Samson’s Riddle

Introduction: Riddle – a question or statement requiring thought to answer or understand. Ex. What is more powerful than God, more evil than Satan, and if you eat it you will die? Answer: Nothing. Some riddles almost impossible to answer without some special knowledge or information.

**I) Background**

**A) Period of Judges – 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 Philistines, 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 Samson was foretold, Judges 13.5.**

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

2. Later see Paul take the Nazarite vow in Acts

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

a. Not an army lead by Samson but Samson himself would do this.

b. Philistines always battled Israel.

4. Samson was born and the Lord blessed him, Judges 13.24.

a. Great strength, power, speed, etc.

b. It seems like the Lord was saying “you want the perfect physical specimen, here he is.”

**II) Marriage**

**A) Samson was attracted to a Philistine 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 brothers or people, Judges 14.3.

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

1. Marriage arrangements were made.

2. A side point: an exception does not negate the rule.

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

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

**B) Samson tells riddle**

1. Marriage feast

2. Guests (30 Philistine men)

**C) The riddle was told**

1. “Out of the eater came something to eat and out of the strong came something sweet” Judges 14.14.

2. What in the world does this mean?????

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

1. The riddle was given to specific individuals

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

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

4. There was betrayal by Samson’s wife.

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

**IV) Riddle Compared To God’s Word**

**A) Riddle**

1. Available to all

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.

Conclusion: The plan of salvation was not discovered, not figured out, not designed by man but plan and revealed by God