Samson & His Philistine Wife
Judg. 14

Introduction

This chapter reveals some of Samson's lapses in good spiritual judgment. His choice and "criteria" for a wife indicated fleshly *(carnal)* thinking. Also implied were some problems harmonizing his conduct with the Nazirite vow.

Yet, God would use these events in building His overall providential plan to punish the Philistines. Just as He used hatred in Joseph's story (Gen. 37:3-4; 45:4-8), God will also use Samson's impulsiveness and character weaknesses to help accomplish His will against the Philistines.

1) Where did Samson go in v. 1? What resulted from this visit? (v. 2)

2) How did his parents react to his demand? (v. 3a) How did they demonstrate deeper spiritual character than did their son? (cp. 13:8, 12)

3) What was Samson's reply? (v. 3b) What "criteria" does he demonstrate? Make application.

4) Of what were his parents unaware? (v. 4)

5) What happened on Samson's 2nd trip to Timnah? (vv. 5-7) What happened on the return trip home? (vv. 8-9) Do you see any difficulty re: this and his Nazirite vow? Consider these passages in your answer: Num. 6:6; Lev. 11:27.

6) *Thought question*: why do you suppose he did not tell his parents of the lion or the honey?

7) What is recorded in vv. 10-11? *Note*: the Hebrew word for "feast" indicates this was a drinking feast. Again, what problems did this present for Samson re: his Nazirite vow?

8) What does Samson propose during his feast? (vv. 12-14a) How did the men of Timnah eventually solve the riddle? (vv. 14b-18a)

9) How did Samson show his perception of the situation? (v. 18b)

10) What did this lead Samson to do *(with the Lord's help)*? (v. 19a)

11) What was Samson's reaction toward his wife? (v. 19b) What did her family do as a result? (v. 20)