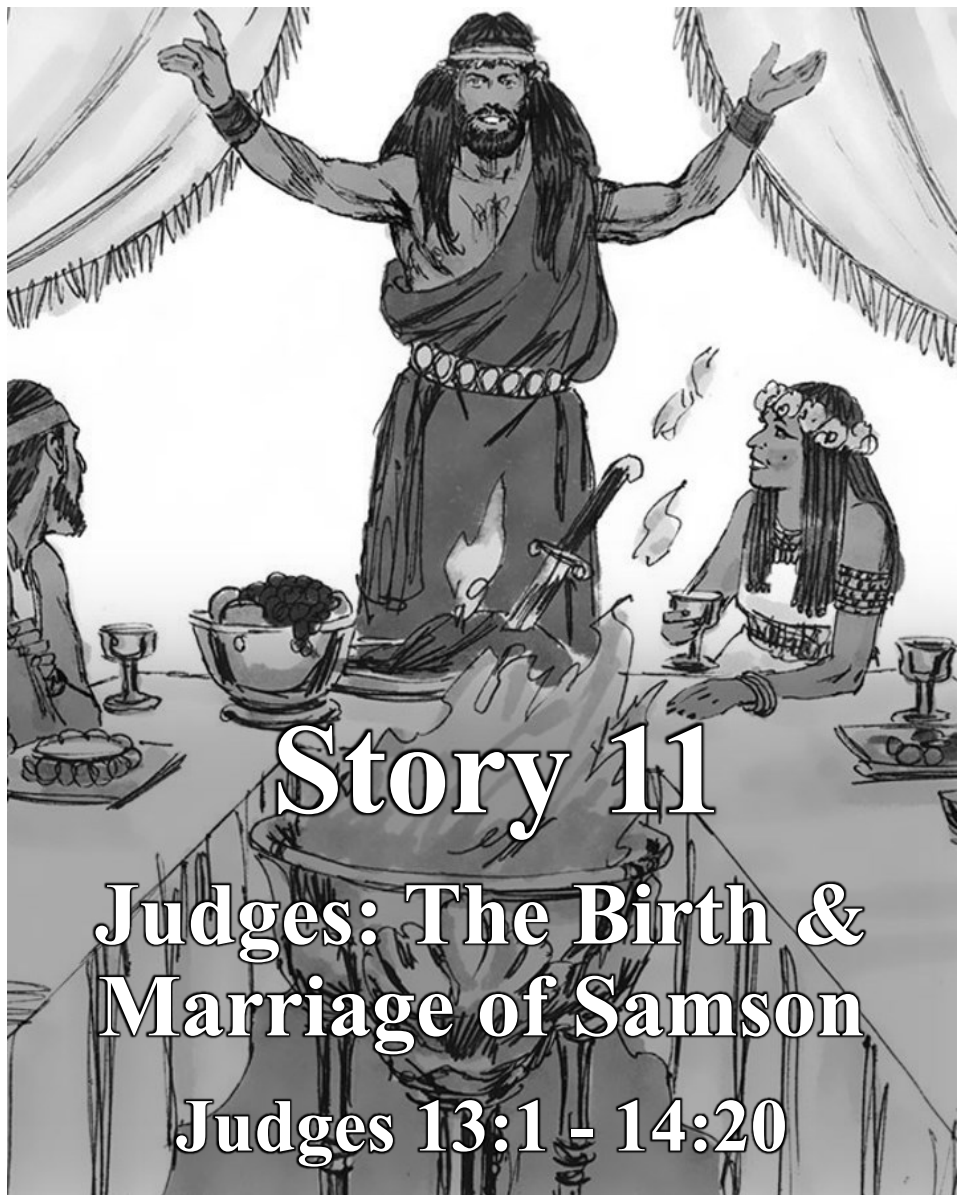


# Story 11

## Judges: The Birth & Marriage of Samson

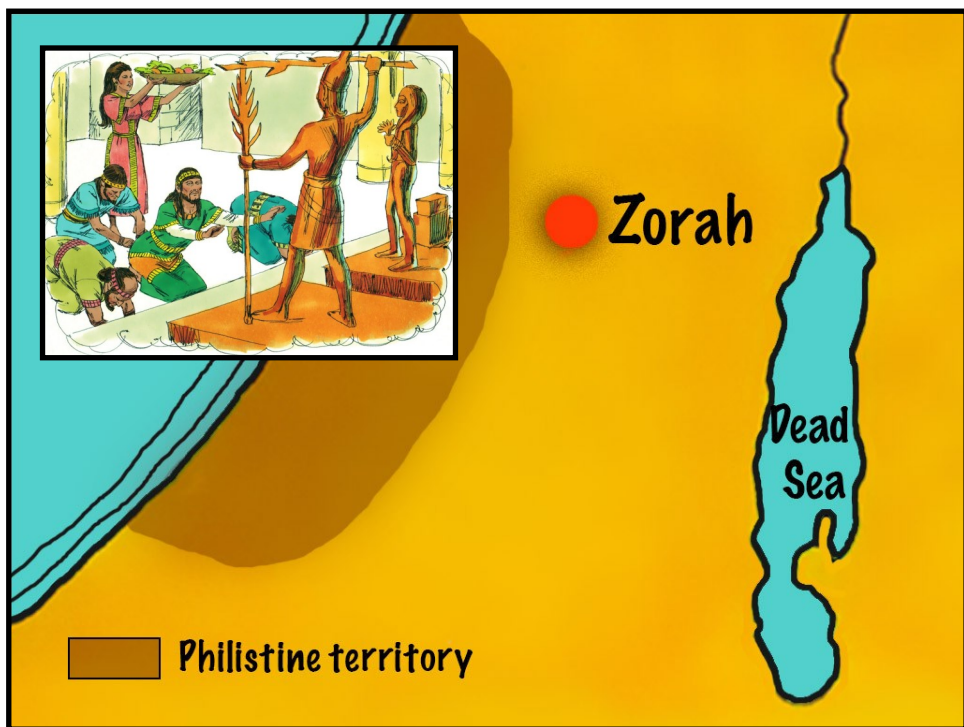
Judges 13:1 - 14:20



# Story 11

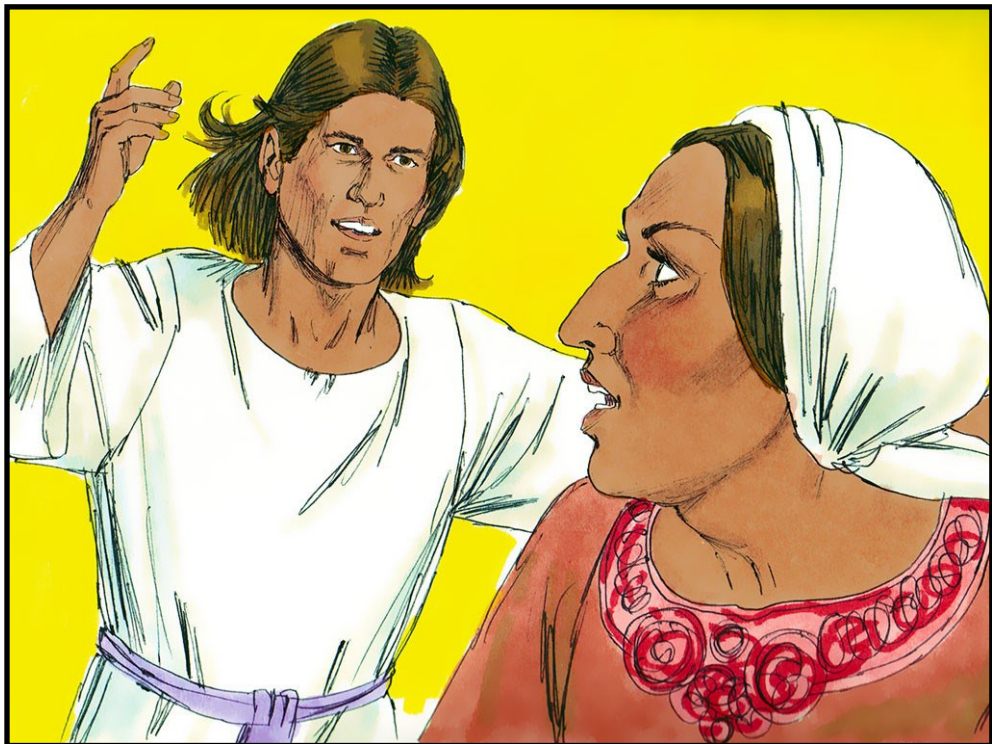
Judges: The Birth &  
Marriage of Samson

Judges 13:1 - 14:20



Once again, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so He allowed them to be captured and controlled by the Philistines for 40 years.

In a territory named Zorah, there lived a man named Manoah with his wife. Unfortunately, they had no children. This was because Manoah and his wife were unable to have a baby.



