

OUT OF THE EATER CAME FORTH SWEETNESS

Text: Judges 14:1-14

One of my favorite things about the Old Testament is that pictures of New Testament truths are contained in the stories. God knows that some of us learn better visually so He has set up His book to teach us visually as well as cognitively. Also one of my favorite Bible characters is Samson. There is not another person like Samson in scripture and God used him in unique ways. Now Samson had flaws and failures and most of us that read about his life and the choices he made tend to dwell more on the failures than we do on the victories. But Samson is an Old Testament type of Jesus Christ. That means that we see aspects of, or truths about Jesus in the life and actions of Samson. Let me give you a few similarities between Jesus Christ and Samson: Both of their births were announced by an angel, both of their births were miracles, both were separated unto God from the time of their births until the day of their deaths, both were Jews that have Gentile brides, both were anointed to get victory over their opposing and oppressing kingdoms, and they both got their greatest victories through their deaths.

So in this story of Samson fighting and killing a young lion, we can see him as a type of Jesus Christ. Now let's consider the young roaring lion. **1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: The lion is dual type both of Satan and of death. Sin originated with Satan and death is a result of sin. Satan tempted Eve to sin against God and Adam joined her in that sin which brought death into the world - **Romans 5:12** Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: The Bible also says that Satan had the power of death - **Hebrews 2:14** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Death is both strong and an eater because no one can get around it and death eats on the creation everyday, yet is never full. People of all ages and influences die everyday. The rich and the poor die, the young and the old die, infants and fetuses die. All races and cultures of people die and because we were born sinners, death is on our trail as soon as we take our first breath. Death is the fear and dread of all humanity and until Jesus Christ, no one had ever had ever went up against death and won! Since the fall of our first parents, the creation has been marred by sin and death is all around us but the Bible says that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil - **1 John 3:8** He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

God sent his own Son to undo what sin and death has done to us. Jesus Christ came into the world and lived for 33 and half years perfectly. He lived according to the standard of righteousness God has set for humanity but because of our sin, we fall short of it...and that is wrong. Jesus even had a showdown with Satan for 40 days in the wilderness before he began his ministry. Satan tempted him in all points that we are tempted...to sin through the lust of the

flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Jesus Christ combated him through scripture and came out of the wilderness unscathed. The main event though was when Jesus went to the cross, suffered for our sins, took upon him our sin, and suffered the wrath of God in our place. **1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: **Isaiah 53:5-6** But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. *Jesus offered himself without spot to God as the perfect and permanent payment for every man's sins.*

The Father was satisfied with the obedience, the suffering, and the death of His Son for sin and we know that because 3 days later...He raised Jesus Christ up from the dead and he walked out of the tomb victorious over sin, death, hell and the devil. It was the first time in human history that a man came back from death to never die again - **Revelation 1:18** *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.* Jesus Christ put away sin by the sacrifice of himself so by dealing with sin, it is possible now to get the victory over death. **John 11:25-26** Jesus said unto her, *I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.* Believest thou this?

Samson tore the lion in pieces and destroyed what had come out to destroy him. It's a picture of Jesus Christ destroying the devil and his works and getting the victory over death. But after some time passed, Samson passed by that same way and saw a swarm of bees in the carcass of the lion he had destroyed. He reaches in and pulls out honeycombs and is enjoying the honey on his way back home to his parents. He is pondering the idea that he is enjoying this delicious honey that came out of something that was strong, deadly, and to be feared. That something nourishing came out of something that tried to destroy him...and he puts forth this riddle to guests at his wedding feast - **Judges 14:14** And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle. Jesus Christ not only defeated death but has actually pulled sweet things out of it and made them a blessing to all mankind. Let me share them with you:

- **Salvation** – When people see themselves as sinners and the Holy Ghost draws them to Jesus Christ as their only hope...and they repent and believe on Him, God forgives all their sins and judicially rules them as dead. So when you got saved God crucified you with Jesus Christ - **Romans 6:6-8** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: *God ruling us dead freed us from the law which in turn, freed us from sin. Since we have been freed from sin, we are assured victory over death! 1* **Corinthians 15:53-55** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is

written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

- **Significance - John 12:24-26** Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour. *When a seed goes into the ground, it dies..but from it's death comes much more than the seed could ever become without being planted and dying.* The sweet thing being taught about death here is that if you will die to yourself(your own plans, dreams and ambitions) and you follow Jesus Christ and live according to His will...He will make your life much more significant than you ever could yourself. If you live for you, your life will be lost because it will all be forgotten and will not be rewarded by Christ afterwards. But if you live for Him, the Father will honor you and what you have done for Christ will be rewarded in eternity. Death to yourself is the pathway to abundant life!
- **Sweet Forever - 2 Timothy 4:6-8** For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. *The Apostle Paul is writing to Timothy that he understands that his race was almost run. He knows that his death is near but he is not dreading it because he understands that death is the porch that leads to portals of glory!* Death which was once our greatest fear has now been turned into the sweet thing that delivers us from this body of sin and this world of sorrows into a land that is fairer than day.
Hebrews 12:22-24 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.