

## **Samson's Riddle**

Judges 14

by Don Falkos

copyright 2016 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

Samson expressed his desire to marry a particular Philistine woman. His parents were distressed, "Isn't there some nice Israelite woman you could marry?" But he was insistent.

When Samson was on his way to make the wedding arrangements, he was attacked by a young lion. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon Samson, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands. Later, when he was on his way to the wedding, he found that a swarm of bees had made honey in the lion's carcass. He scooped out some of the honey with his hands and ate it.

Thirty young Philistine men were recruited as companions for Samson during the week-long celebration leading up to the wedding. Samson said to these thirty young men, "Let me tell you a riddle. If you solve it, I'll give each of you a set of fine clothes. If not, each of you will have to give me a set of fine clothes."

They agreed. So Samson said, "Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet."

The young men couldn't decipher the riddle, so they threatened Samson's bride; she nagged him until he told her what it meant; she informed the young men, who said to Samson, "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?"

Samson replied, "If you hadn't plowed with my heifer, you wouldn't have solved my riddle!"

The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon Samson. He went to a near-by town and killed thirty Philistine men. He took their belongings, and gave them to the thirty young men.

Samson was so angry he went home, and his bride was given to another man.