One day, the angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and said, "Even though you have not been able to have children, you will become pregnant and have a baby boy!"

The angel continued by telling her that her son would be a Nazirite from birth. A Nazirite is a person set apart by God for a special purpose. Nazirites were not allowed to cut their hair, drink alcohol, or touch anything that had died.





Manoah's wife told him all that had happened. She said, "A man from God came to me. He looked like an angel. He didn't tell me his name, but he said that we would have a son and that he would be a Nazirite."

Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, "Please let this man appear to us a second time so that he can teach us how to raise our son."



God heard Manoah's prayer and the angel came a second time to the woman. This time she was out in the field, so she ran to get her husband.

When Manoah arrived, he asked the angel, "When your words come true, how should we raise the boy? What rules should he follow?"

The angel replied, "Your wife must not drink any wine or eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her to do."



Then Manoah asked the angel of the LORD, “What is your name? We want to honor you when your words comes true.”

The angel replied, “Why do you ask about my name? You would not be able to understand it if I told you.”

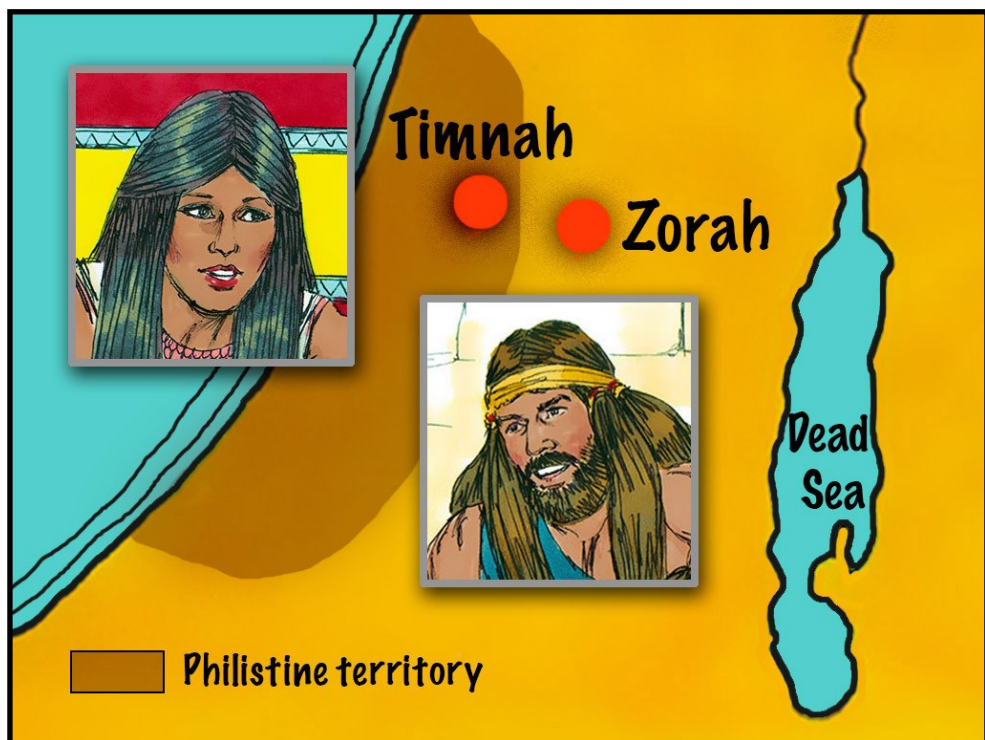
Then Manoah took a young goat along with a grain offering and sacrificed it to the LORD. As the flames went up into the sky, the angel rose up with them into heaven.



