

Samson's Parents

Judges 13

And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

1. Here we go again....they did evil and God put them in time out for 40 years. In bondage to their enemy. On probation again for 40 years.
 - a. If there had been no sin, there would not have been a need for a deliverer.

² And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. ³ And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

2. Zorah = hornet in Dan. Manoah = rest. From the tribe of Danites = judge. Had a wife that couldn't produce children. Something was empty and missing in her life and their relationship.
3. Angel (Angel of the Lord may assume an appearance of Jesus in this form (Christophany)) shows up with a message and good news; you are barren now, but something you are missing now will come out of you. What you lack now, God is about to bless you with. That's good news. Didn't say she had it, pointed out her current condition (behold or look, you ain't got it together right now, but you're about to have what you don't have right now).
 - a. I love the application here. We see your current condition and it is not good "but", your barren condition doesn't prohibit or stop you from being fruitful.
 - b. Her condition didn't disqualify her to receive and do something she always wanted but was never able to perform or enjoy.
 - c. God has a "but" which turns around your current condition and lines you up for His best.

⁴ Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: ⁵ For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

4. Now therefore....because of this message, here's some instructions for you to prepare for your next season. Needed instructions for how to take care of what God was putting inside of her so that it would come out correct. There is an application – the Bible has instructions for how you should prepare for and protect your future.

5. Nazarite unto G-d. Devoted to G-d.
 - a. Numbers 6:1-21. Means consecrated or separated. No wine, no haircuts, no unclean things (avoid graves and dead folks).
 - b. Shall “begin” to deliver from enemies, meaning this was a process. Wasn’t going to happen right away. It may not happen right away...there is a process involved. Psalm 23 is a process.
 - c. This takes faith to prepare for something you can’t see yet. **God has conceived something in us, I want to be sure I don’t take in anything that will damage His promises upon my life.** What He puts in me is coming out straight by faith.
 - d. **Note: What God put in you can be adversely impacted by your actions. This is true in a natural birth, and true in a spiritual birth.**

⁶Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name: ⁷But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

6. Woman came and told her husband. That’s a good woman. Didn’t find out important information on who was giving her this word.
7. Reports back what the angel said (mostly).

⁸Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. ⁹And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her. ¹⁰And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day. ¹¹And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am.

8. Manoah immediately goes to the Lord, why was that a good idea? Application? Asks for confirmation and further instructions, not going to just rely on what his wife said. Didn’t say he didn’t believe her...in fact he did, but he wanted to make sure he was receiving this right.
9. How do we know he did a good thing....because God answered his prayer request.

- a. Question – did he really need to ask for instructions when God had already given him what to do through his wife?
 - b. No. But perhaps yes....because this is where he was. If you are not sure or need confirmation....go to God and ask. Stay connected.
10. Good woman....doesn't delay, doesn't want her husband to miss it, doesn't get outside her lane, and doesn't pull another Eve. Ain't trying to run things...gets her man involved in a hurry.
- a. Look how blessed she is, God visits her first twice. I wonder why? Is it because she desired and was in need the most? I don't want to make too much of this but it is an observation.
 - b. Young men, you better find you a Zorah rather than a Zero or a Zorro. Follows after his wife. That's okay to do in this case.
11. Typical logical man....gets there and immediately starts asking questions. He is speaking to "I am".
- ¹² And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him? ¹³ And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. ¹⁴ She may not eat of anything that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.**
12. Manoah wants to hear the instructions for himself, really wants this blessing because he's been through a barren season and he wants to make sure he takes care of the blessing he's going to get in his new promised season. Talk to me. When we have experienced failure and rejection and God shows up on the scene, we better be pulling a Manoah and finding out the operating instructions so we know how to take care of things for our next season. We must protect this house/blessing/season/revival. So you praying for revival, now you better be trying to find out how to keep it and nurture it and how to handle it. Crazy to get something and not know how to operate it.
- a. They have not had this type of blessing before so it is wise to want to be taught what to do.
13. Angel legitimizes the woman. Confirms that she came correct. Perhaps the reason why the Angel came to her first was because these were things that she needed to do in order to protect the blessing. The instructions were directly related to her actions and behavior so she needed to hear and receive a direct visitation from God so it wasn't out of order talking to her first.
14. Replays and repeats the instructions. Confirmation. How to act as a parent can impact the growth and development of your children.
- a. Jon Courson – notice it wasn't that the child was to refrain....she was to be holy first. How she conducted herself was to spill over to the child. If she takes care of her walk, then she would fulfill the requirement for how to bring up the child. Powerful.

