

Chapter 14

Samfon defirous to marrie a Philifthime woman. 5. By the way killeth a lion. 8. In whose mouth after few dayes, finding honey, 12. he propofeth therof a riddle to the Philifthiims for a wager: 15. which reueling to his wife, she telleth it to his aduerfaries. 19. He killeth and fpoyleth thirtie men, fo payeth the wager: and his wife taketh an other man.

Samfon therefore went downe into Thamnatha, and feeing there a woman of the daughters of the Philifthims, ² he went vp, and told his father and his mother, faying: I faw a woman in Thamnatha of the daughters of the Philifthijms: which I befech you take for me to wife. ³ To whom his father and mother faid: ^aIs there not a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, and in al my people, that thou wilt take a wife of the Philifthijms, which are vncircumcifed? And Samfon faid to his father: Take this for me: becaufe she hath pleafed mine eyes. ⁴ But his parentes knew not that the thing was done of our Lord, and he fought an occafion againft the Philifthims. For at that time the Philifthiims had dominion ouer Ifrael. ⁵ Samfon therefore went downe with his father and mother into Thamnatha. And when they were come to the vineyardes of the towne, there appeared a lions whelpe cruel, and roaring, and mette him. ⁶ And the Spirit of our Lord came vpon Samfon, and he tore the lion, as if he fhould teare a kidde into peeces, hauing nothing at al in his hand: and this thing he would not tel to his father and mother. ⁷ And he went downe and fpake to the woman, that had pleafed his eies. ⁸ And after fome dayes returning to take her, he went afide to fee the carcaffie of the lion, and behold there was a fwarme of bees in the mouth of the lion and a honie combe. ⁹ Which when he had

^a It was prohibited (*Deut. 7. v. 3.*) to make mariage with the Gentiles, but God fome times difpenfed: as here it appeareth he did. *v. 4.*

taken in his handes, he did eate in the way: and coming to his father and mother, he gaue them part, who also them felues did eate: neither would he for al that tel them, that he had taken the honie from the bodie of the lion. ¹⁰ His father therefore went downe to the woman, and made his fonne Samfon a feaft, for fo yong men were accuftomed to doe. ¹¹ When the citzens therefore of that place had feene him, they gaue him thirtie companions to be with him. ¹² To whom Samfon fpake: I wil propofe you a riddle, which if you fhall folue me within the feuen dayes of the feaft, I wil geue you thirtie findones, and as many coates: ¹³ but if you fhall not be able to folue it, you fhall geue me thirtie findones, and cotes of the fame number. Who answered him: Propound the riddle, that we may heare it. ¹⁴ And he faid to them: Out of the eater came forth meate, and out of the ftrong iffued forth fweetenes. Neither could they for three dayes folue the propofition. ¹⁵ And when the feuenth day was come, that faid to the wife of Samfon: Speake to thy husband, and vfe perfwafion to him, that he tel thee what the riddle fignifieth. Which thing ^aif thou wilt not doe, we wil burne thee, and thy fathers houfe: haue you therefore called vs to the bridal that you might fpoyle vs? ¹⁶ Who shed teares before Samfon, and complained faying: Thou hateft me, and loueft me not: therefore the probleme, which thou haft propounded to the fonnes of my people, thou wilt not expound to me. But he answered: I would not tel it to my father and mother: and can I tel it to thee? ¹⁷ The feuen daies therefore of the feaft ſhe wept before him: and at the length of the feuenth day for that ſhe moleſted him he expounded it. Who immediately told her countrie men. ¹⁸ And they told it him the feuenth day before the going downe of the funne: What is ſweeter then honie, and what ftronger then a lyon? Who faid to them: If you

^a By threates they made her betray her husband: and neuertheles deftroyed both her and her father. *cha. 15. v. 6.* So perfecuters of the Church deale with ſuch, as trayterouſly or of frailtie ferue their turne.

had not ploughed with my hayfer, you had not found out my propofition. ¹⁹ The Spirit therefore of our Lord came vpon him, and he went downe to Afcalon, and ftroke there thirtie men, whose garmentes being taken away he gaue to them, that had folued the probleme. And being exceding wrath he went vp into his fathers houfe: ²⁰ but his wife tooke a husband one of his freindes and bridal companions.