



## Introduction

*Part of the life of a judge called Samson. Despite his weakness for the opposite sex he is used by God to deliver the Israelites from the oppression of the Philistines.*



## Questions

1. What didn't Samson's parents know about Samson wanting a Philistine wife?
2. What did the LORD's Spirit help Samson to do?
3. What happened to Samson's wife?



## Summary Points

- **v 1 to 4** Samson (see theme) tells his parents he wants a Philistine wife. They resist, not realising that it's in the LORD's purpose
- **v 5 to 9** Samson kills a young lion and later finds a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass
- **v 10 to 14** At Samson's wedding feast, he poses a riddle to his 30 companions offering 30 sets of clothes if they can solve it
- **v 15 to 20** They threaten his wife and persuade her to find out the answer from Samson. He kills 30 men of Ashkelon and takes their clothes. He goes home angry and his wife is given to another

**Timeline** 1100 BC (see below)



## Theme

### Bible characters - Samson

*The story of Samson is told in Judges chapters 13 to 16. He is often seen as a man who is led astray by women. However, the Bible tells us that he is a man of faith.*

Samson's mother is told that he will be a Nazirite (somebody separated to God) all his life. She tells her husband about her conversation with an angel:

*Judges 13 verse 7*

Samson is attracted by a Philistine woman:

*Judges 14 verses 1 and 2*

His parents don't realise this is in God's purpose:

*Judges 14 verse 4*

After a very eventful wedding feast, Samson's wife is given to someone else:

*Judges 14 verse 20*

Samson responds in a rather brutal way:

*Judges 15 verses 7 and 8*



The last verse of Judges 15 summarises Samson's period as a judge:

*Judges 15 verse 20*

Samson is then attracted by another woman:

*Judges 16 verse 4*

This disastrous relationship ends with the Philistines capturing Samson:

*Judges 16 verse 21*

Samson's conflict with the Philistines continues right up to his death:

*Judges 16 verse 30*

Samson's only recorded prayer to God comes right at the end of his life:

*Judges 16 verse 28*

As we read of the things that Samson did, we should remember how he is described in the New Testament. The New Testament comment should help us to understand what motivated Samson's actions:

*Hebrews 11 verses 32 and 33*

## **Answers to questions**

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 4, Q 2: v 5, 6 and 19, Q 3: v 20



# Bible timeline

