

HONEY FROM A LION

⁵ Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. ⁶ The Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. ... ⁸ Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass, and in it he saw a swarm of bees and some honey. ⁹ He scooped out the honey with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass.

Judges 14:5,6,8,9

“Out of the eater something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet.”

Judges 14:14

- I. It's complicated. / Samson found sweetness in something that should have legitimately brought his destruction.
 - A. Lions attack in times of vulnerability.
 - B. The power of God only shows up when we absolutely need it.
- II. Some time later
 - A. After the greatest trial of Samson's faith. / God works while he is not looking.
 - B. It is unexpected that a man should kill a lion with his bare hands. It was also unexpected that bees would take possession of a dried carcass.
 - C. Beasts, vultures, insects, and dry heat soon cleansed the lion's carcass of all corruption and the bees moved into the clean, white, dried bones.
 - D. While you have been on your path, God has been cleaning up the vile and corrupt parts of your past.
- III. It's a complex work.
 - A. God has been working complexities beyond calculation to turn what remains of your struggles into Heaven on Earth.
 - B. How many flowers must a bee tap to make 1 pound of honey? 3 million.

- C. To make one tablespoon of honey a bee has to visit 4,200 flowers. A worker bee will make up to 10 trips a day visiting 400 flowers. To make one pound of honey worker bees need to visit more than 3 million flowers and fly the equivalent of three times around the world.
 - D. A lion's cadaver was an unlikely host for a community of bees, but so was Canaan for Israel! It's God's way!
 - E. Great reversals are at hand. / The lion, by nature, is an eater, but out of his remains came something to eat.
 - F. Samson found nourishment for living--honey in something that threatened to take his life, a young lion.
 - G. Honey grows in the carcass of yesterday's trials.
 - H. Samson knew God promised a land flowing with milk and honey. He was given a small taste and foreshadowing of what was to come.
- IV. God's fulfillments are greater than his promises.
- A. God uses unforeseen and suspicious looking means to fulfill destiny.
 - B. In handling bees one must move slowly and deliberately, without undue anxiety. Bees have a great sense of smell and they can smell fear tipped off by our pheromones.
 - C. God is cleaning up your past so that it becomes unrecognizable.
 - D. The honey you receive from what tried to destroy you will feed all around you.
 - E. No counterfeit blessings. / This season will reveal true honey bees versus yellow jackets.



Yellow Jacket



Honey Bee