

JUDGES 14 vs 1

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The author of this book is uncertain, some suggest Samuel, the high priest. It was written around 1050-1000bc. The events in the book cover the stormy period of the history of Israel between their return from Egypt until the time a monarchy was set in place. The judges were military and civil leaders during the confederacy of the 12 tribes plus Ephraim and Manasseh who occupied the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Book of Judges



The brief marriage of Samson,

¹ Then Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.

² So he came back, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: so get her for me to wife.

³ 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 of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said to his father, Get her for me; for she pleases me well.

⁴ But his father and his mother did not know that it was of the LORD, that He sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.

⁵ Then Samson went down with his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and behold, a young lion roared against him.

⁶ And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent it like he rent a kid-goat, with nothing in his hand: but he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

⁷ So he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

⁸ When later he returned to take her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion.

⁹ And he took of it in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they ate: but he did not tell those that he got the honey from the carcass of the lion / so Samson violated what was a law for a Nazarite: to touch no dead carcass.

¹⁰ Then his father went down to the woman: and Samson made a feast there; for it was the custom of young men.

¹¹ And it happened, when they saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him.

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¹² And Samson said to them, I will now put forth a riddle to you: if you will tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen sheets and thirty changes of garments:

¹³ But if you cannot tell it to me, then you will give me thirty linen sheets and thirty changes of garments. And they said to him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it.

¹⁴ And he said to them, From the eater came forth food, and from the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle.

¹⁵ And it happened on the seventh day, that they said to Samson's wife, Entice your husband, that he tell to us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire: have you called us to impoverish us? is this not so?

¹⁶ And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, You only hate me, and do not love me: you put forth a riddle to the children of my people, and have not told it to me. And he said to her, Behold, I have not told it to my father nor my mother, so should I tell you?

¹⁷ So she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it happened on the seventh day, that he told her, because she sorely pressured him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people.

¹⁸ And 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 **And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him**, and he went down to Ashkelon, and killed thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave the changes of garments to those who expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

²⁰ But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom had been his friend.

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