

Judges Chapter 13 Commentary

1 ¶ "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."

Chapters 13-16 are devoted to the birth, the life, and the death, of Samson.

After the long time of peace, Israel again turns to idolatry. This helps us understand in our Christian lives today, we need trials, troubles, and tribulations, in our lives to keep us focused on our Saviour and Lord. We are told this in several places in scripture, like:

- ***Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."***
- ***Ac 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."***

These scriptures tell us we will have tribulations in this life, and when they come, we are to focus on God for our deliverance. Christ Jesus has already gotten the eternal victory, and when we are resurrected from the grave, or changed, we shall have tribulations no more, forever.

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. 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."

This is another time in Old Testament scripture that we believe the "***angel of the Lord***" is the appearance of the pre-incarnate Christ upon earth. We will elaborate on when we get to the later part of this chapter. After all, who is interested in delivering the Israelites? None, other than God the Father, who, in a figure here, is sending God the Son, preincarnate, to set in motion the deliverance of God's people Israel.

Here, we have the picture, of one who is to be born a Nazarite, who does not make a vow to become one.

"and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." Adam Clarke, in his commentary, points out that this is only the beginning of deliverance from the Philistines. Full deliverance from the Philistines will not be accomplished until King David is on the throne of Israel.

6 "Then 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: 7 But 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. 8 ¶ Then 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. 9 And 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. 10 And 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. 11 And 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. 12 And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?"

Manoah prays to God for the angel to come again and give them instruction of what to do, and how to raise this miraculous gift child.

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."

One of the things a Nazarite could not do was to eat or drink of anything that comes from the vine, seen in: ***Nu 6:2-4; 2 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD: 3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. 4 All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.***" Since the child is to be born a Nazarite, it is necessary that the mother observe the commandments for a Nazarite vow. If she did not observe the commandments the child would not be a Nazarite at birth.

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."

Manoah wishes to feed the angel of the Lord, not recognizing that he is an angel. The angel tells Manoah that he will not eat earthly food. Why? Spiritual beings eat spiritual food. The angel of the Lord did not come to partake of the worldly things, but to do that which God required of him only.

One of the reasons to believe the "***angel of the Lord***" is the pre-incarnate Christ is: What did Jesus always do with that which honored God? He always gave to God the Father the glory, just as he does here. He tells Manoah, if Manoah wants to offer a sacrifice, the sacrifice must be to the Lord, no to himself.

"***For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD.***" Further evidence that this is the pre-incarnate Christ, when Jesus was born into the world, in the prepared body, and the world did not recognize him, as Christ, seen in: ***Joh 1:10 "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."***

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?"

"***What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour?***" Notice the steadfastness of Manoah's faith. He never doubts what the angel of the Lord has told them.

Manoah ask the angels name, wishing to give him glory when this gift child is born. The angle tells him his name is a secret, being unwilling to accept any honor that belongs to God the Father.

"***Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?***" The word secret, here, means *wonderful*, which is one of the names given to Christ in incarnation, seen in: ***Isa 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*** This, to me, is conclusive evidence that the "***angel of the Lord***" is the pre-incarnate Christ.

19 "So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously; 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. 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."

Manoah makes an offering upon a rock, an altar, and when the fire goes up the angel goes up with the flame. Manoah and his wife fall to the ground, for now they understand that this was an angel of the Lord. Manoah says that we shall die having seen God. His wife corrects him and tells him; God would not have accepted the sacrifice, nor told us; I, being barren, would receive the miraculous gift of bearing a child. We cannot die until the word of God is fulfilled in our lives.

"Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD." A lesson for us; when we are born-again, we receive the miraculous gift of being a child of God, born-again by the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit. Our spiritually dead bodies are quickened, and the Holy Spirit of Christ Jesus moves into, and lives in, the new creature. When this miraculous work comes to pass in our lives, we know Jesus for who he is by revelation.

We know that Samson was a sinner in many ways. The gift of being born-again is greater than the child that Manoah and his wife received. How? The born-again child of God, the new creature, which is inhabited by Christ, cannot sin. It is sinless just as Christ was and is sinless, seen in: **1Jo 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."** Do not misunderstand; only the Christ in you, spiritual nature cannot sin. Our fleshly natures will continue to sin.

24 ¶ "And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him."

"and called his name Samson:" The name, Samson, means *sunlight*. Matthew Henry points out that Samson is from the tribe of Dan, which means *judge*, which leads us to Jacob's prophesy to each one of his sons in: **Ge 49:16 "Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel."** As we see the prophesy is coming to fulfillment in the life of Samson.

God fulfills his promise and Samson is born. Thus, we have the picture of his miraculous birth, which is a picture of every born-again child of God. Each new birth demonstrates the miraculous work of God, in choosing to bring a new creature into existence, and through the Holy Spirit power causing it to come to pass.

Remember, we do not choose to be born naturally, and we do not choose to be born spiritually. Praise the Lord, that he has chosen, from a world of dead and alienated sinners, to work the miraculous work of salvation by grace upon those he has chosen, or as we are told in scripture elected.

25 "And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol."

Samson grows up, and God begins to move in his life, to bring to fruition the beginning of the deliverance of Israel from the Philistines. **Jg 13:5 "and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."** Now, let us more completely address this sentence. Samson's miraculous birth is a picture of Jesus coming in incarnation. We understand that Jesus accomplished all of the Father's will, and eternally delivered all of God's people from their sins. Christ accomplished the work of eternal salvation. However, here on earth, Jesus established the church of salvation by grace, and it still exists in the world. The church has not yet been completely delivered from the "**Philistines**" who are a figure, of the satanic evil forces in this world, who stand in continual opposition to the church of Jesus Christ. This, the final and total freedom of Israel from the Philistines, (here in time the church from the devil) will be accomplished with the second coming of Christ. This is picturesque of the coming of King David, the man chosen by God to reign and rule over his people Israel, to the

throne. When Christ returns, he will return as King and Judge over all the earth, and all of God's people will finally have rest from Satan and his minions. Our Deliverer is coming again, which is the hope and joy of the Christian today in time. Wherefore, we cry, as seen in scripture in: ***Re 22:20-21; 20 "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.***" Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!