Samson: Part 1

Judges 13–14

The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines.

There was a man whose name was Manoah. His wife had no children. The angel of the LORD appeared and said, "You shall bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite[1] to God, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines." The woman bore a son and called his name Samson. The young man grew, and the LORD blessed him.

Samson went down to Timnah, and saw one of the daughters of the Philistines. He told his father and mother, "Get her for me as my wife."

His father and mother said, "Is there not a woman among the daughters among all our people?" His father and mother did not know that it was from the LORD, for he was seeking an opportunity against[2] the Philistines.

They came to the vineyards of Timnah, and a young lion came toward Samson roaring. The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and he tore the lion in pieces. After some days, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and there was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey. He scraped it out into his hands and went on, eating as he went.

His father went down to the woman, and Samson prepared a feast there. As soon as the people saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him. Samson said, "Let me now put a riddle to you. If you can tell me what it is, then I will give you thirty linen garments. Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet."

In three days, they could not solve the riddle. They said to Samson's wife, "Entice[3] your husband to tell us what the riddle is, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire." Samson's wife wept over him, and on the seventh day he told her, because she pressed him hard. Then she told the riddle to her people.

The men of the city said to him, "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?"

The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon Samson, and he struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle.

Explanatory Notes

[1]One dedicated to serve God. [2]Oppose or resist. [3]Coax.



A young lion came toward him roaring.

For Reflection

1. How do we know that God had a plan for Samson even before he was born?
2. Explain Samson's riddle and its meaning.
3. How do we know that God was with Samson? How do we know He is with us?

Words to Remember

[God] has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." *Hebrews 13:5*

Reprinted from *One Hundred Bible Stories* © 2015 Concordia Publishing House (https://www.cph.org/one-hundred-bible-stories).