

Judges 14

Judges 14.1-4

V1 – Timnah was a town under the control of the Philistines

-**What does this say about Samson's personality?** Rather rash and reckless

-**Who did he see in Timnah?** A young Philistine lady

V2 – **What did Samson tell his parents?** Get this woman for me as a wife

-**What was so shocking about this?** Normally, the Israelite parents chose a wife for their son

-Remember Abraham sending his servant to get a Rebekah for Isaac

V3 – **What was the reaction of Samson's parents?** Upset – no Israelite girls?

-**Why did Samson want to marry her?** "She looks good to me"

-Remember that intermarriage was against the laws of God

-Joshua had warned them not to do this – *Joshua 23.12*

V4 – God was going to use this headstrong young man for His own purposes (to defeat the Philistines)

-**Why defeat the Philistines?** Because they were oppressing the people of God

Judges 14.5-9

V5 – **What happened to Samson just before he got to Timnah?** He was attacked by a lion

-**What did Samson do?** He killed the lion with his bare hands

V6 – **How was he able to kill the lion?** With the help of the Spirit of God

-**Did he tell his parents?** No

-**Why didn't his parents know about this?**

-**See *Beacon Bible Commentary, II, 168*** – maybe they had an argument with Samson and separated from him for awhile

V7 – Samson talked to the woman - she looked good to him

V8 – **When he returned later (maybe a year later), what did he see?** A swarm of bees living in the carcass of the lion

V9 – **What did Samson do?** He scraped the honey from the lion and ate it (and gave some to his parents)

-We see that Samson was a "crude" person – just scraped a glob of honey out with his hands

Judges 14.10-14

V10 – **Following the custom of the day, what did Samson do?** Held a feast for the marriage

V 11 – How many Philistine men showed up? 30

V 12 – What was the prize to figure out Samson's riddle? He would give them 30 linen wraps and 30 changes of clothing
-Time limit? 7 days to answer the riddle

V 13 – And if Samson won? They would give him the same

V 14 – Reread the riddle
-No answer in the first 3 days of the feast

Judges 14.15-20

V 15 – How desperate were the Philistine men? They threatened to burn down the house of Samson's wife and her parents
-Their urgency? "Are you trying to make us poor?"
-What does this tell us about the Philistines? They were a very violent and lawless people

V 16 – Characterize Samson's wife: A whiner
"If you loved me, you would tell me" - what an old line!
-Samson's answer? I haven't even told my parents – so why should I tell you?

V 17 – What did she do? Cried and whined for the rest of the 7 days
-Samson? He told her, and she told the Philistine men (real sweet of her, wasn't it?)

V 18 – They answered the riddle
-Samson: a very gentle man, wasn't he?
-"Heifer" – a young cow that has not had a calf yet
-Imagine calling your wife this!

V 19 – How did Samson supply the 30 changes of clothing? Killed 30 Philistines
-Note the anger of Samson

V 20 – His bride was given to his friend

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