- b. Manoah appears to be called upon to be the help mate accountability to help follow and obey these instructions. Helps to ensure that what was conceived comes out correctly and as designed.

¹⁵ And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee. ¹⁶ And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD. ¹⁷ And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour? ¹⁸ And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?

15. Manoah wants to detain the Angel....wants him to hang out with them a little longer. Offers a meal and sacrifice. He thinks that offering a sacrifice and a meal will detain the servant of God. Does it work? Yes! What does that tell you about God?

16. Angel says, sure....but specifies what he wants to do for him must be offered to the Lord.

- a. **Application:** Whatever we do and sacrifice for others must be for the Lord and on His behalf. Otherwise, your sacrifice might not be accepted.
- b. **Excellent warning for us today.** I am sure there has been a time or two when I made a sacrifice or did something for someone else but the motivation for my offering may not have been on behalf of the Lord or even with Him in mind.
- c. This also is an example that God wants more than just a revelation, He celebrates and honors fellowship and communion.

17. He asks for the Angel's name for the purpose of giving him honor.

18. None of your business, it is a secret which means that information is not necessary for you to enter into this season of promise. You have what you need to know.

- a. Secret = wonderful, Isa 9:6. Wonderful or incomprehensible.
- b. A friend of mine in this study provided an opinion from her Bible commentary that suggested the Angel of the Lord recognized that Manoah didn't need to know in part because he would not have been able to handle this information. It was beyond him at the moment. There seems to be evidence of this when we later see how Manoah responds when he realizes who he was speaking with.

¹⁹ So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wonderously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. ²⁰ For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of

the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.

19. Brings an offering....Angel still there.

20. When the flame went up to the Lord, the Angel goes up in the sacrifice.

- a. God can also take our humble sacrifice and do wondrously with it.
- b. Notice what the couple is doing. **Application** – after you have done your part and presented the sacrifice, God will do the rest while you watch Him work on your behalf.
- c. The altar is often associated with sacrifice and a place of true worship.
- d. How to respond when God blesses....**stay humble!**

I think this is one of the great messages from this story. When we follow the proper steps in order and present our sacrifice (ourselves) to God, we only to have faith and sit back and watch God do wonders with our offering. We see this happen with the lad who sacrificed his lunch and Jesus wondrously feed a multitude with it. I think we need to be careful in that the tendency may be to get in the way of the wonderful work God is planning to do through us.

²¹ But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. ²² And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God. ²³ But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these.

21. Angel is gone. But they have what they need. Instructions for how to live and a promise. Christ has ascended, but he left us with a word, a promise, and instructions.

22. Manoah scared because common thought was a person would die if they saw God or an Angel. Exodus 33:20.

23. Powerful word from his wife. If it would please God to take them out and kill them then why would He have:

- a. Accepted your offering; have you given God your offering?
- b. Would He have bothered to show us these good things to come; G-d shown you anything in your right now season?
- c. Would He tell us of these great promises to come; has He promised you anything good in your future?
- d. Then why do we fear that God won't keep us. God would not have done what He's done for us if He meant to destroy us.

- e. I'm encouraged because I'm standing on the promises of God. He who began a good work in you, will be faithful to complete it.

This is another of the great messages from this passage. If you can see and experience God in your situation, that is a good sign and evidence that good things and the completion of His promise is on the way....we need merely to obey the instructions by faith.

²⁴ And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. ²⁵ And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

24. Samson = like the sun; will judge for 20 years. Promise is made/kept. Miracle baby. Similar to another miracle baby who is the Son!

25. Spirit of God moved him at times. **We ought to seek the Spirit to move us.** This is the source of his great strength.