

After these judges,  
the Israelites again were unfaithful to the Lord  
and so they were oppressed by the Philistines for 40 years.

It was then that the angel of the Lord appeared to  
Manoah's wife and said to her:

"You are barren and have had no child.  
But you will soon conceive and bear a son.  
No razor is to touch his head,  
for he shall be dedicated to the Lord from his mother's womb.  
It is he who will rescue Israel from the Philistines."

The woman gave birth to a son and called him Samson.  
The child grew and the Lord blessed him.

Dear Lord, please bless all barren women

## Chapter 14

Samson wanted to marry a Philistine woman,  
even though custom required he marry an Israelite.

On his way to visit the woman in Philistine territory,  
Samson was confronted by a young lion.

The spirit of the Lord filled Samson  
and he tore the lion to pieces with his bare hands.

On his next visit to the woman's home,  
Samson saw that in the carcass of the dead lion  
there was a swarm of bees, and honey.

The people of the village made a wedding feast for 7 days.  
But they were scared of Samson  
so they assigned 30 men to stay with him.