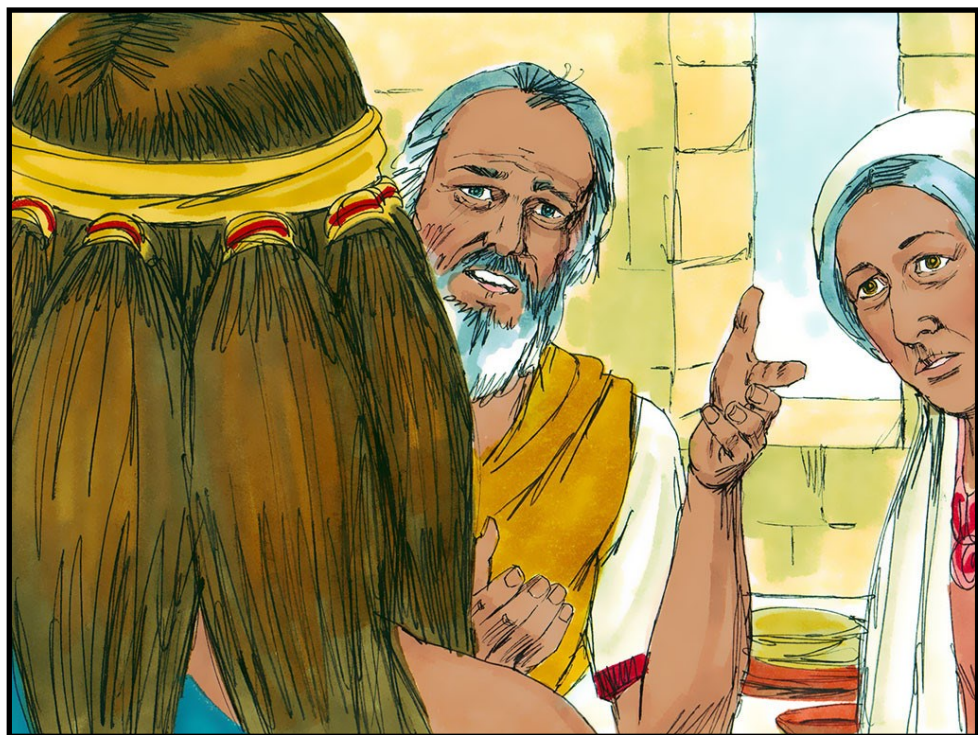


Later, Manoah's wife gave birth to a baby boy and they named him Samson. As he grew into a man, the Spirit of the LORD began to stir in him.





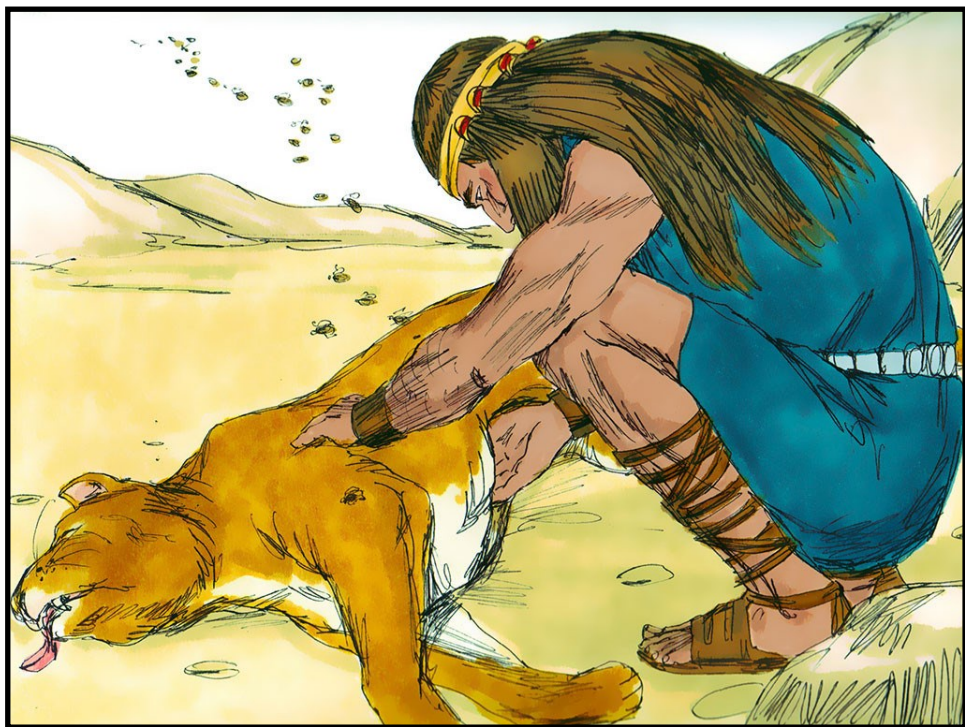
One day, Samson went down to the town of Timnah and met a young Philistine woman. When he returned home, he demanded that his mother and father talk to her parents so that he could have her as his wife.



Samson's parents tried to talk him out of marrying the Philistine woman since the Philistines were enemies of Israel and worshiped false gods.

His mother and father asked, "Isn't there a woman from among our people that you could marry? The Philistines aren't God's people." But Samson refused to listen to them.

