strength coming from obeying the Lord. No sermon needed. Just something that can hint at what they say about Samson and the Spirit later.)

-What does it take to get strong? Brief workout montage with the guys - grip work, benchpress, cable work

-What do they say to people when they do this stuff? How does it come back to God? Horseshoe bending. He shapes us into a new creation. It's painful, and we're resistant to the process. Push through the pain.

-What do they think about Samson? Humans have limits. We know ours. But every time Samson did a feat of strength, the Bible says "and the Holy Spirit came upon him." That's when he goes beyond those limits. We've all felt like there were moments when the Spirit aided in our feats of strength. And it took listening to the Lord and obeying Him.

-Have any of you pushed a building down before? You think you could?

INT. CAR, MOVING - DAY

Caleb drives and talks.

CALEB

Okay... that blew my mind a little. Those guys are incredible. The way God made our bodies is incredible!

(pause)

But still... we're talking about a guy who brought down an entire building. Which means, I need to talk to someone who knows a little about structural engineering...

B-ROLL PACKAGE: TIM WELLERT

CLOSE ON TIM as he stands in front of a half-built structure, plans in hand. A hand-drawn graphic animates on- an ARROW pointing to Tim that with the words "SUPER SMART!"

CALEB (V.O.)

Tim Wellert has degrees in geotechnical and structural engineering and has designed some of the world's modern marvels.

CUT TO a **MONTAGE** of structures (bridges, tunnels, floating concrete structure in the North Atlantic).

EXT. CITY - DAY

SEGMENT OUTLINE:

-Caleb and Tim walk through the city near awesome buildings. Caleb asks Tim about how strong some of the buildings around them are and what they're made of.

-But back in Samson's time, buildings were probably a lot less strong, right? Tim talks about the two center column structure and how strong it is along with information about the materials probably used. Be sure to speak to bad materials and maybe include the story of the dam that failed (bad materials AND bad design). But likely, the structure was standing for awhile so it probably wasn't bad design or bad materials.

-So could anything else have knocked the building down? What can knock a building down? Joke about the various heavy machinery needed to knock a modern building down. But other than that, we'd look at wind and snow load. There's no evidence of either.

-Okay... but I just heard a story about a guy named Archimedes and this crazy feat of strength he pulled off. He pulled a whole warship out of the dock... by himself. So a guy could totally knock down a building, right? Tim uses this example to explain, physics are the same back then as they are today. It comes down to Newton's Laws of Motion. [Maybe explain how Newton's Laws apply to the two examples specifically?] And in the story about Archimedes, he used physics, specifically pulleys, to haul the warship. But the forces needed for a guy to knock down a center two column structure would depend on [insert things like friction coefficient, etc] and would likely be, VERY roughly, thousands of pounds of force.

CALEB

Thanks for the math facts, Tim!
I've got to get back to the man
versus machine tug-of-war before
the Conquerors come looking for
me...

[Support the entire segment with meme-like images and animated math graphics.]

ACT THREE

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

Caleb walks through the construction site.

CALEB

Guys, I'm a little nervous. I talked big to these guys and now... well, I know God can gift someone with insane strength! That building didn't just come down on its own.

Caleb stops.

CALEB (CONT'D)

But no matter what happens in the tug-of-war... we know Samson's strength was a gift from God.

(pause)

Now there were times when Samson was down right disobedient. He was set apart to serve God and walk with Him. But he disobeyed God... a lot. Especially when it came to the, ahem, ladies. He's not someone you'd think, oh yeah, that guy's my hero!

(pause)

But in the book of Hebrews, that's what he is. He's listed with people who were faithful to God. Along with people like Joseph and Moses and David! People we do call heroes! But how?? Samson was weak! He did what he wanted and disobeyed God. But even when we don't obey God, even when we rebel, God is gracious. He gives people that follow Him His Spirit. And the fruit of that Spirit is faithfulness.

(pause)

It took Samson awhile, but in the end, he knew that real strength came from God's Spirit and he was faithful to God's calling.

As Caleb starts quoting the Bible verse, cut out GRAPHICS pop up and illustrate the point.

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

Paul told the Corinthians, "I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 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."

The graphics drop out.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Well, fam, I tell ya, I'm pretty darned weak. But by God's Spirit, I'm strong.

(pause)

And today... I have a bulldozer.

With a mischievous laugh--

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE, BULLDOZER - MOMENTS LATER

--he walks over the tug-of-war set-up. The Conquerors are still there.

Cue slo-mo mean-mugging...

CONQUERORS

3... 2... 1... GO!

The Conquerors seem to be putting up a good fight. But something grinds in the bulldozer and with a gear shift, it slowly drags the Conquerors back.

Caleb jumps around, cheering.

CALEB

I thought you guys had it!

CONQUERORS

We almost did! Watch out, buddy!

CALEB

(to camera)

Thanks for hanging with me and learning about Samson's strength... and how God works in our weakness. Catch you later, guys!

END ACT THREE