



## Sermon Notes

### Journey Through Judges #14 *The Birth of Samson* Judges 13:1-25

October 21, 2007

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**Judges 13:1-18** <sup>1</sup>And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

<sup>2</sup>There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. <sup>3</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. <sup>4</sup>Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, <sup>5</sup>for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines." <sup>6</sup>Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, <sup>7</sup>but he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'"

<sup>8</sup>Then Manoah prayed to the LORD and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born." <sup>9</sup>And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her. <sup>10</sup>So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, "Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me." <sup>11</sup>And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to the man and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?" And he said, "I am." <sup>12</sup>And Manoah said, "Now when your words come true, what is to be the child's manner of life, and what is his mission?" <sup>13</sup>And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. <sup>14</sup>She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe."

<sup>15</sup>Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you." <sup>16</sup>And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the LORD." (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD.) <sup>17</sup>And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?" <sup>18</sup>And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

### Introduction

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#### 1. More Evil in the Sight of the Lord (1)

- This time the Lord hands them over to the Philistines, for forty years.
- Notice that Israel doesn't bother to...
  - ...cry out to the Lord for help
  - ...repent (sincerely or otherwise)
- People can become so enslaved to sin that it seems normal, and they resist salvation.
  - Judges 15:11-12, Romans 1:21-23, Ephesians 4:18-19

#### 2. The Lord Promises the Birth of a Deliverer (2-7)

- A Danite man named Manoah and a nameless, barren wife (2)
  - Other barren women who miraculously had children
    - Sarah – Gen. 16:1
    - Rebekah – Gen 25:21
    - Rachel – Gen. 29:31
    - Hannah – 1 Sam. 1:2
    - Elizabeth – Luke 1:7
- The Angel of the Lord appears to Manoah's wife (3-5)
  - He announces that she will conceive and have a son.
  - The son is to be a Nazirite from the womb - see Num 6:1-21
    - A Vow of Separation to the Lord, Holy to the Lord
    - Must not go near a dead body
    - Must not drink wine, strong drink, or grape juice
    - Must not cut his hair
  - She too must also follow part of the Nazirite vow, since she is carrying the Nazirite baby
    - Note: All Israelites were not supposed to eat unclean food, but it appears they did at this time.
  - ...and he shall **begin** to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines (5b)
    - The deliverance of Israel will be **started** by Samson
- She tells her husband Manoah about the angel and his message (6-7)
  - ...like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome
    - KJV very terrible
    - HCSB awe-inspiring
  - I did not ask where he was from, and he did not tell me his name

**Note:** We cannot help but note the parallels between the birth of Samson, the birth of John the Baptist, and the birth of Jesus. However, Samson did not live up to his great potential as a deliverer. A greater deliverer was needed!

### 3. Manoah's Prayer and the Lord's Response (8-14)

- a. Manoah's prayer (8)
  - *Then Manoah prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born."*
    - A great prayer for any parent
- b. God answers Manoah's prayer (9-14)
  - Manoah asks about the child's life (12)
    - *"Now when your words come true, what is to be the child's manner of life, and what is his mission?"*
  - The angel restates what he has already told his wife, warning Manoah to ensure she observes all his commands (13-14)

### 4. His Name is Wonderful (15-23)

- a. Manoah attempts to detain the angel of the Lord (15-16)
  - Manoah: How about you stick around for lunch?
  - Angel of the Lord: How about an offering to the Lord!
- b. Manoah asks the identity of this special visitor (17-18)
  - Manoah: *"What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?"*
    - See Genesis 32:29 – Jacob asks for the Lord's name
    - Culturally, a name suggests the person's character
  - Angel of the Lord: *"Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"*
    - NIV *beyond understanding*
    - NASB note: *incomprehensible*
    - **Ps. 139:6** *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me*
- c. The Lord is revealed in the offering (see Gideon, 6:21) (19-21)
  - An offering *to the Lord, to the one who words wonders*
- d. Manoah fears they are going to die after seeing God (Ex. 33:20)
  - Wife: That isn't very likely at this point!

### 5. Samson is Born and Grows Up (24-25)

- a. Samson appears to have everything going for him
  - Miraculous Birth
  - Faithful parents
  - Blessing of God
  - Mission from God
  - *And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him* (25)
  - Compare with Luke 1:80 (John), 2:52, 4:1 (Jesus)

### Our Response

1. Realize that God will accomplish His saving work when He sovereignly chooses, whether or not we are ready for Him to act.
2. Seek the Lord in how to raise your children
  - **Deut. 6:6-7** *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. [7] You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*
3. Worship our awesome God who is wonderful beyond comprehension!  
**Psalm 8:1** *O Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.*

### Questions for Application

1. Do you ever get so comfortable in sin and compromise that you don't notice the severity of it and/or don't want to be saved from it?
2. How does the Lord's grace shine through yet again in the story of Samson's birth?
3. What can parents learn from Manoah's prayer (8) and further question (12)?
4. What resources/abilities/blessings do we as Canadian believers have going for us, just as Samson had much going for him? Are we wasting those blessings or using them wisely?
5. Read Psalm 139:1-18. Note v6, the only other place in the Bible using this particular Hebrew word for wonderful. What do we learn about the Lord from His response to Manoah's request for his name. *"Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"* (18)
6. Pray as the Lord leads you in response to the message today.

### Questions, Comments? - [inthebeginning@look.ca](mailto:inthebeginning@look.ca)

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,  
Tim



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