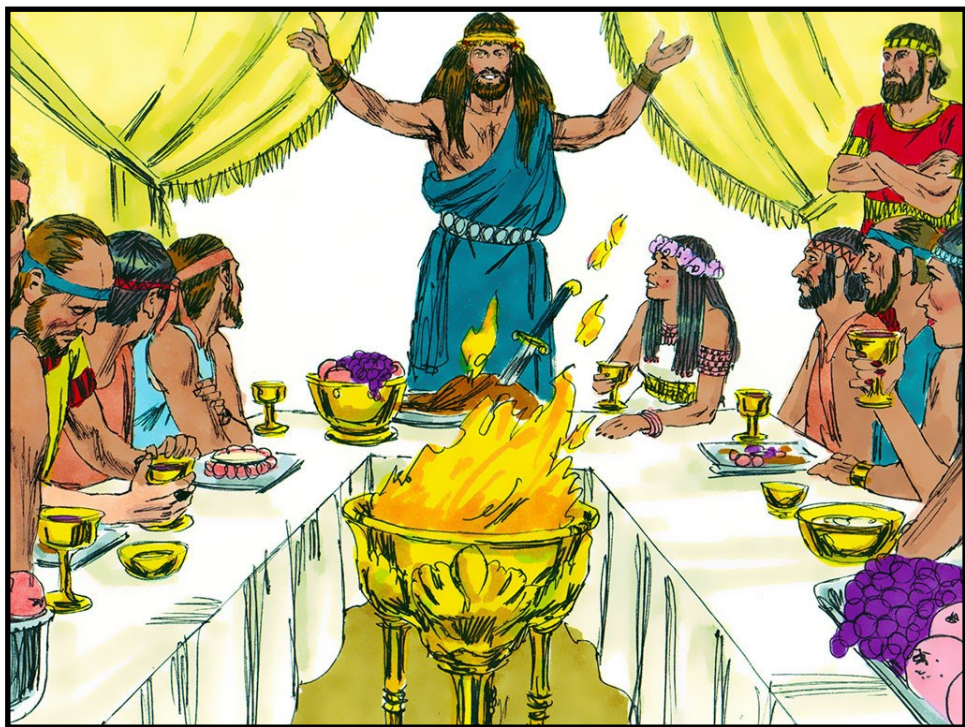
God allowed all of these things to happen according to His perfect will. He was planning on using Samson to punish the Philistines.



As Samson and his parents went down to Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring towards him. The Spirit of the LORD came upon Samson in a powerful way, and he killed the lion with his bare hands. His parents weren't right there when this happened, so Samson chose not to tell them about it.

Later, Samson walked along the same path in order to marry the Philistine woman. He turned aside and found the body of the dead lion. A swarm of bees had made their home in it. He scooped up some of the honey and ate it. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some of the honey and they ate it. He did not tell them where it had come from.





When they arrived, Samson prepared a feast. This was a common practice for a groom to perform at his wedding.

When the Philistines saw him, they chose 30 men to be his companions. Samson said to these men, “I have a riddle for you. If you can answer it in the next seven days, I will give you 30 sets of new clothes. However, if you are unable to answer it, you must give me 30 sets of new clothes.”





“Tell us the riddle,” they said.

So Samson replied:

*“Out of the eater came something to eat.*

*Out of the strong came something sweet.”*

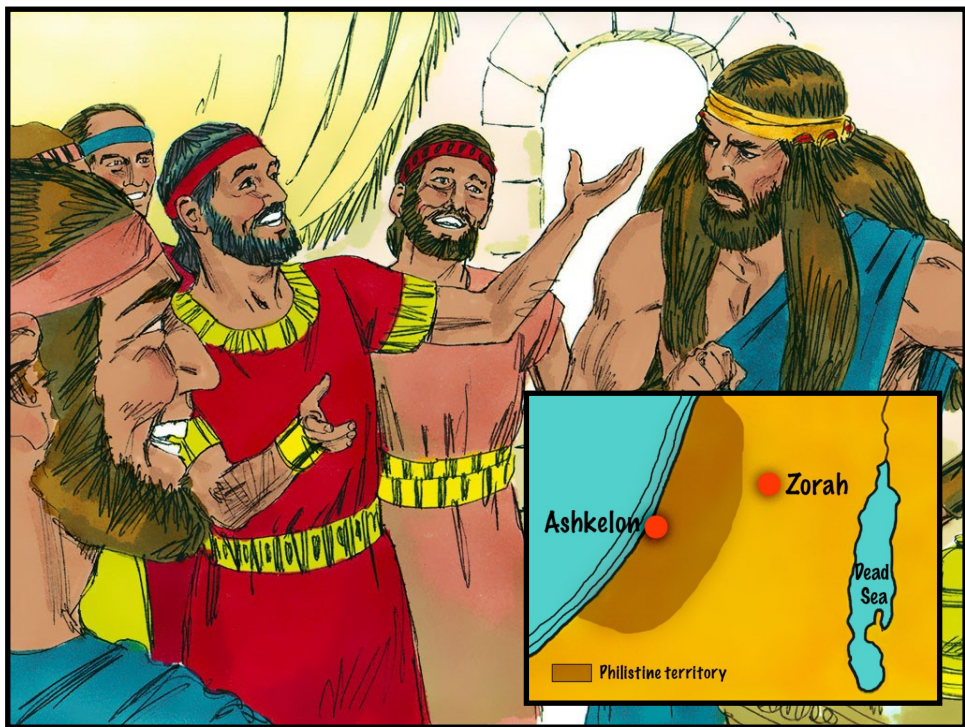
For three days, they couldn't give Samson an answer. On the fourth day, they came to Samson's new wife and said, “Ask him to give you the answer to the riddle! If you don't, we will burn you and everyone in your family to death. Why did you invite us to your wedding? Was it so that you could steal from us?”



