

## THE RIDDLE OF SAMSON – PART 1

--JUDGES 14:1-20--

### INTRODUCTION:

Three weeks ago, we began the history of the final judge given to us in the book of Judges. Samson's history as it begins in chapter 13 is pleasant enough. We learned of his miraculous birth and the announcement that he would be a judge in Israel. As we come into chapter 14, we find this man described as self-centered and rebellious, and though born and buried as a hero, in truth he is an outlaw and a trickster who makes his own rules and foolishly wastes his extraordinary calling and gifts. How can God use a man like this? This morning we will begin to look at this riddle named Samson.

- I. GOD'S PLAN / SAMSON'S CHOICES (Judges 13:25-14:4)
  - a. At the end of chapter 13 we are told that when Samson had grown but was still living with his parents that the Spirit of the LORD began to \_\_\_\_\_ him.
  - b. As we come into the first verse of Judges 14 the picture that is painted for us by the author is anything but \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. His parents' response clearly shows the pain and disappointment that they have because Samson's choice for a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Like the Israelites of his day, Samson operates exclusively on the basis of his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. Verse 4 is the \_\_\_\_\_ to the entire history of Samson, because in this verse the author gives us a basis for what Samson is doing, and it is from God's perspective.
  - f. The author has written this account in such a way that it creates \_\_\_\_\_ in the mind of his readers.
- II. GOD'S EMPOWERING/SAMSON'S DEFILING (Judges 14:5-9)
  - a. It is obvious that Samson has convinced his parents to make the arrangements for him to \_\_\_\_\_ the Philistine woman from Timnah because we find them on the road to Timnah.
  - b. Verse six tells us two significant things about this \_\_\_\_\_ attack.

1. First, we are told that the Spirit of the \_\_\_\_\_ came upon Samson mightily.
  2. Second, we are told that when he rejoined his parents, he did not \_\_\_\_\_ them what he had done.
- c. Had God sent this lion as a \_\_\_\_\_ to Samson that he was walking on the wrong path?
  - d. Arriving at Timnah, Samson and his parents entered into talks with this \_\_\_\_\_ and her parents.
  - e. Verse 8 records for us the return of Samson and his parents to Timnah for the actual \_\_\_\_\_ and the feast.
  - f. To his surprise a swarm of \_\_\_\_\_ have taken up residence in the carcass of the lion and they have begun to produce honey. This bit of information is significant for three reasons.
  - g. First, this is definitely an act of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - h. Second, this image is completely ironic. In a world of \_\_\_\_\_ and decomposition Samson discovers a community of bees.
  - i. Third, like so many circumstances in Samson's history, this sight provided a \_\_\_\_\_ of Samson's character.

### CONCLUSION:

According to Hebrews 11:32, Samson was a man of faith, but he certainly wasn't a faithful man. He showed his unfaithfulness in his disregard for his upbringing and his parent's teaching, his disregard for his Nazirite vow and his disregard for the Laws of the LORD. Samson made his own rules and lived by his own standards. He was controlled by the lust of the flesh rather than the law of the Lord. The important thing to Samson was not pleasing the Lord, or pleasing his parents, but pleasing himself.

When we refuse to allow God to rule our lives, He overrules and works out His will in spite of our decisions. God took the decision that Samson had made and used it to accomplish His purpose. Israel's deliverance from the Philistines is fulfilled in spite of Samson's unfaithfulness and disregard for all that was right according to God's standards. When you determine what is right for your life, do not be like Samson and determine it by your standards. You must determine it by God's standards if you want what is truly right for your life.