

Read Judges 14:1-9

1 One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. She was beautiful. **2** When he returned home, he told his father and mother, “A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me.”

3 His father and mother objected. “Isn’t there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?” they asked. “Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?” But Samson told his father, “Get her for me! She looks good to me.”

4 His father and mother didn’t realize the LORD was at work in this, creating an opportunity to work against the Philistines, who ruled over Israel at that time.

5 As Samson and his parents were going down to Timnah, a young lion suddenly attacked Samson near the vineyards of Timnah.

6 At that moment the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him, and he ripped the lion’s jaws apart with his bare hands. He did it as easily as if it were a young goat. But he didn’t tell his father or mother about it.

7 When Samson arrived in Timnah, he talked with the woman and was very pleased with her.

8 Later, when he returned to Timnah for the wedding, he turned off the path to look at the dead body of the lion of the lion. And he found that a swarm of bees had made some honey in the dead body of the lion.

9 He scooped some of the honey into his hands and ate it along the way. He also gave some to his father and mother, and they ate it. But he didn’t tell them he had taken the honey from the dead body of the lion of the lion.

When Samson went down to Timnah, what happened (v. 1)? He saw a beautiful Philistine woman. **When Samson returned home, what did he tell his father and other (v. 2)?** Since marriages were arranged by the parents, he told them to get her to be his wife.

How did his father and mother respond (v. 3)? Since marriage with a non-Jewish person was not allowed by the Mosaic Law, they were upset that Samson wanted to marry a woman who wasn’t Jewish. God warns us about that in 2 Corinthians 6:14. Samson refused to submit to both his parents’ authority and God’s authority.

But what did Samson tell his father? He didn’t care what the law said. He just wanted to marry her because she was beautiful. Samson did not exercise self-discipline. He let his passions control him (1 Corinthians 9:27).

What didn’t Samson’s father and mother realize (v. 4)? God had a plan to use Samson’s sinful decision for Israel’s good and to punish the Philistines.

When Samson and his parents were going back down to Timnah, what happened (v. 5)? A lion attacked him.

What did Samson do to the lion (v. 6)? He killed it with his bare hands. **Why was Samson so strong?** The Holy Spirit gave him the strength he needed to kill the lion.

The next time Samson went back to Timnah to get married, what did he find (v. 8)? There was a beehive and honey inside the dead body of the lion.

What did he do with the honey (v. 9)? He ate it and gave some to his parents. He didn’t tell them that the honey was contaminated by contact with a dead body which would have made it against the law to eat it.