

An Litir Bheag **le Ruairidh MacIlleathain**

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 403 (which corresponds to Litir 707). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk.

I'm going to tell you about a man in the Bible. He is named on the Scottish landscape. Here is a verse from the Bible about him.

And the angel of the Lord revealed himself to the woman and he said to her – look, you're now infertile and you haven't had children, but you will conceive and give birth to a son ... and no razor will be used on his head; because the child will be a Nazarite set aside to God; and he will begin the deliverance of the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines.

That piece comes from the Book of Judges. Do you know who the son was that was going to free the Israelites? Look at the sentence 'no razor will be used on his head'. Who is it but Samson! And Samson is named on the Scottish landscape. I'll tell you where later on.

In Chapter 14 of the Book of Judges, we hear about Samson's strength. He was seeking a wife among the Philistines. He was going past a vineyard. A lion attacked him. But Samson ripped the lion apart with his hands.

Tha mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh mu fhear anns a' Bhioball. Tha e ainmichte air tìr na h-Alba. Seo earrann bhon Bhìoball mu dheidhinn.

Agus dh'fhoillsich aingeal an Tighearn' e fhèin don bhean, agus thuirte e rithe – fèach, tha thu a-nise neo-thorrach, agus cha d' rug thu fhathast clann; ach ginidh tu, agus beiridh tu mac ... agus cha tig ealtainn sam bith air a cheann; oir bidh an leanabh na Nasarach do Dhia on bhroinn; agus tòisichidh e air Israel a shaoradh à làimh nam Philisteach.

Tha am pìos sin a' tighinn bho Leabhar nam Breitheamhna. A bheil fios agaibh cò e am mac a bha a' dol a shaoradh nan Israelach? Coimheadaibh air an t-seantans 'cha tig ealtainn sam bith air a cheann'. Cò tha ann ach Samson! Agus tha Samson air ainm-eachadh air tìr na h-Alba. Innsidh mi dhuibh càite nas fhaide air adhart.

Ann an Caibideil a ceithir-deug de Leabhar nam Breitheamhna, tha sinn a' cluinntinn mu neart Shamsoin. Bha e a' lorg bean am measg nam Philisteach. Bha e a' dol seachad air fion-lios. Thug leòmhann ionnsaigh air. Ach reub Samson an leòmhann às a chèile le a làmhan.

Another day, he was on the road to marry the woman. He went past the lion's carcass. Inside it there was a swarm of bees and honey. Samson took a fistful of honey. He ate the honey.

Samson gave a feast. Thirty people came as companions for him. He gave those people a riddle. Here's what he said: From the one that eats, food came; and from the fierce one, sweetness came. I'll say that again. From the one that eats, food came; and from the fierce one, sweetness came.

A few days elapsed. Finally, the companions got the solution. They said to him, 'What is sweeter than honey, what is fiercer than a lion?' They understood that Samson was talking about the lion he killed.

I was going to tell you where Samson is named on the Scottish landscape. But that will now have to wait till next week. Cheerio.

Latha eile, bha e air an rathad airson am boireannach a phòsadh. Chaidh e seachad air closach an leòmhainn. Na bhroinn, bha sgaoth sheilleanan agus mil. Ghabh Samson làn cròige de mhill. Dh'ith e a' mhill.

Rinn Samson cuirm. Thàinig trithead duine mar chompanaich dha. Thug e tòimhseachan do na daoine sin. Seo na thuirt e: *Às an fhear a dh'itheas, thàinig a-mach biadh; agus às an fhear gharg thàinig a-mach milseachd.* Canaidh mi sin a-rithist. *Às an fhear a dh'itheas, thàinig a-mach biadh; agus às an fhear gharg thàinig a-mach milseachd.*

Chaidh beagan làithean seachad. Mu dheireadh fhuair na companaich aige am fuasgladh. Thuirt iad ris, 'Ciod as milse na mil, ciod as gairge na leòmhan?' Thuig iad gun robh Samson a' bruidhinn mun leòmhan a mharbh e.

Bha mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh cà' bheil Samson air ainmeachadh air tìr na h-Alba. Ach feumaidh sin feitheamh chun na h-ath-sheachdain a-nise. Slàn leibh.