### Judges

## Chapter 14

1[Then several years later], [Judge #12] Samson went down to ThamNatha, and he noticed a woman there that was the daughter of one of the Philistines.  
  
2So he went and told his father and mother:  
  
 ‘I saw a girl in ThamNatham, a daughter of one of the Philistines, whom I want you to take to be my woman!’  
  
3And his parents asked:  
  
 ‘Aren’t there enough daughters among our brothers or any women among all our people? Why do you want to take a woman from among the uncircumcised Philistines?’  
  
And Samson replied:  
  
 ‘Take her, because she really appeals to me.’  
  
4Well, what his father and mother didn’t realize is that this [action] had come from Jehovah... For He wanted to bring His vengeance upon the Philistines that were dominating IsraEl at the time.  
  
5So, Samson traveled with his father and mother down to ThamNatha, and when he got to the vineyard there, a young lion roared and ran out to meet him! 6Well, the Breath of Jehovah came over him in a powerful way, and he crushed the lion as though it were a kid goat, leaving nothing in his hands!  
  
However, he didn’t tell his father and mother what he’d done, 7for they were off speaking to the woman whom Samson had found so attractive.  
  
  
8Well, sometime later, as he was returning to take the girl, he went back to look at the carcass of the lion, and he noticed that a swarm of bees had taken up living in its mouth... 9So, he took some of the honey and traveled on. He ate part of it, then he went and offered the rest to his father and mother.  
  
They also ate it, because he didn’t tell them that he’d taken the honey out of a lion’s mouth.  
  
  
10Well thereafter, his father went [and took] the woman [for Samson], and Samson held a wedding banquet in that place that lasted 7 days (which was customary for young men to do at the time), 11to which 30 [local] guests were invited, and that stayed with him.  
  
12Then Samson said to them:  
  
 ‘Let me tell you a riddle, and if you can answer it correctly during the next 7 days of the banquet, I’ll give [each of you] a wrap and a new set of clothes.  
  
 13‘But if you can’t answer it, you must each give me a wrap and a new set of clothes.’  
  
And they replied:  
  
 ‘Okay, tell us your riddle.’  
  
14Then he told them this:  
  
 ‘The eater came for the meat, but sweetness came from the strong one.’  
  
Well, they tried to solve the riddle for three days, but they couldn’t figure it out... 15Then on the 4th day, they went to Samson’s woman and said:  
  
 ‘We want you to fool your husband. For, unless you make him explain that riddle to you, we’re going to burn down your father’s house with you in it!  
  
 ‘Surely you didn’t invite us here just to [rob] us?!’  
  
16So Samson’s woman went to him and started crying, saying:  
  
 ‘You don’t really care for me…  
  
 ‘You don’t love me, because you haven’t given me the answer to the riddle that you posed to the sons of my people!’  
  
And Samson asked her:  
  
 ‘If I haven’t given the answer to my own father and mother, why should I tell it to you?’  
  
17Well, she just kept on crying in front of him throughout their banquet; so on the 7th day he gave her the answer, because she kept bothering him…  
  
And then she told it to the [guests].  
  
18So before sunrise on the 7th day, the [guests] (who were from the city) came to him and answered:  
  
 ‘What’s sweeter than honey, and what’s stronger than a lion?’  
  
Then Samson said to them:  
  
 ‘If you hadn’t been plowing with my heifer, you would have never figured out my riddle!’  
  
19And at that, the Breath of Jehovah came over him and he went down into the city and destroyed 30 men, then he took their clothes and gave them to the ones who had answered the riddle. And after that, Samson was so angry that he just went back to the house of his father.  
  
20Meanwhile, [her father] gave Samson’s wife to his best man… To one of his friends!