

JUDGES CHAPTER 14

¹ And Sampson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. ² And he went up and told his father and his mother, and said, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; and now take her to me for a wife." ³ And his father and his mother said to him, "Are there no daughters among your brothers, and *is there not* a woman of all my people, that you *would* go to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Sampson said to his father, "Take her for me, for she is right in my eyes." ⁴ And his father and his mother did not know that it was of the Lord, that He sought to be revenged on the Philistines. And at that time the Philistines lorded it over Israel. ⁵ And Sampson and his father and his mother went down to Timnah, and he came to the vineyard of Timnah. And behold, a young lion roared in meeting him. ⁶ And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him, and he crushed *the lion* as he would have crushed a young goat, and there was nothing in his hands. And he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. ⁷ And they went down and spoke to the woman, and she was pleasing in the eyes of Sampson. ⁸ And after some time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey *were* in the mouth of the lion. ⁹ And he took it into his hands, and went on eating, and he went to his father and his mother, and gave to them, and they did eat; but he did not tell them that he took the honey out of the mouth of the lion.

¹⁰ And his father went down to the woman, and Sampson made there a banquet for seven days, for so the young men are used to doing. ¹¹ And it came to pass when they saw him, that they took thirty guests, and they were with him. ¹² And Sampson said to them, "I put to you a riddle: if you will indeed tell it to me, and discover it within the seven days of the feast, I will you give thirty sheets and thirty changes of clothing. ¹³ And if you cannot tell it me, you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing." And they said to him, "Put forth your riddle, and we will hear it." ¹⁴ And he said to them, "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet." And they could not explain the riddle for three days.

¹⁵ And it came to pass on the fourth day, that they said to the wife of Sampson, "Deceive now your husband, and let him tell you the riddle, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire: did you invite us to do us violence?" ¹⁶ And Sampson's wife wept before him, and said, "You just hate me! You don't love me! For the riddle which you have put to my people you have not told me." And Sampson said to her, "If I have not told it to my father and my mother, shall I tell it to you?" ¹⁷ And she wept before him the *entire* seven days in which the banquet lasted. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she troubled him; and she told it to her people. ¹⁸ And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day, before sunrise, "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?" And Sampson said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have known my riddle."

¹⁹ And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him powerfully, and he went down to Ashkelon, and destroyed thirty men among the inhabitants, and took their garments, and gave the changes of clothing to them that told the riddle. And Sampson was very angry, and went

up to the house of his father.²⁰ And the wife of Sampson was *given* to one of his friends, with whom he was on terms of friendship.