Samson’s Riddle

Introduction: Riddle – a question or statement requiring thought to answer or understand. Some riddles almost impossible to answer without some special knowledge or information.

**I) Background**

**A) Period of – cycles of over 40 years of oppression followed by deliverance by God.**

1. Judges were more like military leaders than “judges”.

2. Not handed down to another judge, from a particular tribe.

**B) Thirteenth Judge was Samson**

1. Oppression from the , Judges 13.1.

2. Point taught more in the Bible when God used the nations to oppress Israel (Assyria) and Judah (Babylon).

**C The birth of was foretold, Judges 13.5.**

1. No razor would come upon his head for the child would be a Nazarite.

2. Samson would deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

3. Samson was born and the Lord him, Judges 13.14.

**II) Marriage**

**A) Samson was attracted to a woman, Judges 14.1-2.**

1. Informed his parents that he wanted to marry her

2. Parents were concerned that she was not of their , Judges 14.3.

**B) The Lord was going to allow this marriage as an opportunity to move against the Philistines, Judges 14.4.**

**III) Samson Fights , Judges 14.5-6.**

**A) From the lion came , Judges 14.8-9**

**B) Samson tells riddle**

**C) The riddle was told,** Judges 14.14. ?????

**D) What can we learn from Samson’s riddle?**

1. The riddle was given to individuals

2. There was an arrangement and the terms of the riddle – an oral contract.

3. The Philistines —could not solve it on their own .

4. There was betrayal by Samson’s .

5. Samson kept his word about reward for the riddle.

**IV) Riddle Compared To God’s Word**

**A) Riddle**

1. Available to all, Matthew 28.19-20

2. Specific terms agreed to by all parties.

3. People think they can do less than what is required to get them to heaven.

4. Betrayal of God’s word—false teachers.

5. God always keeps His word.