

## Judges 14

Verses 1 - 4

Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, *one* of the daughters of the Philistines. <sup>2</sup> So he came back and told his father and mother, “I saw a woman in Timnah, *one* of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.” <sup>3</sup> Then his father and his mother said to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she looks good to me.” <sup>4</sup> However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.

Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, *one* of the daughters of the Philistines.

See Map 1405



The words went down and came up refer to the altitudes of the two places.

**<sup>2</sup> So he came back and told his father and mother, “I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.”**

At this point in time the relationship from Samson’s perspective seems to be based on a physical attraction.

Ladies aren’t you glad that most men don’t think like this. 😊😊

**<sup>3</sup> Then his father and his mother said to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?”**

Any Jewish parents would be concerned about this but considering the fact that Samson was a Nazarite, one dedicated to God in a special way, it would make this marriage even more unwarranted.

**<sup>4</sup> However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines.**

Does this mean God wanted Samson to marry someone outside of the Jewish faith? We should remember that God told Hosea to marry a prostitute.

See Hosea 1:2

**<sup>2</sup> When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take for yourself a wife inclined to infidelity, and children of infidelity; for the land commits flagrant infidelity, abandoning the LORD.”**

**Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.**

The Philistines had been ruling over Israel for the last 20 years (1118 to 1098 BC).

We know that because Israel was oppressed for 40 years and Samson ruled for the last 20 years of that time period.

The Philistines will be crushed by Samson at the end of his 20 year rule (which ends with his death).

See chart 1410

### Judges time line

Chapter	Event/Leader	Time	Oppressed	Peace	As leader
10 - 12	Jephthah	1118 - 1094	18		6
12	Ibzan	1094 - 1087			7
12	Elon	1087 - 1078			10
12	Abdon	1077 - 1070			8
13 - 16	Samson	1118 - 1078	40		20

Verses 5 - 9

Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion *came* roaring toward him. <sup>6</sup>The Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a young goat though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done. <sup>7</sup> So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson. <sup>8</sup> When he returned later to take her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion. <sup>9</sup> So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave *some* to them and they ate *it*; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion.

Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion *came* roaring toward him. <sup>6</sup>The Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a young goat though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

On the way to Timnah a young lion attacked Samson but the Spirit of God came upon him and he tore the lion as one tears a young goat.

There is no explanation for this super-human feat other than the power of God at work in Samson. Even more so when we consider that Samson used his bare hands.

This was a sign of things to come.

**<sup>7</sup> So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson.**

Samson had only seen the woman, but now he had an opportunity to talk with her.

Samson continued to be very pleased with his choice.

**<sup>8</sup> When he returned later to take her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion. <sup>9</sup> So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave *some* to them and they ate *it*; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion.**

Weeks or even months may have elapsed between the visit and the wedding. Enough time for the swarm of bees to produce a good bit of honey.

Verses 10 - 14

**<sup>10</sup> Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this. <sup>11</sup> When they saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him. <sup>12</sup> Then Samson said to them, "Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes. <sup>13</sup> But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes." And they said to him, "Propound your riddle, that we may hear it." <sup>14</sup> So he said to them,**

**"Out of the eater came something to eat,  
And out of the strong came something sweet."**

**But they could not tell the riddle in three days.**

**<sup>10</sup> Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this. <sup>11</sup> When they saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him.**

At the time of marriage; there was a feast. The feast lasted for seven days and was attended by a large group of relatives and friends.

Apparently Samson only came with his parents so the bride provided 30 companions to be with him.

**<sup>12</sup> Then Samson said to them, “Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes. <sup>13</sup> But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.”**

Making a bet with the 30 young Philistine men does not seem like something that was likely to turn out well.

Verses 15 - 17

**<sup>15</sup> Then it came about on the fourth day that they said to Samson’s wife, “Entice your husband, so that he will tell us the riddle, or we will burn you and your father’s house with fire. Have you invited us to impoverish us? Is this not so?”**

**<sup>16</sup> Samson’s wife wept before him and said, “You only hate me, and you do not love me; you have propounded a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told *it* to me.” And he said to her, “Behold, I have not told *it* to my father or mother; so should I tell you?” <sup>17</sup> However she wept before him seven days while their feast lasted. And on the seventh day he told her because she pressed him so hard. She then told the riddle to the sons of her people.**

**<sup>15</sup> Then it came about on the fourth day that they said to Samson’s wife, “Entice your husband, so that he will tell us the riddle, or we will burn you and your father’s house with fire.”**

We don’t know much about these 30 companions, but with friends like these who needs enemies. They were supposed to be there to celebrate the wedding of Samson and his wife but their priority was centered on winning a bet.

**<sup>16</sup> Samson’s wife wept before him and said, “You only hate me, and you do not love me; you have propounded a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told *it* to me.” And he said to her, “Behold, I have not told *it* to my father or mother; so should I tell you?”**

It is possible that Samson’s wife was truly concerned about the threat that was made against her and her family but that is not her complaint to Samson. The fact that she doesn’t mention the threat to him tells us that her motives are less than honorable.

However, Samson’s reply to her was not one that was going to defuse the situation.

**17 However she wept before him seven days while their feast lasted. And on the seventh day he told her because she pressed him so hard. She then told the riddle to the sons of her people.**

If this is the first week of their marriage, good luck with “until death do we part”.

Verses 18 - 20

**18 So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down,**

**“What is sweeter than honey?  
And what is stronger than a lion?”**

**And he said to them,**

**“If you had not plowed with my heifer,  
You would not have found out my riddle.”**

**19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil and gave the changes of *clothes* to those who told the riddle. And his anger burned, and he went up to his father’s house. <sup>20</sup> But Samson’s wife was *given* to his companion who had been his friend.**

**“If you had not plowed with my heifer,  
You would not have found out my riddle.”**

Samson was well aware of what had happened and let the 30 men know that what they had done was not right.

**19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil and gave the changes of *clothes* to those who told the riddle**

Ashkelon was located on the very edge of the Mediterranean Sea.

See Map 1415



Even though the 30 men had cheated to discover the riddle, Samson paid the debt he owed. But the Philistines in Ashkelon paid the real cost.

**And his anger burned, and he went up to his father's house. <sup>20</sup> But Samson's wife was *given* to his companion who had been his friend.**

Samson was angry with his wife and went to his father's house.

The father-in-law assumed the marriage was over and gave his daughter to another man.