Because of this, Samson's wife came to him sobbing. She said, "You must hate me! How can you say that you love me? You gave my people a riddle, but you haven't even told me the answer."

Samson replied, "I haven't even told my parents the meaning of the riddle. Why should I explain it to you?"

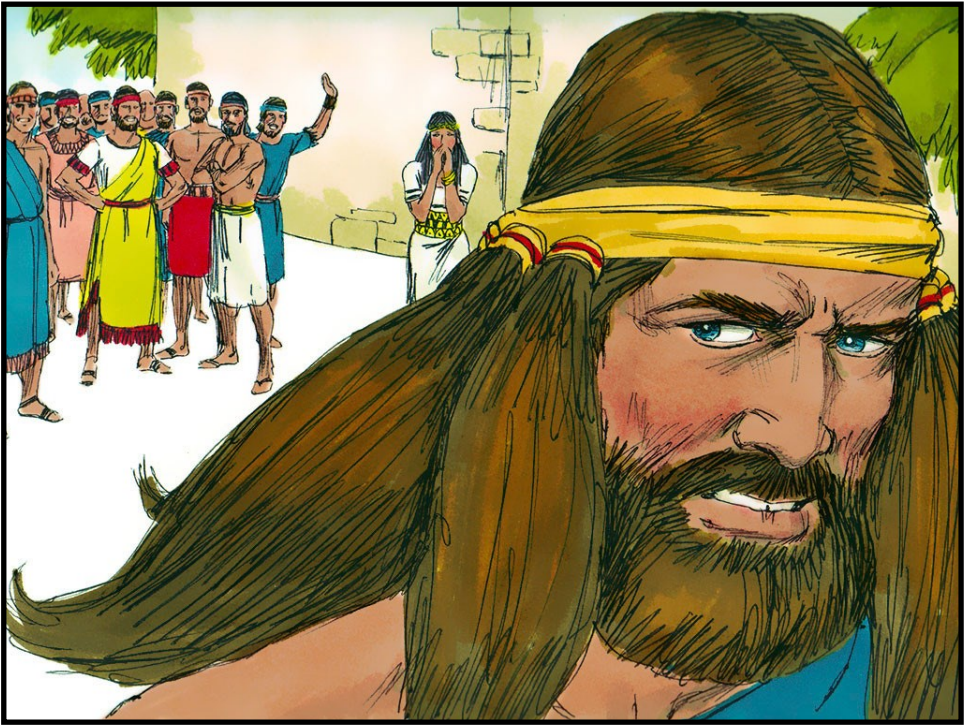
So Samson's wife cried the rest of the week. By the seventh day, he was aggravated and he told her the meaning of the riddle.



Before the sun had set on the seventh day, the men of the town came to Samson and said, “We know the meaning of your riddle. What is sweeter than *honey*, and what is stronger than a *lion*?”

Samson knew that they had pressured his wife for the answer. Nevertheless, he went down to Ashkelon, killed 30 men, and took their clothes. Later, he gave the clothes to the men who had answered his riddle.





Because of all this, Samson was furious and returned to his father's house in Zorah. He did not bring his new wife with him. When his father-in-law saw this, he gave away Samson's wife to one of the other men who had attended his wedding.



M  
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