



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

© 2007-08 Dr. Edgar Pierce

III- Women Problems:

Samson was a great man of extreme strength but he was also a man weak in the flesh. He was a man whose love for women cost him dearly all throughout his life. His life is often spoken of as one of great potential that was never fulfilled because of the lust of his heart.

Notice his first love of a woman, a Philistine woman. We will look at Delilah, the one woman he is closest associated with, in a future Way Point. His first wife is not named but we see the one sided love that Samson has that she does not reciprocate. This will be the pattern of his life.

Judges 14:1 *And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.*

Now the Philistines I remind us was the oppressors of Israel. They were ruling and were a very cruel people.

Judges 14:2 *And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.*

He looked upon this woman and she was desirable from his perspective for a wife. He tells his parents to get her for him. He, to his credit, did not try to deceive his parents but told them she was a Philistine probably knowing they would have some concerns. Notice the reply of the parents.

Judges 14:3 *Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.*

Was this God's will or is this God using the decisions of men to advance His purposes? Notice what is said in **Judges 14:4** *But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.*

This type marriage was forbidden in the laws of God and we can therefore make the deduction that this was not God's perfect will. However, we see many places and times that God used the imperfect decision of men for His purpose. Samson wanted this woman and God would put it to use to begin to deliver Israel and avenge His people.

IV- The Lion and the Honey:

On the way down to Timnath Samson was confronted with a lion. This will begin to lay the groundwork for the riddle to come. Notice the account in **Judges 14:5-6** *Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of*



Coordinates:

Judges

Sights to See:

- 1- Samson was called to be a Nazarite and be separate. We as Christians are called to be separate people. **2 Corinthians 6:17** *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*
- 2- Parents have expectations placed upon them. They are to raise their children not allow them to be self raised.
- 3- A life that is full of potential cannot be fully developed when the heart is lustful.
- 4- There are many layers of motives that people react too. His wife reacted by pleading and crying to try to protect herself and her father. Lord help us be patient and attempt to see others side of the equation.
- 5- It was God's strength that came upon Samson and not Samson's strength. His hair was a symbol of obedience to God from which that strength came.
- 6- Many times the things we try so desperate to protect end up sacrificed by compromise.
- 7- God even uses bad decisions to advance His plan and program.



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

© 2007-08 Dr. Edgar Pierce

Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. 6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done. His parents were not with him when this event took place. He goes and joins his father and mother who talked with the woman and it says, **“she pleased Samson well.”**

We are not told at this point what the source of the his great strength was. Most think it was the long hair on his head. While this is true may I address this from another angle. You will notice it says that **the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him** as he slay the lion. The same is said of him earlier in **Judges 13:25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.**

Jumping ahead in our story after His hair was cut by Delilah it says in **Judges 16:20 ...And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD** [or may I suggest the Spirit] **was departed from him.** The hair was a symbol of the obedience and the strength but the true strength was in the Lord.

Samson has killed the lion by the Spirit’s strength upon him.

V- Honey in the Carcass:

Later when the time came for him to go take the woman for a wife, he passes by the remains of the lion. Inside there was a hive of honeybees. **Judges 14:8-9 And after a time he returned to take her, and 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 thereof in his hands, and went on eating...**

VI- A Riddle Fit for Deception:

There is a wedding feast in progress with thirty young men in attendance. Samson put forth a riddle, a riddle that I see as ripe for deception. Remember God is going to use the events to move Samson to become the deliverer of Israel. The wager was that if they could not tell him the riddle they would each give him a change of clothes. If they did, he would give them the same. They had a week.

Notice the riddle. **Judges 14:14 And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness.**

This set the stage for the deception to come. It says in **Judges 14:14b And they could not in three days expound the riddle.**

The wife of Samson is approached by these men who blame her for their mess. **Judges 14:15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? is it not so?** They resort to extortion and threats to get her to find the riddle’s meaning.

She wept and pleaded and claimed that she had not been told. He informs her he had not told his parents. They at near the end he gave up the secret. **Judges 14:17 And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people.**

The secret was quickly told to the Philistine men by Samson’s wife. Are we too hard on this young lady, sure she betrayed her husband and told the secret but she was under threat, severe threat.

VII- Unraveling of the Tale:

The men came at the last moment with the solution of the riddle. The tale unraveled but the unraveling of the tale was also to their detriment. **Judges 14:18 And the men of the city said unto him**

